

The Sentinel

Human Rights Action :: Humanitarian Response :: Health :: Holistic Development :: Sustainable Resilience

17 January 2015

This weekly digest is intended to aggregate and distill key content from a broad spectrum of practice domains and organization types including key agencies/IGOs, NGOs, governments, academic and research institutions, consortiums and collaborations, foundations, and commercial organizations. We also monitor a spectrum of peer-reviewed journals and general media channels. The Sentinel's geographic scope is global/regional but selected country-level content is included. We recognize that this spectrum/scope yields an indicative and not an exhaustive product.

The Sentinel is a service of the Center for Governance, Evidence, Ethics, Policy & Practice (GE2P2), which is solely responsible for its content. Comments and suggestions should be directed to:

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The Sentinel is also available as a pdf document linked from this page:

<http://ge2p2-center.net/>

Contents

:: Week in Review

:: Key Agency/IGO/Governments Watch – Selected Updates from 30+ entities

:: NGO/Collaborations/Initiatives Watch – Media Releases, Major Initiatives, Research

:: Foundation/Major Donor Watch – Selected Updates

:: Journal Watch – Key articles and abstracts from 100+ peer-reviewed journals

:: Ebola/EVD Watch

:: Week in Review

A highly selective capture of strategic developments, research, commentary, analysis and (1/16) announcements spanning Human Rights Action, Humanitarian Response, Health, Education, Holistic Development, Sustainable Resilience. Achieving a balance across these broad themes is a challenge and we appreciate your observations and ideas in this regard. This is not intended to be a "news and events" digest.

action/2015 Launches Campaign

15 January 2015

:: Almost a billion lives* hang in the balance at crucial summits in New York & Paris

:: Famous names back one of the biggest campaigns ever launched

:: New figures show poverty could increase for the first time in a generation

[Excerpt from press release]

According to new research, almost a billion extra people face a life of extreme poverty if leaders duck key decisions on poverty, inequality and climate change due to be taken at two

crucial summits in New York and Paris later this year, with billions more continuing to face a life of hardship.

That's the warning by more than a thousand organisations around the world which are launching a new campaign called action/2015 calling on local and world leaders to take urgent action to halt man-made climate change, eradicate poverty and address inequality.

The new calculation released by the action/2015 coalition shows that, even using relatively conservative scenarios, the number of people living in extreme poverty – on less than \$1.25 a day – could be reduced dramatically from over a billion to 360 million by 2030. Based on work by the University of Denver, in the year 2030, about 4 % of the global population would live in extreme poverty, (compared to 17% today) if critical policy choices on inequality, poverty investment and climate change are made this year and implemented thereafter. Estimates of other researchers, looking at a longer list of variables, show that the eradication of extreme poverty is achievable for the first time in history - a key objective of the campaign.

However, if leaders fail to deliver and build on the growing momentum for ambitious deals at the UN Special Summit on Sustainable Development in September and the UN Climate talks in Paris in December, and scale back their efforts, the number of people living in extreme poverty could actually increase to 1.2 billion by 2030. This increase would be the first in a generation (since 1993) and almost a billion higher (886million) than if resolute action is taken. Under this scenario 1 in 3 of the world's population would live under \$2 a day.

Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Malala Fund co-founder, who put her life on the line for the right to education said: 'People globally want an end to injustice, poverty and illiteracy. Our world is interconnected and youth are ready and mobilised more than ever to see real change take place. Together, we are demanding our leaders take action in 2015 and we must all do our part. I will continue to work tirelessly to call on world leaders to seize this opportunity to guarantee a free, quality primary and secondary education for every child. That is my goal and I hope that my voice will be heard as it is the voice of millions of children who want to go to school.'

As part of the launch, activities are taking place in more than 50 countries all around the world from Lebanon and Liberia to Nigeria and Norway to South Africa and Sri Lanka. Many of these are spearheaded by 15 year olds – a constituency who will be among the most affected by the agreements:

*Notes for Editors

The 'almost 1 billion lives' figure is calculated from best and worst scenarios based on different actions that could be taken affecting inequality, climate change, growth, aid and social investment. These variables are computed by the International Futures model developed at the Frederick S. Pardee Center for International Futures at the University of Denver. Under the best case scenario the number of people living in poverty could be reduced to 360m (4%) by 2030. In the worst case scenario the number of people living in poverty could increase to 1.2 billion, a difference of 886million.

More information at www.action2015.org

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Global momentum means more women move into management

ILO International Labour Organization *New study shows positive link between female leadership and business performance and urges boost from current 5 per cent of women in top positions.*

12 January 2015

GENEVA (ILO News) – While women are still under-represented in top management, the number of women in senior and middle management positions has increased over the last 20 years, a new study by the ILO Bureau for Employers' Activities finds.

According to *Women in Business and Management: Gaining Momentum*, in 80 of the 108 countries for which ILO data is available, the proportion of women managers has increased during this period.

"Our research is showing that women's ever increasing participation in the labour market has been the biggest engine of global growth and competitiveness," says Deborah France-Massin, Director of the ILO Bureau for Employers' Activities.

"Women's ever increasing participation in the labour market has been the biggest engine of global growth and competitiveness."

"An increasing number of studies are also demonstrating positive links between women's participation in top decision making teams and structures and business performance. But there is a long way to go before we achieve true gender equality in the workplace, especially when it comes to top management positions."

Only 5 per cent or less of the CEOs of the world's largest corporations are women. The larger the company, the less likely the head will be a woman...

:: [Women in Business and Management: Gaining momentum \[abridged version\]](#)

ILO - Bureau for Employers' Activities

12 January 2015 :: 44 pages :: 978-92-2-128873-2[ISBN]

This report brings together available data and ILO statistics to provide a comprehensive, up to-date and global picture of women in the business world and in management positions.

- English: [Women in Business and Management: Gaining momentum \[abridged version\]](#), pdf [2.9 MB](#)
- Español: [La mujer en la gestión empresarial: Cobrando impulso \[versión resumida\]](#), pdf [5.2 MB](#)
- Français: [Femmes d'affaires et femmes cadres: Une montée en puissance \[version abrégée\]](#), pdf [3.7 MB](#)

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Sorensen Lecture Series - Council on Foreign Relations

New York, 13 January 2015

Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief

Coordinator, Valerie Amos

[Excerpts; Editor's text bolding]

...For me, this lecture comes at a particularly critical time when the world is grappling with a series of challenges which are bringing us closer together and pushing us wider apart. And when we are seeking to redefine the role of the nation state, of Governments and of the United Nations, given the complex set of challenges we are facing. This week alone, horrific events in France and Nigeria have led, for example, to searching questions about the nature of terrorism, security, freedom of speech and religion; the limits or otherwise of press freedom, tolerance, racism, inequality, the impact of social media and the Internet, the lack of connectivity between people and cultures, and the quality of global leadership.

And it is clear that we do not have the answers, as we are dealing with phenomena which are very often outside our experience. In the past week we heard reports of a 10-year old suicide bomber – a young girl; deliberate, targeted killing of journalists/cartoonists whose job it was to challenge us to look at our world in different ways; and anti-Semitic attacks aimed at further fueling tensions between Jews and Muslims. And in the midst of that hatred and brutality, an outpouring of global solidarity even as citizens question themselves and their leaders about the kind of world we are living in, and the kind of future we want to have. Our world seems to be in turmoil.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the work that I do, in humanitarian affairs. So many contradictions are played out daily as we see the impact of conflict and crisis on people's day-to-day lives. I have often said that in our work we see the worst of humanity and the very best: Mindless violence; Abuse, particularly of women and children; and in the midst of it all, people sharing what little they have, supporting, protecting and helping each other.

Humanitarian work is under significant pressure as we face growing needs around the world. This year, 2015, 78 million people in 22 countries require urgent humanitarian assistance and we estimate that it will cost \$16.4 billion for us to help them. That money will provide urgently needed shelter, essential health care, education, food. It will help people to survive. But what it will not do is help people to rebuild their lives, because without resolution to conflict, people will continue to flee brutality. And without better early warning systems and risk mitigation measures, people will continue to suffer the impact of hurricanes, drought, floods and other natural disasters...

...Just in my work, **the UN provides food to 90 million people in 80 countries every year; vaccinates 58 per cent of the world's children, saving 3 million lives a year; assists over 38.7 million refugees and people fleeing war, famine or persecution; fights poverty, helps improve the health and well-being of 420 million of the rural poor; promotes and protects human rights through some 80 treaties/declarations.**

Somehow we forget all that because we focus particularly on the political side of the United Nations. The side of the United Nations which uses diplomacy to prevent conflict: assists some 60 countries a year with their elections. But as with all Organizations, with growth has come more bureaucracy, less flexibility. And we have seen changes in power dynamics between countries and regions reflected in the way issues are debated and discussed, indeed in the way they are resolved.

We see this in humanitarian work as well. More is expected of us than ever before – we are called on to provide life-saving assistance and protection of civilians - but we are not necessarily given the tools to do it. Civilians are killed and injured in targeted or indiscriminate attacks in violation of international humanitarian law, and often with complete impunity. I cannot remember the number of times I have reported to the Security Council and asked them to make strong statements, which they do, about what is happening in the world, but it does not necessarily change what is happening on the ground. 82 per cent of the people who were killed or injured by explosive weapons in 2013 – the last time we had figures - were civilians.

Violence and other forms of persecution force **an average of 23,000 people per day – per day - to leave their homes to seek protection elsewhere. Too often,**

humanitarian organizations are called on to fill the glaring gaps that emerge when States neglect to fulfil their duty to safeguard their citizens. Think for example Syria or South Sudan. Or where, as a result of conflict, the state apparatus has become weak, fragmented or almost nonexistent as in the case of Somalia or the Central African Republic.

Humanitarian actors are increasingly being called on to deal with the consequences of crises that essentially have their roots in a complex set of interrelated factors: poor governance, political paralysis, underdevelopment, rising levels of poverty and inequality. And these dynamics in many countries are overlaid by the growth of terrorist and radical armed groups and challenges to democratization, which create further instability. Add to this mix climate change, environmental degradation, population growth in some parts of the world, and the consequences of increasing levels of internal displacement and forced migration. The average length of conflict-induced displacement is a staggering 17 years.

Despite the economic gains we have seen in many countries, inequality is rising, and poverty and instability often go hand in hand. Half of the world's extreme poor live in fragile states. We are seeing a convergence of global trends which is increasing the risk of major crises, as well as their scope and complexity. **Conflict and complex emergencies drove over 75 per cent of humanitarian response needs last year**, and most of the conflicts we are responding to have implications far beyond their borders. The crises in Iraq and Syria have consequences across the whole of the Middle East and beyond. The fall of Moammar Gaddafi in Libya led to major insecurity and the spread of weapons across West and Central Africa, the impact of which is still being felt today.

In many of the conflict zones in which we work, there has been a manifest failure by political leaders to be inclusive in their protection of their people, and to realize that state sovereignty is a responsibility, rather than one of the spoils of being in power. Humanitarian workers, because of the lifesaving nature of our work, need to be impartial; we need to be neutral. We have to be on the side of people, not on the side of governments or armed groups where there is conflict.

This means that we operate in highly pressurized and political environments where attempts are made to use humanitarian action to pursue political or security ends. This has become more and more challenging as we have worked to keep humanitarian response separate from political imperatives in places like Syria, Iraq, Ukraine and Gaza. We have a responsibility to be strong advocates for the people caught in the midst of conflict and many Governments don't like what we say. And we are constantly 'under fire' – both literally and figuratively.

Working in conflict zones where international humanitarian law is flagrantly violated, is dangerous. In 2013, violence against humanitarian aid operations hit an all-time high with 251 separate attacks in which 155 aid workers were killed and 134 were kidnapped.

But despite the continued danger, humanitarian groups continue to provide life-saving assistance to millions of people around the world every single day. And we do everything we can to ensure that we can continue our work. We negotiate with governments and armed groups. We use those with influence over warring parties to help us gain access. We use the Security Council to push for resolutions which will make a difference. We have to be

operationally effective and we have to be politically astute. We have to be strong advocates. Good communicators. We have to make the case. We have to raise the money. And, crucially, we have to be good leaders, demonstrating impact and pushing for change.

The challenges facing organizations working in the humanitarian field reflect the wider challenges facing the entire United Nations.

- How do we live up to the values in the UN Charter?
- How do we safeguard human rights, protect civilians and help secure a more peaceful and a more just world?
- How do we promote a more active global citizenship?
- How do we help the people of the world to connect and see the value of inclusivity as well as of diversity and difference?

From our work we know that the only way to break the cycle of violence, which continues to threaten global peace and stability, is for political actors to work with communities to find sustainable solutions to crisis. The need is greater than ever for States to live up to their responsibility to protect civilians from harm, and when States fail to do so, for others, including multilateral institutions, to step in.

The tools available to the international community now appear extremely limited in light of the complex set of challenges we face. We need a stronger, and dare I say it, perhaps a more interventionist global architecture to deal with the humanitarian consequences of conflict. I recognize that this would come with major risks – given global power dynamics and other differences around the world. But I do have to say that after every crisis we say ‘never again’ and yet it always happens again.

We have a body of international humanitarian law, which, over time, has given us the means to tackle the challenges arising from conflicts. The problem is its lack of implementation.

We will of course continue to push for civilians to be protected in conflict, be it calling on UN Member States to deliver on their duty to protect their citizens, or highlighting to governments and militaries the devastating impact that the use of explosive weapons has on people living in densely populated urban areas.

Implementation requires stronger vision and commitment from governments and multilateral institutions as well as from humanitarian agencies. It is no longer acceptable that still less than half of one per cent of all international aid is spent on disaster prevention and preparedness.

Finding the right approaches to these and other challenges is a priority for the consultations leading up to the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, the first ever such Summit which has been called for by the UN Secretary-General. At that Summit, we will have a unique opportunity to reshape our approach to humanitarian aid and the way we do humanitarian business.

We all face a choice. We can continue to effect piecemeal change. Or, we can truly transform the way we approach complex problems in a way that better reflects today's reality. I think we should try to do the latter for the sake of the millions of people around the world today, who frankly deserve better from all of us.

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Tackling the world's affordable housing challenge

McKinsey Global Institute

October 2014

By Jonathan Woetzel, Sangeeth Ram, Jan Mischke, Nicklas Garemo, and Shirish Sankhe

Decent, affordable housing is fundamental to the health and well-being of people and to the smooth functioning of economies. Yet around the world, in developing and advanced economies alike, cities are struggling to meet that need. If current trends in urbanization and income growth persist, by 2025 the number of urban households that live in substandard housing—or are so financially stretched by housing costs that they forego other essentials, such as healthcare—could grow to 440 million, from 330 million. This could mean that the global affordable housing gap would affect one in three urban dwellers, about 1.6 billion people.

:: [A blueprint for addressing the global affordable housing challenge](#)

McKinsey Global Institute (MGI)

October 2014 :: 212 pages

Executive Summary | Full Report

This report defines the affordability gap as the difference between the cost of an acceptable standard housing unit (which varies by location) and what households can afford to pay using no more than 30 percent of income. The analysis draws on MGI's Cityscope database of 2,400 metropolitan areas, as well as case studies from around the world. It finds that the affordable housing gap now stands at \$650 billion a year and that the problem will only grow as urban populations expand: current trends suggest that there could be 106 million more low-income urban households by 2025, for example. To replace today's inadequate housing and build the additional units needed by 2025 would require \$9 trillion to \$11 trillion in construction spending alone. With land, the total cost could be \$16 trillion. Of this, we estimate that \$1 trillion to \$3 trillion may have to come from public funding.

However, four approaches used in concert could reduce the cost of affordable housing by 20 to 50 percent and substantially narrow the affordable housing gap by 2025. These largely market-oriented solutions—lowering the cost of land, construction, operations and maintenance, and financing—could make housing affordable for households earning 50 to 80 percent of median income.

IN BRIEF *[Report Introduction]*

Access to decent, affordable housing is so fundamental to the health and well-being of people and the smooth functioning of economies that it is imbedded in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Yet in developing and advanced economies alike, cities struggle with the dual challenges of housing their poorest citizens and providing housing at a reasonable cost for low- and middle-income populations. In this report, we look at the dimensions of this problem—and how it will grow over the next decade—and offer a set of solutions that can narrow the affordable housing gap. Among our key findings:

:: We estimate that 330 million urban households around the world live in substandard housing or are financially stretched by housing costs. Some 200 million households in the developing world live in slums; in the United States, the European Union, Japan, and Australia, more than 60 million households are financially stretched by housing costs.

:: Based on current trends in urban migration and income growth, we estimate that by 2025, about 440 million urban households around the world—at least 1.6 billion people—would occupy crowded, inadequate, and unsafe housing or will be financially stretched.

:: The housing affordability gap is equivalent to \$650 billion per year, or 1 percent of global GDP. In some of the least affordable cities, the gap exceeds 10 percent of local GDP.

:: To replace today's substandard housing and build additional units needed by 2025 would require an investment of \$9 trillion to \$11 trillion for construction; with land, the total cost could be \$16 trillion. Of this, \$1 trillion to \$3 trillion may have to come from public funding.

:: We identify four ways to reduce the cost of delivering affordable housing by 20 to 50 percent: unlock land at the right location (the most important lever), reduce construction costs through value engineering and industrial approaches, increase operations and maintenance efficiency, and reduce financing costs for buyers and developers.

:: These largely market-based measures can benefit households in all income groups and, with some cross subsidies, can reduce costs sufficiently to make housing affordable (at 30 percent of income) for households earning 50 to 80 percent of area median income.

:: Affordable housing is an overlooked opportunity for developers, investors, and financial institutions. Building units for 106 million more poor urban households by 2025 could require more than \$200 billion a year and account for 7 percent of mortgage originations.

These findings indicate that new approaches are needed. Standard approaches to affordable housing will yield only standard—and inadequate—results. Cities need to think more broadly and creatively about a housing ladder that includes affordable housing but accommodates citizens of all income groups and their changing needs. For the poorest citizens, the ladder may start with very basic housing that places people in decent accommodations and connects them to employment and society. To turn these aspirations into reality, cities will need smoothly functioning “delivery platforms.”

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Editor's Note:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) might be considered a bit far afield from our general themes, but we see AI as increasingly intersecting with human rights, humanitarian response and development overall. We took note of the open letter and associated research priorities below.

Research Priorities for Robust and Beneficial Artificial Intelligence: an Open Letter

Top AI researchers from industry and academia have signed an open letter arguing that rapid progress in AI is making it timely to research not only how to make AI more capable, but also how to make it robust and beneficial. Media coverage: BBC, CNBC, The Independent, The Verge, ZDNet, CNET.

[Open Letter: Full text]

Artificial intelligence (AI) research has explored a variety of problems and approaches since its inception, but for the last 20 years or so has been focused on the problems surrounding the construction of intelligent agents - systems that perceive and act in some environment. In this

context, "intelligence" is related to statistical and economic notions of rationality - colloquially, the ability to make good decisions, plans, or inferences. The adoption of probabilistic and decision-theoretic representations and statistical learning methods has led to a large degree of integration and cross-fertilization among AI, machine learning, statistics, control theory, neuroscience, and other fields. The establishment of shared theoretical frameworks, combined with the availability of data and processing power, has yielded remarkable successes in various component tasks such as speech recognition, image classification, autonomous vehicles, machine translation, legged locomotion, and question-answering systems.

As capabilities in these areas and others cross the threshold from laboratory research to economically valuable technologies, a virtuous cycle takes hold whereby even small improvements in performance are worth large sums of money, prompting greater investments in research. There is now a broad consensus that AI research is progressing steadily, and that its impact on society is likely to increase. The potential benefits are huge, since everything that civilization has to offer is a product of human intelligence; we cannot predict what we might achieve when this intelligence is magnified by the tools AI may provide, but the eradication of disease and poverty are not unfathomable. Because of the great potential of AI, it is important to research how to reap its benefits while avoiding potential pitfalls.

The progress in AI research makes it timely to focus research not only on making AI more capable, but also on maximizing the societal benefit of AI. Such considerations motivated the AAAI 2008-09 Presidential Panel on Long-Term AI Futures and other projects on AI impacts, and constitute a significant expansion of the field of AI itself, **which up to now has focused largely on techniques that are neutral with respect to purpose. We recommend expanded research aimed at ensuring that increasingly capable AI systems are robust and beneficial: our AI systems must do what we want them to do.** The [research priorities document](#) [see below] gives many examples of such research directions that can help maximize the societal benefit of AI. This research is by necessity interdisciplinary, because it involves both society and AI. It ranges from economics, law and philosophy to computer security, formal methods and, of course, various branches of AI itself.

In summary, we believe that research on how to make AI systems robust and beneficial is both important and timely, and that there are concrete research directions that can be pursued today.

:: [Research priorities for robust and beneficial artificial intelligence](#)

January 11, 2015 :: 12 pages

Executive Summary:

Success in the quest for artificial intelligence has the potential to bring unprecedented benefits to humanity, and it is therefore worthwhile to research how to maximize these benefits while avoiding potential pitfalls. This document gives numerous examples (which should by no means be construed as an exhaustive list) of such worthwhile research aimed at ensuring that AI remains robust and beneficial.

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EBOLA/EVD [to 17 January 2015]

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC); "Threat to international peace and security" (UN Security Council)

Editor's Note:

Our extensive coverage of Ebola/EVD activity continues – including detailed coverage of UNMEER now available at the end of this digest and other INGO/agency activity reported in the relevant sections below. Please also note that many of the journals we cover continue to publish important EVD content which is threaded throughout this edition.

We note that the WHO will hold a "Special Session of the Executive Board on the Ebola Emergency" at its meeting later in January, with supporting documentation below. This content includes an important call for a resolution to clarify and affirm the WHO's role in large-scale health emergencies overall.

WHO: Ebola response roadmap - Situation report 14 January 2015

[Excerpt]

Summary

...There have been in excess of 21,000 reported confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (table 1), with more than 8,300 deaths (outcomes are under-reported)...

:: 136th WHO Executive Board session

26 January–3 February 2015 –

- Main Documents: http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_eb136.html

Selected documents of interest to Ebola:

EB136/49 - Ensuring WHO's capacity to prepare for and respond to future large-scale and sustained outbreaks and emergencies

[Excerpt]

...4. As the number of emergencies with public health implications is rising, the need for effective, efficient and well-designed global response capacities has never been clearer. Though WHO has often been called on to support Member States as they respond to crises, the unprecedented complexity and scale of the current Ebola outbreak demonstrates that the Organization's capacities, methods and approaches are not necessarily scalable or adaptable to novel or larger challenges. Further, WHO's focus on technical support and normative guidance has left a gap in institutional capacity for and appreciation of the importance of operations.

5. The international community expects WHO to be able to mount a comprehensive and rapid response, whenever and wherever an emergency that impacts public health arises that outstrips national capacity. To meet this expectation, the Organization's emergency management capacity must be ready to address the public health impact of emergencies of any category, irrespective of hazard, across the full emergency risk management spectrum. Today, WHO has the essential institutional experience and country presence needed, but is not designed or capacitated to fulfil this function. To rectify this, WHO must substantially strengthen and modernize its emergency management capacity.

In moving this forward, it is necessary that:

(a) there is a recognition and clear delineation of WHO's mandate and role in emergency response;

(b) effective crisis management mechanisms – systems and structures – exist to enable WHO to fulfil that role;

(c) adequate capacities exist to predictably apply these crisis management mechanisms;

(d) appropriate and dedicated funding is in place; and
(e) a robust performance management and accountability framework is in place to provide timely, systematic and comprehensive evaluation of the Organization's emergency response, and recalibration as required.

6. As such, a package of five proposals for adapting, modernizing and reforming WHO are presented here. If implemented, these changes could capacitate the Organization to successfully lead in protecting the most vulnerable populations from the devastating public health impacts of emergencies...

- [EB136/26](#) – [Ebola] Current context and challenges; stopping the epidemic; and preparedness in non-affected countries and regions
- [EB136/INF./4](#) - Fast-tracking the development and prospective roll-out of vaccines, therapies and diagnostics in response to Ebola virus disease
Special Session of the Executive Board on the Ebola Emergency
- [EB136/INF./5](#)
Building resilient health systems in Ebola-affected countries
Special Session of the Executive Board on the Ebola Emergency
- [EB136/INF./6](#)
Highlight of efforts made to date towards preparing non-affected countries and regions to respond to potential importation of EVD
Special Session of the Executive Board on the Ebola Emergency
- [EB136/INF./7](#)
IHR and Ebola

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Emergencies Scorecard

UN OCHA: [L3 Emergencies](#) [at 17 January 2015]

The UN and its humanitarian partners are currently responding to four 'L3' emergencies. This is the UN classification for the most severe, large-scale humanitarian crises.

:: [Iraq](#): - The surge in violence between armed groups and government forces has displaced an estimated 1.8 million people across Iraq and left hundreds of thousands of people in need of assistance.

[OCHA Iraq](#)>>

:: [Syria](#) - 10.8 million people, nearly half the population, are in need of humanitarian assistance. An estimated 6.45 million people have been displaced inside the country.

[OCHA Syria](#)>>

:: [CAR Central African Republic](#) - The violence that erupted in December 2013 has displaced hundreds of thousands of people and left 2.5 million in urgent need of assistance.

[OCHA CAR](#)>>

:: [South Sudan](#) - About 1.4 million people are internally displaced as the result of fighting that began in December 2013. 3.8 million people need humanitarian assistance.

[OCHA South Sudan](#)>>

WHO: [Public Health Emergencies of International Concern \(PHEIC\)](#) [at 17 January 2015]

:: [Ebola/EVD](#)

:: [Polio](#)

WHO: Grade 3 and Grade 2 emergencies [at 17 January 2015]

:: *WHO Grade 3 emergencies*

- Central African Republic
- Guinea
- Iraq
- Liberia
- Nigeria
- Sierra Leone
- South Sudan
- The Syrian Arab Republic

:: *WHO Grade 2 emergencies*

- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Guinea
- Mali
- occupied Palestinian territories
- Philippines
- Ukraine

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:: Agency/Government/IGO Watch

We will monitor a growing number of relevant agency, government and IGO organizations for key media releases, announcements, research, and initiatives. Generally, we will focus on regional or global level content recognizing limitation of space, meaning country-specific coverage is limited. Please suggest additional organizations to monitor.

United Nations System Organizational Chart

:: 8.5" x 11" / 216 x 279 mm :: 11" x 17" / 279 x 432 mm

United Nations – Secretary General, Security Council, General Assembly

Selected Press Releases [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.un.org/en/unpress/>

16 January 2015

GA/11611

[General Assembly, Unanimously Adopting Decision, Sets Out Intergovernmental Negotiations Road Map on Post-2015 Development Agenda](#)

The General Assembly today set out a road map for the process of intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, adopting without a vote a draft decision on that matter.

14 January 2015

SC/11734

[Security Council Presidential Statement Emphasizes National Responsibility, Inclusivity in Peacebuilding Efforts for Countries Emerging from Conflict](#)

Recognizing peacebuilding as an important element of United Nations efforts in countries emerging from conflict, the Security Council today both underlined the primary responsibility of national Governments and other stakeholders towards such successful peacebuilding, and

emphasized the importance of inclusivity in advancing relevant processes to ensure that the needs of all segments of society were being taken into account.

15 January 2015

DSG/SM/837-WOM/2012

[Gender Equality for Women Benefits Men Too, Deputy Secretary-General Tells Barbershop Conference, Urging Stronger Role in Transformational Changes](#)

Following are UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson's remarks, as prepared for delivery, to the Barbershop Conference on Changing the Discourse among Men on Gender Equality, in New York.

14 January 2015

SC/11736

[Growing Global Threats Compel Security Council in 2014 to Deploy or Reconfigure Peace Missions, Bolster Anti-Terrorism Effort, Scrutinize Working Methods](#)

Seized with a succession of new crises in Europe, the Middle East and across Africa, the Security Council in 2014 tackled an expanding workload in a record number of meetings while seeking to defeat terrorism, prevent conflicts, protect civilians, and improve the effectiveness of sanctions and other tools to quell tensions and neutralize threats.

13 January 2015

ORG/1593

[With Increased Number of United Nations Personnel Deliberately Killed in 2014, Staff Unions Calls on Organization to Do More towards Protecting Lives](#)

Working for the United Nations proved especially deadly in 2014 as its personnel continued to be subject to deliberate attacks and exposed to hazardous environments.

UN OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/media.aspx?IsMediaPage=true>

[Committee on the Rights of the Child Examines report of the Gambia](#)

16 January 2015

[Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea set to begin hearing testimonies in the United Kingdom](#)

16 January 2015

[Committee on the Rights of the Child reviews report of Mauritius](#)

15 January 2015

[Committee on Rights of Child examines reports of Turkmenistan under Convention, and on sale of children and children in armed conflict](#)

14 January 2015

[Committee on the Rights of the Child considers the report of Sweden](#)

14 January 2015

SRS/CAAC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict [to 17 January 2015]

<https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/virtual-library/press-release-archive/>

16 Jan

[UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict Calls for Urgent Action to Protect Children in North East Nigeria](#)

SRS/SVC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/media/press-releases/>

No new digest content identified.

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/hom>

Press Releases

[UNHCR study shows rapid deterioration in living conditions of Syrian refugees in Jordan](#)

14 January 2015

Briefing Notes

[UNHCR concern over refugee returns to Nigeria / refugees continue arriving in Chad and Niger.](#)

16 January 2015

[Upsurge in Libya fighting triggers new displacement](#)

16 January 2015

UNOCHA [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.unocha.org/>

[Syrian Arab Republic - Syria Humanitarian Coordinator calls on the international community to urgently fund winter response \[EN/AR\]](#)

16 Jan 2015

[Iraq - UN responds to Dhuluiya displaced \[EN/AR\]](#)

14 Jan 2015

[World - Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos - Remarks to the Council on Foreign Relations, Sorensen Lecture series, New York, 13 January 2015](#)

14 Jan 2015

[see full treatment above in *Week in Review*]

UNISDR UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.unisdr.org/archive>

[African youth commit to reduce disaster risks](#)

African youth leaders are taking action to make their communities better informed and prepared to reduce their exposure to the effects of disasters.

15 Jan 2015

[EU gears up for disability inclusive #WCDRR](#)

The new Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union is pressing ahead with plans to strengthen measures across the 28 EU Member States to include persons with disabilities in disaster risk management activities.

14 Jan 2015

[Flood crises fuel strategic rethink in Europe](#)

Battered by repeated flooding for the best part of a decade, European governments have stepped up efforts to stem the economic and human impact

14 Jan 2015

UNICEF [to 17 January 2015]

http://www.unicef.org/media/media_71508.html

Media Releases [selected]

[UNICEF Steps Up Assistance for Syrian Children Affected by the Bitter Winter Sweeping through the Middle East](#)

GENEVA/AMMAN, 13 January 2015 – Amidst the harshest conditions of the winter so far, UNICEF has delivered warm clothing, blankets, heating supplies, cash and vouchers to more than 900,000 children in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey.

[Statement by UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake on escalating violence against children in northern Nigeria](#)

NEW YORK, 11 January 2015 - "These images from Northern Nigeria should be searing the conscience of the world.

[FC Barcelona Foundation, Reach Out To Asia and UNICEF launch '1 in 11' campaign](#)

NEW YORK, 9 January 2015 – FC Barcelona Foundation, Reach Out To Asia (ROTA) and UNICEF today launched the '1 in 11' campaign to extend educational opportunities to marginalized children in Bangladesh, Indonesia and Nepal, with the goal of expanding to more countries.

UN Women [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.unwomen.org/>

[UN Women to reinforce gender equality in post-2015 agenda](#)

Date: January 16, 2015

On Monday, 19 January, UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka will open a UN Women-organized panel entitled "The Centrality of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls for the Post-2015 Development Agenda."

[UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women issues annual Call for Proposals](#)

Date: January 13, 2015

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women is pleased to announce its 2015 Call for Proposals in support of promising approaches to prevent and end violence against women and

girls. Civil society organizations and governments are invited to apply for funding through the 19th grant cycle (2015), as of 12 January 2015. The deadline for submitting initial and brief concept notes is 29 January 2015, 23.59 EST (GMT-5).

[New Executive Board Bureau elected to lead UN Women in monumental year](#)

Date: January 12, 2015

For what promises to be one of UN Women's most challenging and transcendent years yet, Member States of the UN Women Executive Board opened the year by electing five representatives to its Bureau in elections on 7 January. The Western European Group has the Presidency of the Executive Board this year and Ambassador Ib Petersen, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the UN, was elected as President for 2015.

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues [to 17 January 2015]

<http://undesadspd.org/IndigenousPeoples.aspx>

[FAD Call for proposals for Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility](#)

January 15, 2015

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is inviting indigenous peoples' organizations and communities, and organizations that work with them, to apply for grants that fund projects and partnerships to promote the development of indigenous peoples and their unique cultural identity.

Grants ranging from US\$20,000 to US\$50,000 will be awarded to applicants from IFAD's developing Member States through the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility (IPAF).

You can find more [information on application requirements and an application form here](#). The closing date for applications is 6 March 2015.

WHO & Regionals [to 17 January 2015]

[Please see more extensive Ebola/EVD coverage at the end of this edition including UNMEER reporting]

:: [136th WHO Executive Board session](#)

26 January–3 February 2015 –

- Main Documents: http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_eb136.html

:: **Global Alert and Response (GAR): Disease Outbreak News (DONs)**

- Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Oman [16 January 2015](#)

- Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia [15 January 2015](#)

WHO Regional Offices

WHO African Region AFRO

Press Releases

:: Safe breastfeeding key to improve children's health

Brazzaville, 12 January 2015 – Every day an estimated 8000 children die in sub-Saharan Africa from easily preventable or treatable illnesses. Breastfeeding is one of the best ways to provide newborns, infants and young children with the nutrients that they need while protecting them against conditions such as pneumonia, diarrhoea, and measles.

:: [A Decade of WHO Action in the African Region: Striving together to achieve health goals](#)
[pdf1.27MB]

By Luis Gomes Sambo, Regional Director 2005–2015
ISBN: 978 929 023 2551

WHO Region of the Americas PAHO

:: [Isabella Danel, former CDC official, sworn in as PAHO/WHO Deputy Director](#) (01/16/2015)

:: [PAHO/WHO honors Haitians and international relief workers on 5th anniversary of 2010 earthquake](#)

Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 12 January 2015 (PAHO/WHO) – On the fifth anniversary of the earthquake that devastated Haiti on 12 January 2010, the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) honors the earthquake's estimated 230,000 victims and their families and pays tribute to the many Haitian health workers and international relief workers for their dedication and outstanding efforts to bring relief to the disaster's victims and survivors...

WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO

No new digest content identified.

WHO European Region EURO

:: [Tajikistan introduces rotavirus vaccine to protect children from diarrhoeal disease](#)
15-01-2015

With an official launch ceremony on 8 January 2015, Tajikistan became the fourteenth country in the WHO European Region to introduce rotavirus vaccination into its national immunization schedule, and the fourth to do so through the generous support of the GAVI Alliance.

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO

:: [One Year Since the Last Case of Polio In Syria](#)

Friday, January 16, 2015

Despite civil war and mass population displacement, incredible gains have been made against the polio outbreak in the Middle East.

WHO Western Pacific Region

:: [Update on the cluster of HIV cases, Roka Commune, Sang Ker District, Battambang Province](#)

PHNOM PENH, 9 January 2015 – Between 8 to 31 December, 2014, a total of 1940 people from Roka Commune, voluntarily undertook HIV testing and counselling and 212 people tested positive for HIV. Among the people who tested HIV positive, 174 (82%) are from Roka Village. Among the total of 212 diagnoses, 39 people (18%) are 14 years old or younger, 127 (60%) are between 15 and 59 years old and 46 (22%) are 60 years old or older.

[Read the joint news release](#)

UNAIDS [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/>

No new digest content identified.

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.unfpa.org/public/>

No new digest content identified.

UNDP United Nations Development Programme [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter.html>

15 Jan 2015

[Ebola recovery assessment mission kicks off in Sierra Leone](#)

An international mission to assess support needed for long term recovery in the three countries hardest hit by Ebola kicked off in Sierra Leone today.

15 Jan 2015

[Kyrgyzstan: 15,000 people to get help in radioactive waste affected areas](#)

Around 15,000 poor and vulnerable people from towns near radioactive waste sites will get help to monitor the environment, create jobs, boost livelihoods and strengthen communities.

14 Jan 2015

[Helen Clark: Speech on "South-South Co-operation: Experiences from the Chile Fund Against Hunger and Poverty"](#)

UN HQ, New York

13 Jan 2015

[Thousands of Ebola workers paid in Liberia](#)

UNDP has helped the Liberian government pay thousands of Ebola workers. Over \$1 million dollars in cash payments were distributed across the country in January alone. The workers were hired at the height of the crisis to run treatment centres, help communities prevent transmission and track people that have had contact with victims.

12 Jan 2015

[30,000 food packages for vulnerable, displaced people in Ukraine](#)

Amid continuing fighting and a deteriorating humanitarian situation in Ukraine, UNDP launched an initiative aimed at ferrying aid to the country's internal displaced persons (IDP's) and other vulnerable citizens trapped by the ongoing hostilities

12 Jan 2015

[Helen Clark: 2015: Speech to Women's International Forum, "An Important Year for Gender and Development"](#)

New York, New York.

UN Division for Sustainable Development [to 17 January 2015]

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>

[Programme for stocktaking session Intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda](#)

Post-2015 intergovernmental negotiations | 19-21 Jan 2015

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.unep.org/newscentre/?doctypeID=1>

[Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs Calls for Realism and Balance in the Post-2015 Agenda at UNEPs Committee of Permanent Representatives](#)

16-1-2015

[Former Finnish Development Minister Visits Afghanistan, Praises Environmental Progress](#)

UNEP helped to establish Afghanistan's National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), now the country's leading environmental policymaking and regulatory institution

16-1-2015

[Dutch Rally Support for a Europe Wide Microplastic Ban](#)

Microplastics are tiny particles of plastic that have been added to possibly thousands of personal care products sold around the world

16-1-2015

[Montreal Protocol Averts Threat of Large Increases in Skin Cancers](#)

The report notes that without the Montreal Protocol, runaway ozone depletion would have led to large increases in UV radiation around the world, with major consequences for the risk of skin cancer.

16-1-2015

DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news.html>

[A key year for water begins](#)

16 January 2015, Zaragoza, Spain

During the last 15 years, some two billion people have seen improvements in their access to water sources thanks to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Yet across the globe today, 750 million people still lack safe drinking water. Tackling these challenges by placing water issues front and centre, the UN-Water International Conference takes place this week in Zaragoza, Spain. The goal is to bring the post-2015 agenda into action.

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/allpress.html?ref=fp>

No new digest content identified

UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme [to 17 January 2015]

<http://unhabitat.org/media-centre/press-releases/>

[Call for Regional and Thematic meetings for Habitat III](#)

01/16/2015

[Vietnam rolls out City Development Strategies](#)

01/14/2015

[UN-Habitat and ILO hold green youth entrepreneurship training in Tanzania](#)

01/14/2015

FAO Food & Agriculture Organization [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.fao.org/news/archive/news-by-date/2014/en/>

[The food systems of the future need to be smarter, more efficient](#)

16 January 2015, Berlin – Increasing competition for natural resource and emerging resource bottlenecks mean that global agriculture can no longer operate using a "business as usual" approach – the input-intensive agricultural development model used for the past 40 years is no longer sustainable, and "paradigm shift" in food production is needed.

16-01-2015

[Africa Cup of Nations to rally support for home-grown efforts to end hunger](#)

"African Football against Hunger" is a collaboration between FAO and the Confederation for African Football to highlight the breakthrough commitment by African leaders to end hunger in the next decade.

16-01-2015

[Viet Nam launches national Zero Hunger Challenge](#)

The National Zero Hunger Challenge (ZHC), a major initiative to eradicate hunger in Viet Nam, was launched today by the Government of Viet Nam in collaboration with the United Nations, including FAO.

14-01-2015

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.ifad.org/media/press/index.htm>

No new digest content identified.

ILO International Labour Organization [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.ilo.org/global/lang--en/index.htm>

[Global momentum means more women move into management](#)

New study shows positive link between female leadership and business performance and urges boost from current 5 per cent of women in top positions.

News | 12 January 2015

[see full treatment in *Week in Review* above]

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.icao.int/Newsroom/Pages/default.aspx>

No new digest content identified.

IMO International Maritime Organization [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.imo.org/MediaCentre/Pages/Home.aspx>

[Dr. Doumbia-Henry appointed new WMU President](#)

14/01/2015

IMO and World Maritime University (WMU) have announced the appointment of a new President to head the University

WMO World Meteorological Organization [to 17 January 2015]

<https://www.wmo.int/media/?q=news>

New Polar Challenge Launched

16 January 2015

Geneva/Tromsø (19 January 2015) The World Climate Research Program (WCRP) is launching a Polar Challenge to reward the first team able to send an Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) for a 2,000 kilometer mission under the sea-ice in the Arctic or Antarctic.

The aim is to stimulate the development of a sorely-needed monitoring tool for the Polar regions and ultimately to expand scientific research capabilities and climate services in both the Arctic and Antarctic.

"The cryosphere is a major indicator of global climate change and plays a fundamental role in our climate system," said WCRP Director David Carlson.

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.unido.org/en/news-centre/news.html>

Friday, 16 January 2015

[Partnerships essential for post-2015 development agenda says UNIDO Director General](#)

JAIPUR, India, 16 January 2015 – The Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) today emphasized the critical role of partnerships for the successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Speaking at the 2015 Partnerships Summit in Jaipur, co-organized by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Confederation of Indian Industry, and the Government of Rajasthan, Director General LI Yong said: "Partnerships will represent an essential element of the post-2015 development agenda, especially regarding its means of implementation, and thus the full engagement of all sectors of society will be vital to achieving 'The World We Want'."

Welcoming the inclusion of "inclusive and sustainable industrialization" in Goal 9 of the outcome document prepared by the Open Working Group, established by the UN to formulate the Sustainable Development Goals, Director General Li said: "Multi-stakeholder partnerships are indispensable to ensuring the effective implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, with its heavy demands on financing, accountability, universality, integration and data."

He added that "inclusive and sustainable industrial development has enormous potential to eradicate poverty through economic growth without the accompanying environmental degradation or social inequality."...

UNWTO World Tourism Organization [to 17 January 2015]

<http://media.unwto.org/news>

[UN General Assembly: Sustainable tourism is a tool for poverty reduction and environmental protection](#)

14 January 2015

A milestone resolution recognizing the contribution of sustainable tourism to poverty

eradication, community development and the protection of biodiversity has been adopted by consensus by the United Nations General Assembly.

ITU International Telecommunications Union [to 17 January 2015]

http://www.itu.int/net/pressoffice/press_releases/index.aspx?lang=en#.VF8FYcl4WF8
14.01.2015

[ITU Management team inauguration on 15 January](#)

ITU pledges commitment to innovation as it celebrates 150th anniversary ...

UNESCO [to 17 January 2015]

<http://en.unesco.org/>

No new digest content identified.

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.wipo.int/portal/en/index.html>

No new digest content identified.

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.cbd.int/>

No new digest content identified.

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USAID [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.usaid.gov/>

No new digest content identified.

DFID [to 17 January 2015]

<https://www.gov.uk/government/latest?departments%5B%5D=department-for-international-development>

[Flooding in Malawi](#)

Published 16 January 2015 Government response DFID

[Funding for development research](#)

Updated 14 January 2015

Detailed guide DFID

Overview

This page is aimed at organisations and researchers looking for information on funding opportunities in development research. It lists in date order a selection of current calls with a research, evidence or evaluation theme which are being run by DFID or by our programme partners. If you are interested in working for DFID you should also look at our [supplier portal](#).

- [Royal Society-DFID Africa Capacity Building Initiative](#)
- [Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women \(GrOW\): Call for research proposals](#)

- [Changes in the arid and semi-arid lands in East Africa: evidence synthesis and data mapping on poverty, vulnerability, livelihoods and resilience.](#)
- [Ensuring debt sustainability in developing countries through productive expenditure](#)
- [Health Systems Research Initiative Call 2](#)
- [ESRC/DFID Joint Fund for Poverty Alleviation Research Outline Research Grants Call 2014/15](#)

ECHO [to 17 January 2015]

<http://ec.europa.eu/echo/en/news>

[EU supports response to Malawi floods](#)

16/01/2015

After severe floods have killed at least 48 people and left more than 100 000 displaced or homeless in Malawi, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism has been activated as part of the international response to the flooding emergency. Via the Mechanism,...

....

African Union [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.au.int/en/>

Dec.29.2014

[24th African Union Summit - 23 to 31 January 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia](#)

Jan.16.2015

[AU expresses solidarity with the Government and people of Malawi in the face of a Natural Disaster](#)

Jan.16.2015

[AU prepares for successful and productive Post-2015 Development Agenda negotiations](#)

The African Development Bank Group [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/>

[AfDB partnership with CSOs to spur development in Africa](#)

15/01/2015

A committee comprising the African Development Bank and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) has been relaunched with the aim of fostering partnership between the two players in order to enhance development on the continent.

The committee, reintroduced at a two-day meeting between the Bank and CSOs will discuss a work plan, modalities of its implementation as well as an accountability structure. "CSOs are our integral partners especially in the promotion of accountability, transparency and good governance. Accountability is key in terms of achieving our objective, and we could certainly do with an external reporting tool especially from CSOs," Rakesh Nangia, Chair of the committee, said as he opened the meeting on January 14 at the Bank's headquarters in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

Addressing the participants, who included regional civil society heads and representatives of key sectors within the Bank, he reiterated the importance of strengthening engagement with CSOs. "The Bank recognizes and values the expertise and contributions of CSOs, which are

essential in achieving sustainable development in Africa,” said Nangia, who is also the Evaluator General of the Bank’s Independent Development Evaluation department (IDEV).

His remarks were echoed by Mamadou Goita, Chair of the Civil Society Coalition, who described the role of civil society as crucial in helping the Bank to frame projects that would be more relevant to communities. “We need to be involved from the first stage of designing a project because we know the context of our various communities. We can then help follow through to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation stages,” Goita said...

ASEAN

<http://www.asean.org/news>

No new digest content identified.

UNCTAD [to 17 January 2015]

<http://unctad.org/en/Pages/AllPressRelease.aspx>

No new digest content identified.

World Trade Organisation [to 17 January 2015]

http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news13_e/news13_e.htm

[Azevêdo: India’s support “vital” in WTO negotiations this year](#)

Director-General Roberto Azevêdo, in his address to the Partnership Summit of the Confederation of Indian Industry in Jaipur on 16 January 2015, said: “It is in the interest of developing countries that the WTO is seen as an organization that delivers. So we must succeed in these efforts—and, as ever, India’s leadership will be vital.”

> [Speech](#)

OECD [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.oecd.org/newsroom/>

No new digest content identified.

IMF [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.imf.org/external/news/default.aspx>

[Three “Rosetta Moments” for the Global Economy in 2015](#)

by Christine Lagarde

Managing Director, International Monetary Fund

Speech before the Council on Foreign Relations

Washington D.C.—January 15, 2015

[Excerpt]

...this year the global economy will face what we might call three “Rosetta moments”. These are major policy challenges that require decisions based on political courage, decisive action, and multilateral thinking—in short, true global leadership.

The first Rosetta moment is all about boosting growth and employment in the next 12 months – overcoming that “strong headwind” that I mentioned. The second Rosetta moment is about

achieving more inclusive, shared growth; and the third is about attaining more sustainable, balanced growth....

[Webcast of the Speech](#)

World Bank [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/all>

No new digest content identified.

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:: NGO/Collaborations/Initiatives Watch

We will monitor media releases and other announcements around key initiatives, new research and major organizational change from a growing number of global NGOs, collaborations, and initiatives across the human rights, humanitarian response and development spheres of action. This Watch section is intended to be indicative, not exhaustive. We will not include fund raising content and only limited blog content.

Amref Health Africa [to 17 January 2015]

<http://amref.org/news/news/>

[President launches Amref Flying Doctors Emergency Service for Civil Servants](#)

[Undated]

Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta this morning launched emergency air rescue and ground ambulance services to be provided by Amref Flying Doctors for civil servants and members of the disciplined forces.

The event was held at the Amref Flying Doctors (AFD) hangar at the Wilson Airport in Nairobi. The emergency services are part of an enhanced medical insurance package offered by the National Health Insurance Fund to civil servants and the disciplined forces across the country.

Those who received the President included interim Amref Health Africa CEO Dr Lennie Kyomuhangi-Bazira and Amref Flying Doctors CEO Dr Bettina Vadera. Dr Vadera gave the President a tour of an Amref Flying Doctors plane and also showed him one of the ground ambulances used by AFD for evacuations...

Aravind Eye Care System [to 17 January 2015]

No new digest content identified.

BRAC [to 17 January 2015]

No new digest content identified.

CARE International [to 17 January 2015]

[Haiti Earthquake Five Years Later: Rebuilding a Stronger Nation](#)

12 JANUARY 2015

Five years after a deadly earthquake left an already impoverished nation in complete devastation, the rebuilding effort in Haiti has made significant progress

Danish Refugee Council [to 17 January 2015]

<http://drc.dk/news/archive/>

[Paghman District clearance nearing completion](#) (15.01.15)

The Danish Demining Group's mine clearance activities in the Paghman District in Afghanistan have resulted in the elimination of the locals' fear of the deathly risks associated with mines that were...

[DRC helps Syrian refugees through the snowstorm in Lebanon](#) (15.01.15)

Thousands of refugees across Lebanon are struggling to keep warm as brutal winter storm bring rain and heavy snow to the country. The Zina storm has caused severe flooding and damages to...

Casa Alianza [to 17 January 2015]

Covenant House [to 17 January 2015]

[An Open Letter to a Rising Star](#)

In his Huffington Post blog, Covenant House President Kevin Ryan celebrates the talent, spirit and resiliency of a new American Idol star -- and all of our Covenant House kids.

ECPAT [to 17 January 2015]

No new digest content identified.

Fountain House [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.fountainhouse.org/about/news-press>

No new digest content identified.

Handicap International [to 17 January 2015]

January 15, 2015

[GAZA: bombs under the rubble](#)

A new Handicap International report, "[Bombs under the rubble](#)," evaluates the Gazan population's awareness of the presence of explosive remnants of war. The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) estimates that there are at least 7,000 unexploded devices and munitions, mainly mixed in with the rubble, following the conflict between July 7 and August 26, 2014. According to the report, almost half of the people interviewed reported feelings of fear on a daily basis due to the presence of bombs. A total of 45% had benefited from education about awareness-raising actions.

"Bombs under the rubble," found that 47% of people interviewed in Gaza considered explosive remnants to be a constant cause for concern in their daily lives. Forty-five percent had received training about the risks posed by explosive remnants of war, which include different types of unexploded devices — weapons which remain in place after an armed conflict ends (eg, grenades, shells, rockets and cluster munitions). However, the report also reveals

significant shortcomings. While 70% of respondents know how to report an explosive remnant of war, only 29% have actually done so....

[To read the entire report, please click here: Bombs Under the Rubble](#)

Heifer International [to 17 January 2015]

[Fifth Anniversary of Devastating Earthquake in Haiti](#)

January 12, 2015

Challenging Conditions Persist but Positive Progress for Rural Farmers

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (Jan. 12, 2015) – Five years after a devastating 7.0-magnitude earthquake rocked Haiti, Heifer International says its farmers on the impoverished island are benefitting from a new approach to development work that focuses on sustainable economic development.

While [Heifer's work in Haiti](#) remains focused on improving the lives of smallholder farmers, particularly in rural communities, the earthquake caused a shift in the organization's work, said Hervil Cherubin, country director for Heifer International Haiti.

"With the new approach we work much closely in partnership with the Haitian government, other international NGOs, local grassroots organizations in order to actively participate in the reconstruction of the country," Cherubin said...

HelpAge International [to 17 January 2015]

[January launch of action/2015](#)

HelpAge International is joining action/2015, a global citizen's movement, to call on leaders to raise their ambitions for a fairer world for all ages in 2015; the year that two United Nations summits can change the course of history.

Posted: 15 January 2015

[Five years on from the Haiti earthquake](#)

Five years on from the earthquake in Haiti that killed 230,000 people, at least a thousand older people have been moved into new homes and 16 older people's associations are now up and running, providing long term support, created by HelpAge International.

Posted: 11 January 2015

International Rescue Committee [to 17 January 2015]

Press Releases

[Away from Syria's war, IRC volunteers give refugee children a safe space to be kids again](#)

Posted by The IRC on January 15, 2015

The IRC and its partner organizations piloted an urban child-protection program in Lebanon to provide afterschool psychosocial activities for vulnerable children living in camps.

ICRC - International Committee of the Red Cross [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/index.jsp>

[Lebanon: Caring for people fleeing conflict brings increasing challenges for hosts](#)

News release

14 January 2015

The increasing economic hardship of families caring for refugees in Lebanon has come into sharp focus in recent days. Over a million people have fled the conflict in Syria, including Palestinians from Syria and Lebanese returnees. Thousands of Syrian families and others living in flimsy shelters are enduring misery in the Lebanese mountains. Public services and infrastructure are struggling to cope.

[Niger: Massive food-aid project for people fleeing conflict in Nigeria](#)

News release

13 January 2015

Over the past three months, more than 25,000 people (residents, displaced people and returnees) have been aided by the ICRC, which worked closely with the Red Cross Society of Niger to deliver food aid for nearly 45,000 individuals in 2014. Of these, some 11,000 also received essential household items (blankets, tarpaulins, mosquito nets, mats, clothes and kitchen utensils).

IRCT [to 17 January 2015]

No new digest content identified.

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières [to 17 January 2015]

Selected Press Releases/Field News

Field news

[Malawi: Floods Cut Off Thousands from Aid](#)

January 16, 2015

Up to 20,000 people in the southern tip of [Malawi](#), the area most affected by current flooding, remain cut off from the rest of the country without food, health care, or means to prevent possible disease outbreaks.

Field news

[Displaced by Conflict in Iraq: "How Can You Live in Such a Place?"](#)

January 15, 2015

Thousands of IDPs seeking refuge in the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq have now settled in Dohuk governorate, where four MSF teams are providing care for the most vulnerable people.

Field news

[Nigeria: MSF Assists Survivors of Deadly Boko Haram Attack](#)

January 12, 2015

In the wake of a major attack carried out by the Islamist militant group Boko Haram on the northern Nigerian town of Baga, a Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) team is assisting survivors who fled to the city of Maiduguri. A large number of people are believed to have been slaughtered in the attack—the deadliest by Boko Haram for five years—while thousands more were displaced from their homes. Twenty wounded survivors are being treated in Maiduguri hospital by Ministry of Health teams.

Mercy Corps [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.mercycorps.org/press-room/releases>

No new digest content identified.

Operation Smile [to 17 January 2015]

Upcoming Mission Schedule

Jan 11 - 18 | Nagercoil, India

Jan 12 - 16 | Hanoi, Vietnam

Jan 30 - Feb 2 | Siem Reap, Cambodia

Feb 2 - 6 | Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Feb 2 - 6 | Hanoi, Vietnam

Feb 5 - 9 | Balabac, Palawan, Philippines

Feb 12 - 20 | Guadalajara, Mexico

Feb 15 - 21 | Cauayan, Isabela, Philippines

Feb 18 - 21 | Cobarruguis, Quirino, Philippines

Feb 19 - 27 | Tegucigalpa, Honduras

OXFAM [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressreleases>

[Rising Inequality in the Global South: Practice and Solutions](#)

13 January 2015

Inequality is spiralling out of control, but consensus on how to address it is gathering pace. Following on from the success of last year's symposium about Africa's extractives industry and illicit financial flows, Oxfam and the University of Oxford are coming together again to examine the causes and consequences of uneven economic growth and rising inequality in the global South, while assessing policy solutions and charting a way forward for equity, democracy and social stability.

Partners In Health [to 17 January 2015]

Jan 16, 2015

[Haiti's Next Generation of Doctors Reflect](#)

Two medical residents reflect on Haiti five years after the earthquake.

[Recruiting Ebola Survivors in Sierra Leone](#)

January 14, 2015

PIH has hired more than 400 Ebola survivors across Sierra Leone and Liberia to date, and is working daily to stop the spread of the virus while building strong health systems that prevent against future epidemics. [Learn more about our work in West Africa.](#)

Jan 13, 2015

[Post-Earthquake Haiti: 'Always there is Opportunity'](#)

Dr. Ralph Ternier is director of community care and support at Zanmi Lasante, Partners In Health's sister organization in Haiti. He reflects on his experiences during the country's earthquake in 2010—and the five years since. [Read More](#) ▶

Jan 12, 2015

[Haiti: Rehab Helps Patients Regain Independence](#)

Partners In Health's rehab program at University Hospital in Haiti has expanded since the 2010 earthquake, helping hundreds of people with physical disabilities and other diagnoses.
Read

PATH [to 17 January 2015]

Announcement | December 19, 2014

No new digest content identified.

Plan International [to 17 January 2015]

<http://plan-international.org/about-plan/resources/media-centre>

[Plan International appeals for funds to assist flood victims in Malawi](#)

6 January 2015,

Plan International is appealing for funds to support thousands of children affected by heavy floods in Malawi, which have killed 4 dozen people and displaced 70,000 others.

Save The Children [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGIpI4E/b.6150563/k.D0E9/Newsroom.htm>

[Save the Children and UNICEF Receive \\$11.9 Million from IKEA Soft Toys for Education Campaign](#) Jan. 15, 2015

[Save the Children Receives 35,000 Books for U.S. Children in Need From Penguin Random House](#) January 15, 2015

[Statement From Mark Shriver Praising Education Secretary's Call For Expanded Early Education For U.S. Children](#) January 12, 2015

SOS-Kinderdorf International [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/about-sos/press/press-releases>

[Les Cayes, Haiti: Inauguration of new SOS Children's Village and school mark 5-year earthquake anniversary](#)

12 January 2015

On five-year anniversary of the terrible earthquake that killed more than 200,000 in Haiti, SOS Children's Villages weighs progress of recovery and inaugurates new school and Children's Village.

Tostan [to 17 January 2015]

No new digest content identified.

Women for Women International [to 17 January 2015]

No new digest content identified.

.....

Disasters Emergency Committee [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.dec.org.uk/press>

[Action Aid, Age International, British Red Cross, CAFOD, Care International, Christian Aid, Concern Worldwide, Islamic Relief, Oxfam, Plan UK, Save the Children, Tearfund and World Vision]

No new digest content identified.

EHLRA/R2HC [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.elrha.org/news/elrha>

No new digest content identified.

END Fund

<http://www.end.org/news>

No new digest content identified.

GAVI [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.gavialliance.org/library/news/press-releases/>

No new digest content identified.

Global Fund [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/>

Press releases

:: [South African HIV Program on Rights of Sex Workers](#)

12 January 2015

The South African National AIDS Council said that a long-awaited HIV program catering specifically to the needs of sex workers – 60 percent of whom are estimated to be living with HIV – became firmly established during the course of 2014.

The program aims to reduce transmission of HIV to sex workers and their clients, ensure good access to social services and healthcare for sex workers, and tackle human rights abuses that make sex workers exceptionally vulnerable to HIV infection.

Details of the initiative were presented to the media and public for the first time today at an event held in Newtown, Johannesburg.

"The introduction of a national HIV programme for sex workers finally plugs a gaping hole in our country's response to the epidemic," said Dr. Fareed Abdullah, CEO of the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC.)

"General HIV services simply do not meet the special needs of sex workers," said Dr. Abdullah. "Their work exposes sex workers to hugely increased risk of infection.

"It is not only a question of having a large number of sex partners, many of whom demand unprotected sex. Sex work is often dangerous and lonely. It is illegal in this country and carries a heavy social stigma. An exceptional program is needed to provide effective HIV services to sex workers and fulfil their right – along with all South Africans – to receive healthcare."

ODI [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.odi.org/media>

[‘Localising’ the Post-2015 agenda: What does it mean in practice?](#)

Research reports and studies, January 2015

Paula Lucci

This note discusses different possible meanings of 'localisation' in the Post-2015 agenda, and their practical implications for how local governments could use a new set of development goals.

The Sphere Project [to 17 January 2015]

<http://www.sphereproject.org/news/>

No new digest content identified.

Start Network [Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies] [to 17 January 2015]

http://www.start-network.org/news-blog/#.U9U_O7FR98E

[Start to trial new Parametric Insurance model with HIF funding](#)

January 14, 2015

Posted by Tegan Rogers

The Start Network and GlobalAgRisk will work together to develop a prototype for a Parametric Insurance product with funding from the Humanitarian Innovation Fund. The intention is to design a drought insurance product which will enable automatic pay-outs for early response to major food crises by civil society actors.

Despite widespread advances in early warning systems for major droughts, NGOs often struggle to put in place preventative measures because of their restrictive funding model. This funding model is dependent on media headlines generating public interest before major donors are mobilised to support a response. At this stage many lives have already been lost, livelihoods destroyed and hard-won development gains undermined. Early, preventative action in such situations has been found to be far more effective.

Parametric insurance is similar to normal insurance, in that in return for a yearly premium (calculated by expected frequency and severity of an event) a pay-out is received if the event takes place. However a key difference is that instead of making payments on the basis of losses measured after an event, it makes the payments automatically based on pre-agreed triggers. This means that there is no arguing about the amount of damage, and that the pay-outs are predictable. Better still, the triggers can be predictive, so you can receive pay-outs before an event actually occurs, in what is known as an ex-ante payment...

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:: Foundation/Major Donor Watch

We will monitor media releases announcing key initiatives and new research from a growing number of global foundations and donors engaged in the human rights, humanitarian response and development spheres of action. This Watch section is not intended to be exhaustive, but indicative.

BMGF (Gates Foundation)

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/Media-Center/Press-Releases>

No new digest content identified.

Ford Foundation

<http://www.fordfoundation.org/newsroom>

No new digest content identified.

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

<http://www.hewlett.org/newsroom/search>

No new digest content identified.

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

<http://www.hiltonfoundation.org/news>

No new digest content identified.

Kellogg Foundation

<http://www.wkkf.org/news-and-media#pp=10&p=1&f1=news>

No new digest content identified.

MacArthur Foundation

<http://www.macfound.org/>

Publications

:: [Assessing Small Businesses' Access to Capital](#) January 16, 2015

:: [Outside Spending Skyrockets After Citizens United](#) January 16, 2015

:: [Report Examines Impact Investing's Role in Addressing Income Inequality](#) January 16, 2015

David and Lucile Packard Foundation

<http://www.packard.org/about-the-foundation/news/press-releases-and-statements/>

No new digest content identified.

Rockefeller Foundation

<http://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/newsroom>

No new digest content identified.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

<http://www.rwjf.org/en/about-rwjf/newsroom/news-releases.html>

[Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Names James S. Marks, MD, MPH, as Executive Vice President](#)

January 15, 2015 | News Release

RWJF announced that James S. Marks, MD, MPH, has been named Executive Vice President, overseeing all grantmaking, research, and communications activities in support of its vision of building a Culture of Health in America.

Wellcome Trust

<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/News/2014/index.htm>

No new digest content identified.

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:: Journal Watch

The Sentinel will track key peer-reviewed journals which address a broad range of interests in human rights, humanitarian response, health and development. It is not intended to be exhaustive. We will add to those monitored below as we encounter relevant content and upon recommendation from readers. We selectively provide full text of abstracts and other content but note that successful access to some of the articles and other content may require subscription or other access arrangement unique to the publisher. Please suggest additional journals you feel warrant coverage.

American Journal of Disaster Medicine

Winter 2014, Volume 9, Number 1

<http://www.pnpco.com/pn03000.html>

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Infection Control

January 2015 Volume 43, Issue 1, p1-98

<http://www.ajicjournal.org/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Preventive Medicine

January 2015 Volume 48, Issue 1, p1-120

<http://www.ajpmonline.org/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Public Health

Volume 105, Issue 1 (January 2015)

<http://ajph.aphapublications.org/toc/ajph/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

January 2015; 92 (1)

<http://www.ajtmh.org/content/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

BMC Health Services Research

(Accessed 17 January 2015)

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmchealthservres/content>

[No new relevant content]

BMC Infectious Diseases

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcinfectdis/content>

(Accessed 17 January 2015)

[No new relevant content]

BMC Medical Ethics

(Accessed 17 January 2015)

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmedethics/content>

Research article

[Dealing with ethical challenges: a focus group study with professionals in mental health care](#)

Bert Molewijk, Marit Helene Hem, Reidar Pedersen BMC Medical Ethics 2015, 16:4 (16 January 2015)

[Abstract](#) | [Provisional PDF](#)

Debate

[Informed consent for HIV cure research in South Africa: issues to consider](#)

Ciara Staunton BMC Medical Ethics 2015, 16:3 (15 January 2015)

[Abstract](#) | [Provisional PDF](#)

BMC Public Health

(Accessed 17 January 2015)

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcpublichealth/content>

Research article

[Workplace violence against homecare workers and its relationship with workers health outcomes: a cross-sectional study](#)

Ginger C Hanson, Nancy A Perrin, Helen Moss, Naima Laharnar, Nancy Glass BMC Public Health 2015, 15:11 (17 January 2015)

[Abstract](#) | [Provisional PDF](#)

Research article

[Factors associated with willingness to participate in clinical trials: a nationwide survey study](#)

Sang Chu, Eun Kim, Seok Jeong, Geu Park BMC Public Health 2015, 15

Research article

[Determinants of underweight, stunting and wasting among schoolchildren](#)

Mekides Wolde¹, Yifru Berhan^{2*} and Alemzewed Chala¹

[Author Affiliations](#)

BMC Public Health 2015, 15:8 doi:10.1186/s12889-014-1337-2

Published: 17 January 2015

Abstract (provisional)

Background

The cause of under-nutrition in schoolchildren is complex and varying from region to region. However, identifying the cause is the basic step for nutritional intervention programs.

Methods

School based cross-sectional survey was conducted among 450 schoolchildren aged 7-14 years, using multi-stage sampling techniques in Dale Woreda, southern Ethiopia.

A structured questionnaire and 24-hour recall methods were administered to determine the sociodemographic and dietary intake of participants. Stool microscopic examination was done. Weight and height were measured using a standard calibrated scale. Odds ratio generated from logistic regression was used to determine the strength of variables association.

Results

Older age group (10-14 vs. 7-9) (AOR=3.4; 95% CI, 1.7-6.6) and having Trichuris Trichura infection (AOR=3.9; 95% CI, 1.4 -11.6) increased the risk of being stunted. Children whose mothers have completed primary education are less likely to be stunted than children whose mothers do not have formal education (AOR=0.3; 95% CI, 0.2-0.8). Having large family size (AOR=3.3; 95% CI, 1.4-7.9) and inadequate intake of carbohydrate (AOR=3.1; 95% CI, 1.4-6.8) were independent predictors of wasting. Children whose mothers completed primary education are less likely to be underweight (AOR=0.3; 95% CI, 0.1-0.9). Children live in food insecure households are more likely to be stunted, under-weight and wasted than children live in food secure households (AOR=2.5; 95%, 1-5.6; AOR=3.9; 95%CI, 1.2-12.0; AOR=4.8; 95%CI, 1.7-13.6;).

Conclusion

Household food insecurity, low maternal education and infection with Trichuris trichura were some of the major factors contributing to under-nutrition in the study area.

Research article

Qualitative study on the socio-cultural determinants of care of children orphaned by AIDS in the Ashanti and Eastern regions of Ghana

Lily Yarney¹, Chuks Mba² and Emmanuel Asampong^{1*}

Author Affiliations

BMC Public Health 2015, 15:6 doi:10.1186/s12889-014-1332-7

Published: 17 January 2015

Abstract (provisional)

Background

Almost three decades after the discovery of HIV and AIDS in Ghana, the most obvious impact of the disease is the growing orphan crisis affecting most families and communities, especially in areas that the prevalence of HIV has exceeded the epidemic's threshold of 5%. Studies have indicated that these orphans usually experience a wide range of problems which include education, nutrition, physical and sexual abuse, emotional and psychological distress, stigma and discrimination, among others. The aim of the study was to examine the social, cultural, and traditional norms and practices that influence the care of children orphaned by AIDS in Ghana.

Methods

The study employed focus group discussions, in-depth interviews and key informant interviews to generate information on the socio-cultural factors that impact orphan care in the Ashanti and Eastern regions of Ghana.

Results

The findings indicated that the cultural practices that influence how well an AIDS orphan is taken care of by their caregivers include traditional rituals, ceremonies, and norms like funeral rites, marriage and naming ceremonies, festivals, inheritance, polygyny, and puberty rites. The social factors mentioned to affect orphan care significantly were: excessive alcohol drinking, and tobacco and drug use, dressing with fashion, night club attendance, market days, stigma and discrimination, among others.

Conclusion

It is recommended that though some cultural and traditional practices are deeply rooted in communities and cannot be done away completely, orphan care policies on interventions should take into account these factors to mitigate their effects on the care of orphans.

BMC Research Notes

(Accessed 17 January 2015)

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcresnotes/content>

[No new relevant content]

British Medical Journal

17 January 2015(vol 350, issue 7991)

<http://www.bmj.com/content/350/7991>

Editorials

Should children be evacuated during times of war?

Derrick Silove, professor

Author affiliations

BMJ 2015; 350 doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.g7824> (Published 05 January 2015) Cite this as: BMJ 2015;350:g7824

Excerpt

Maintaining the integrity of families should be a cornerstone of policies to protect children in war zones

Debate has long surrounded the question of whether children who experience major separations from parents are at increased risk of future mental disorder.^{1 2} More than 30 years ago, Michael Rutter concluded that most children show remarkable resilience in the face of separations.³ However, he acknowledged that separations occurring under severe adversity can pose a major threat to future mental health.³

War represents a special case, in which separations in families occur under extreme duress.⁴ Nevertheless, distinguishing the long term psychiatric effects of parent-child separations from other war related traumas and stresses remains a difficult methodological challenge.⁴ In a linked paper (doi:10.1136/bmj.g7753) Santavirta and colleagues examine psychiatric outcomes in adulthood among a sample of 1425 Finnish children evacuated to Swedish foster families during the second world war.⁵ The evacuated children did not differ in their rates of hospital admissions for psychiatric disorders in adulthood from age matched siblings who remained at home or from a larger national cohort of children who remained in the war zone.

The strengths of the study are that the authors drew on a nationally representative sample using objective records to index childhood evacuation status and later psychiatric admissions. ...

Long term mental health outcomes of Finnish children evacuated to Swedish families during the second world war and their non-evacuated siblings: cohort study

BMJ 2015;350:g7753 (Published 05 January 2015)

Clinical Review

The prevention and management of rabies

BMJ 2015;350:g7827 (Published 14 January 2015)

Brown Journal of World Affairs

20.1 Fall–Winter 2013

<http://brown.edu/initiatives/journal-world-affairs/>
[Reviewed earlier]

Bulletin of the World Health Organization

Volume 93, Number 1, January 2015, 1-64

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/93/1/en/>
[Reviewed earlier]

Complexity

January/February 2015 Volume 20, Issue 3 Pages fmi–fmi, 1–92

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/cplx.v20.3/issuetoc>
[New issue; No relevant content]

Conflict and Health

[Accessed 17 January 2015]

<http://www.conflictandhealth.com/>
[No new relevant content]

Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation

(Accessed 17 January 2015)

<http://www.resource-allocation.com/>
[No new relevant content]

Developing World Bioethics

December 2014 Volume 14, Issue 3 Pages ii–iii, 111–167

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/dewb.2014.14.issue-3/issuetoc>
[Reviewed earlier]

Development in Practice

Volume 25, Issue 1, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cdip20/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology

Volume 10, Number 1 (January 2015)

<http://informahealthcare.com/toc/idt/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness

Volume 8 - Issue 06 - December 2014

<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayIssue?jid=DMP&tab=currentissue>

[Reviewed earlier]

Disaster Prevention and Management

Volume 24 Issue 1

<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/journals.htm?issn=0965-3562&show=latest>

Does transformational leadership build resilient public and nonprofit organizations?

Jesus N. Valero, Kyujin Jung, Simon A. Andrew

(pp. 4 - 20)

Abstract

Purpose

– The purpose of this paper is to examine the effect of transformational leadership – broadly defined as an individual who is visionary, innovative, inspirational and sensitive to the needs of followers – on the level of organizational resiliency.

Design/methodology/approach

– This study employs multiple hierarchical regression analysis to test the causal relationship between transformational leadership and organizational resiliency by utilizing 112 respondents working in emergency management departments of local governments, fire and police stations, and nonprofit organizations in the Southeastern Economic Region of South Korea.

Findings

– The results of the analysis indicate that transformational leadership style has a positive and statistically significant effect on perceived organizational resiliency. The findings also indicate that elected officials such as mayors are more likely to focus on building organizational resiliency than appointed officials and nonprofit leaders.

Originality/value

– This study fills the gap of the current literature in the field of emergency management by establishing empirical evidence of the need to identify leaders with transformational traits in order to build a resilient organization, which can better respond and adapt to a catastrophic event in the Asian context.

Bridging the concepts of resilience, fragility and stabilisation

Siambabala Bernard Manyena, Stuart Gordon

(pp. 38 - 52)

Abstract

Purpose

– The fragile states and stabilisation concepts appear to resonate with the concept of community resilience. Yet, there is barely a framework that integrates the three concepts. The authors posit that despite the increasing interest in community resilience in fragile states, there is much less clarity of resilience, fragility and stabilisation connections. The paper aims to discuss these issues.

Design/methodology/approach

– This paper is based on the literature review of the concepts of community resilience, fragility and stabilisation.

Findings

– The findings restate that the state fragility results from the breakdown of the social contract between the state and its citizens. Whilst both resilience and stabilisation are desirable constructs in reducing fragility, they should be broadly underpinned by agency not only to

enhance preventive, anticipatory, absorptive and adaptive actions but also lead to social transformative capacity where agency is embedded for communities to exercise some sort of power to foster change.

Originality/value

– This paper has encourages debate on resilience, fragility and stabilisation connections by suggesting framework for “doing” resilience-informed stabilisation programmes in fragile states. The framework, which may not necessarily be approached in a linear fashion, has three major components: identifying existing resilience factors, enhancing and sustaining these and delivering resilient communities. However, there is need to test the utility of the framework in practice

From armed conflict to disaster vulnerability

Marcus Marktanner , Edward Mienie , Luc Noiset

(pp. 53 - 69)

Abstract

Purpose

– The purpose of this paper is to estimate the effect of armed conflict on the vulnerability to natural hazards.

Design/methodology/approach

– The authors employ panel estimates of disaster deaths on a lagged indicator of the presence of armed conflict.

Findings

– Disaster deaths following armed conflict are on average 40 percent higher compared to disasters that are chronologically detached from armed conflict events; a legacy of armed conflict accounts for roughly 14 percent of the approximately five million disaster deaths between 1961 and 2010.

Practical implications

– A global estimate of the relationship between armed conflict and disaster vulnerability can help disaster management planners identify policy priorities associated with disaster prevention and management.

Originality/value

– The analysis reinforces the findings in previous qualitative studies of a causal link between armed conflict and increased disaster vulnerability and provides a quantitative estimate of the average magnitude of this relationship.

Disasters

January 2015 Volume 39, Issue 1 Pages 1–184

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/disa.2015.39.issue-1/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

Emergency Medicine Journal

January 2015, Volume 32, Issue 1

<http://emj.bmj.com/content/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Epidemics

Volume 9, In Progress (December 2014)
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/17554365>
[Reviewed earlier]

End of Life Journal

Summer 2014 Vol 4 Issue 2
<http://endoflifejournal.stchristophers.org.uk/current-issue>
[Reviewed earlier]

The European Journal of Public Health

Volume 24, Issue 6, 01 December 2014
<http://eurpub.oxfordjournals.org/content/24/6>
[Reviewed earlier]

Food Policy

Volume 51, In Progress (February 2015)
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/03069192>
[Reviewed earlier]

Food Security

Volume 6, Issue 6, December 2014
<http://link.springer.com/journal/12571/6/6/page/1>
[Reviewed earlier]

Forum for Development Studies

Volume 41, Issue 3, 2014
<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/sfds20/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Genocide Studies International

Volume 8, Number 2 /2014
<http://utpjournals.metapress.com/content/w67003787140/?p=8beccd89a51b49fc94adf1a5c9768f4f&pi=0>
[Reviewed earlier]

Global Health: Science and Practice (GHSP)

December 2014 | Volume 2 | Issue 4
<http://www.ghspjournal.org/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Global Health Governance

[Accessed 17 January 2015]

<http://blogs.shu.edu/ghg/category/complete-issues/summer-2013/>

[No new relevant content]

Global Public Health

Volume 10, Issue 1, 2015

http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rgph20/10/1#.VI0Y33tW_4U

[Reviewed earlier]

Globalization and Health

[Accessed 17 January 2015]

<http://www.globalizationandhealth.com/>

[No new relevant content]

Health Affairs

January 2015; Volume 34, Issue 1

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/current>

Variety Issue

[New issue; No relevant content]

Health and Human Rights

Volume 16, Issue 2 December 2014

<http://www.hhrjournal.org/volume-16-issue-2/>

Papers in Press: Special Issue on Health Rights Litigation

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Economics, Policy and Law

Volume 10 - Special Issue 01 January 2015

<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayIssue?jid=HEP&tab=currentissue>

SPECIAL ISSUE: Global Financial Crisis, Health and Health Care

[Reviewed earlier].

Health Policy and Planning

Volume 30 Issue 1 February 2015

<http://heapol.oxfordjournals.org/content/current>

[**Bypassing birth centres for childbirth: an analysis of data from a community-based prospective cohort study in Nepal**](#)

Rajendra Karkee¹, Andy H Lee^{2,*} and Colin W Binns²

Author Affiliations

¹School of Public Health and Community Medicine, BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Dharan, Nepal and ²School of Public Health, Curtin University, Perth, WA 6845, Australia

Abstract

Background In Nepal, women residing in rural areas tend to bypass local birth centres and deliver at urban hospitals, despite the availability of obstetric care in these centres. This study investigated the incidence of bypassing, characteristics of bypassers and their reasons for bypassing the birth centres.

Methods A prospective cohort study was undertaken in the Kaski district of central Nepal. The 353 pregnant women of 5 months or more gestation recruited from the community had access to local birth centres. They were interviewed at baseline using a structured questionnaire, and were followed up within 45 days post-partum. Comparisons were made between women who delivered at birth centres and those who gave birth at hospital. Logistic regression analysis was performed to determine the factors affecting the risk of bypassing.

Results Of the final sample of 258 participants who delivered in a health facility, 181 women (70.2%) bypassed their nearest birth centres to deliver at hospitals. Bypassers tended to be wealthy and have intrapartum complications, but the likelihood of bypassing apparently decreased by higher parity and frequent (four or more) antenatal care visits. Availability of operating facility, adequacy of medical supplies and equipment and competent health staff at the facility were the main reasons for their bypassing decision.

Conclusions The risk of bypassing for childbirth was high in central Nepal. Provision of quality and reliable emergency obstetric services together with well trained and competent staff at birth centres are recommended to reduce bypassing and pressure on the public hospital system.

The administrative costs of community-based health insurance: a case study of the community health fund in Tanzania

Josephine Borghi^{1,2,*}, Suzan Makawia² and August Kuwawenaruwa²

Author Affiliations

¹London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 15–17 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SH, UK and ²Ifakara Health Institute, Kiko Avenue, Plot 463, Kiko Avenue Mikocheni, P.O. Box 78, 373 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Accepted October 29, 2013.

Abstract

Community-based health insurance expansion has been proposed as a financing solution for the sizable informal sector in low-income settings. However, there is limited evidence of the administrative costs of such schemes. We assessed annual facility and district-level costs of running the Community Health Fund (CHF), a voluntary health insurance scheme for the informal sector in a rural and an urban district from the same region in Tanzania. Information on resource use, CHF membership and revenue was obtained from district managers and health workers from two facilities in each district. The administrative cost per CHF member household and the cost to revenue ratio were estimated. Revenue collection was the most costly activity at facility level (78% of total costs), followed by stewardship and management (13%) and pooling of funds (10%). Stewardship and management was the main activity at district level. The administration cost per CHF member household ranged from USD 3.33 to USD 12.12 per year. The cost to revenue ratio ranged from 50% to 364%. The cost of administering the CHF was high relative to revenue generated. Similar studies from other settings should be encouraged.

Cost-effectiveness analysis of a voucher scheme combined with obstetrical quality improvements: quasi experimental results from Uganda

Y Natalia Alfonso^{1,*}, David Bishai¹, John Bua², Aloysius Mutebi², Crispus Mayora² and Elizabeth Ekirapa-Kiracho²

Author Affiliations

1Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health, Johns Hopkins University
Bloomberg School of Public Health, 615 N. Wolfe Street, Baltimore, MD 21205, USA

2Department of Health Policy, Planning and Management, School of Public Health, College of
Health Sciences, Makerere University, PO Box 7072, Kampala, Uganda

Abstract

The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) in Uganda has declined significantly during the last 20 years, but Uganda is not on track to reach the millennium development goal of reducing MMR by 75% by 2015. More evidence on the cost-effectiveness of supply- and demand-side financing programs to reduce maternal mortality could inform future strategies. This study analyses the cost-effectiveness of a voucher scheme (VS) combined with health system strengthening in rural Uganda against the status quo. The VS, implemented in 2010, provided vouchers for delivery services at public and private health facilities (HF), as well as round-trip transportation provided by private sector workers (bicycles or motorcycles generally). The VS was part of a quasi-experimental non-randomized control trial. Improvements in institutional delivery coverage (IDC) rates can be estimated using a difference-in-difference impact evaluation method and the number of maternal lives saved is modelled using the evidence-based Lives Saved Tool. Costs were estimated from primary and secondary data. Results show that the demand for births at HFs enrolled in the VS increased by 52.3 percentage points. Out of this value, conservative estimates indicate that at least 9.4 percentage points are new HF users. This 9.4% bump in IDC implies 20 deaths averted, which is equivalent to 1356 disability-adjusted-life years (DALYs) averted. Cost-effectiveness analysis comparing the status quo and VS's most conservative effectiveness estimates shows that the VS had an incremental cost-effectiveness ratio per DALY averted of US\$302 and per death averted of US\$20 756. Although there are limitations in the data measures, a favourable cost-effectiveness ratio persists even under extreme assumptions. Demand-side vouchers combined with supply-side financing programs can increase attended deliveries and reduce maternal mortality at a cost that is acceptable.

Buy now, saved later? The critical impact of time-to-pandemic uncertainty on pandemic cost-effectiveness analyses

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7BN, UK, 3Mahidol University Rajvithi Road, Bangkok 10400, Thailand and 4National University

of Singapore, Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119077

Accepted November 21, 2013.

Abstract

Background Investment in pandemic preparedness is a long-term gamble, with the return on investment coming at an unknown point in the future. Many countries have chosen to stockpile key resources, and the number of pandemic economic evaluations has risen sharply since 2009. We assess the importance of uncertainty in time-to-pandemic (and associated discounting) in pandemic economic evaluation, a factor frequently neglected in the literature to-date.

Methods We use a probability tree model and Monte Carlo parameter sampling to consider the cost effectiveness of antiviral stockpiling in Cambodia under parameter uncertainty. Mean elasticity and mutual information (MI) are used to assess the importance of time-to-pandemic compared with other parameters. We also consider the sensitivity to choice of sampling distribution used to model time-to-pandemic uncertainty.

Results Time-to-pandemic and discount rate are the primary drivers of sensitivity and uncertainty in pandemic cost effectiveness models. Base case cost effectiveness of antiviral stockpiling ranged between is US\$112 and US\$3599 per DALY averted using historical pandemic intervals for time-to-pandemic. The mean elasticities for time-to-pandemic and discount rate were greater than all other parameters. Similarly, the MI scores for time to pandemic and discount rate were greater than other parameters. Time-to-pandemic and discount rate were key drivers of uncertainty in cost-effectiveness results regardless of time-to-pandemic sampling distribution choice.

Conclusions Time-to-pandemic assumptions can “substantially” affect cost-effectiveness results and, in our model, is a greater contributor to uncertainty in cost-effectiveness results than any other parameter. We strongly recommend that cost-effectiveness models include probabilistic analysis of time-to-pandemic uncertainty.

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<http://www.health-policy-systems.com/content>

[Accessed 17 January 2015]

Research

[Balancing the personal, local, institutional, and global: multiple case study and multidimensional scaling analysis of African experiences in addressing complexity and political economy in health research capacity strengthening](#)

Alastair Ager, Christina Zarowsky Health Research Policy and Systems 2015, 13:5 (17 January 2015)

[Abstract](#)

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Volume 36, Number 4, November 2014

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/human_rights_quarterly/toc/hrq.36.4.html

[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 38, Issue 5, 2014

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wasw21/current#.U0sFzFcWNdc>

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ISSUE 62 September 2014

<http://www.odihpn.org/humanitarian-exchange-magazine/issue-62>

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Volume 7 Issue 1 January 2015

<http://inthehealth.oxfordjournals.org/content/7/1.toc>

[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 43 Issue 6 December 2014

<http://ije.oxfordjournals.org/content/current>

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Volume 5 Issue 4 2014

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Volume 10, Part A, *In Progress* (December 2014)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/22124209/10/part/PA>

[Reviewed earlier]

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January 2015 Volume 30, p1

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November 2014 (VOL. 32, NO. 3)

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Volume 21, Issue 6, 2014

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/tsdw20/current#.VIORRsILDg2>

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Winter 2014 Volume 48, Issue 4 Pages 921–1110

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/imre.2014.48.issue-4/issuetoc>

Original Article

[A Manifesto for Quantitative Multi-sited Approaches to International Migration](#)

Cris Beauchemin

Article first published online: 11 NOV 2014

DOI: 10.1111/imre.12157

The papers in this issue, and four papers that will appear in the Spring 2015 issue of IMR, originate from the Comparative and Multi-sited Approaches to International Migration Conference (Paris, Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques, December 2012). Most of the 30 communications presented at the conference can be consulted at:

<http://mafeproject.site.ined.fr/en/events/final_conference/>. The event was funded by the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme under grant agreement 217206, the Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques (Ined), the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), and the Region Ile de France.

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November 2014 - Volume 12 - Issue 3 pp: 320-468

<http://journals.lww.com/interventionjnl/pages/currenttoc.aspx>

Special Section: Rehabilitation processes of former child soldiers

[Reviewed earlier]

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January 13, 2015, Vol 313, No. 2

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January 2015, Vol 169, No. 1

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Volume 39, Issue 6, December 2014

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Volume 114, *In Progress* (May 2015)

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January 2015, Volume 69, Issue 1

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Volume 10, Issue 3, 2014

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjge20/U2V-Elf4L0I#.VAJEj2N4WF8>

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Volume 25, Number 4, November 2014

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Volume 4 Issue 2

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Volume 16, Issue 6, December 2014

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10903/16/6/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 12, Issue 4, 2014

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wimm20/current#.VFWeF8l4WF9>

Special Issue: New Forms of Intolerance in European Political Life

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Infectious Diseases

Volume 211 Issue 3 February 1, 2015

<http://jid.oxfordjournals.org/content/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of International Development

January 2015 Volume 27, Issue 1 Pages 1–154

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jid.v27.1/issuetoc>

Research Article

Poverty Effects of Remittances: a Comparative Analysis

Muhammad Tariq Majeed^{†,*}

Article first published online: 18 NOV 2014

DOI: 10.1002/jid.3055

Abstract

This paper studies the impact of remittances on cross-country poverty using a panel data set from 65 developing countries over a long period 1970–2008. This study differs from the existing literature on poverty impact of remittances by explicitly noting the importance of financial development in shaping the link. This analysis shows that the effect of remittances on poverty depends on the level of financial development of a remittances receiving economy. Those economies that have a low level of financial development seem to acquire an unfavourable effect of remittances while economies with comparatively developed financial systems do not suffer from the adverse effects of remittances. In sum, remittances accentuate not ameliorate poverty in countries with the low level of financial development.

Short Note

Macroeconomic Consequences of the One Laptop per Child Project

Jeffrey James

Article first published online: 29 JUN 2014

DOI: 10.1002/jid.3023

Abstract

Because some developing countries have adopted the One Laptop per Child (OLPC) project at the national level and others are planning to do so, the macroimplications of this idea can no longer be ignored. Accordingly, I examine whether or not full adoption of OLPC computers in primary schools imbalances the national education budget. Using a simple formula, I address this question in relation to Peru, Uruguay, Rwanda and several other countries. The results suggest tentatively that the OLPC proposal tends to be untenable in poor developing countries, tenable or untenable in middle-income countries and redundant in most rich countries

Research Article

Female Labour Supply in A Developing Economy: A Tale from A Primary Survey

Basanta K. Pradhan^{1,*}, Shalabh K. Singh² and Arup Mitra¹

Article first published online: 13 MAR 2014

DOI: 10.1002/jid.2994

Abstract

The U-shaped relationship between economic development and female work force participation rate may be explained at the household level in terms of the interaction between social factors and the income of the household. The social attitude and income are likely to be influenced by education, which augments the income on the one hand and on the other shifts women from stigmatised jobs to non-stigmatised jobs and also reduces the adverse social response towards women participation in the labour market. The shift across sectors of employment is also motivated by education, implying positive associations between education and high productivity jobs

Winter 2014 Volume 42, Issue 4 Pages 408–602
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jlme.2014.42.issue-4/issuetoc>
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[Reviewed earlier]

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January 2015, Volume 41, Issue 1
<http://jme.bmj.com/content/current>
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Volume 1, Issue 1, pages 4-21 Spring 2014
<http://www.ipsonet.org/publications/open-access/policy-and-complex-systems/policy-and-complex-systems-volume-1-issue-1-spring-2014>
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Volume 36, Issue 1 (February 2015)
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06 February 2015; volume 12, issue 103
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[New issue; No relevant content]

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Vol 7, No 6 (2014) December 2014
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[Reviewed earlier]

Knowledge Management for Development Journal

Vol 10, No 2 (2014)
<http://journal.km4dev.org/journal/index.php/km4dj/index>
[Reviewed earlier]

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Jan 17, 2015 Volume 385 Number 9964 p201-302
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/issue/current>
Comment

Is the world ready for an Ebola vaccine?

Bruce Y Lee, William J Moss, Lois Privor-Dumm, Dagna O Constenla, Maria D Knoll, Katherine L O'Brien

Summary

The west African Ebola epidemic has motivated efforts to bring an Ebola vaccine to the market as soon as possible. If a candidate vaccine successfully moves through clinical development, a product could be on the market in the next 1–2 years.^{1–6} Developing an efficacious vaccine will be only part of the process. Post-licensure challenges could impede and even derail an Ebola immunisation programme. We propose seven key challenges to be considered early in Ebola vaccine development that will help stakeholders prepare and allow developers to adjust vaccine characteristics accordingly.

Comment

Towards evidence-based, quantitative Sustainable Development Goals for 2030

Børge Brende, Bent Høie

Open Access

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(14\)61654-8](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(14)61654-8)

The success of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)¹ on health has been due to their being easy to understand, ambitious, and achievable and, therefore, suitable for the purposes of advocacy and political mobilisation. The MDGs have brought quantitative targets and measurement of results—previously the domain of the scientific community—to centre stage for politicians worldwide. The three health MDGs (MDG 4, MDG 5, and MDG 6) have acted as a scorecard to measure progress on health, thus providing an empirical basis for the formulation of policy. For example, this scorecard has made it possible for Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg and her colleagues in the MDG Advocacy Group to provide such strong advocacy for continued efforts to reach the MDGs before the deadline of 2015.

Work on the health MDGs has been based throughout on close collaboration between the scientific and political communities. Politicians have been able to convey documented progress towards the goals to the general public, and voters in both donor and recipient countries alike have been happy to support public funding for these efforts.

The world community is currently negotiating a new set of goals—the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—for the post-2015 period. So far, 17 goals and 169 targets have been proposed by the Open Working Group.² For politicians this number of goals is far too many. To win popular support for a comprehensive and coordinated effort for development, the goals must be easy to communicate. With regard to health, we have faced the additional challenge of combining three goals into one SDG, with an attempt to put the whole range of health issues under one coherent goal. This process, in turn, has contributed to the present “shopping list” of 13 targets within the Open Working Group proposal for a goal on health (SDG 3): “ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”.

Of course, it is politics that led to such a long list of health targets in the first place, but ultimately it is politics that has to resolve this situation. Politicians have to set priorities. We need a more limited set of goals and targets that are ambitious, easy to understand, and realistic. Importantly, measurement of progress towards the goals and targets must also be possible. To this end, we need contributions from the scientific community.

One plausible way forward is shown in a Lancet study by Ole Norheim and colleagues³ on quantification of the overarching 2030 SDG for health to avoid 40% of premature deaths in each country. In their review of mortality rates and trends in 25 countries, four country income groupings, and worldwide, Norheim and colleagues show that it is possible to consolidate targets in various areas, such as child health (MDG 4), maternal health (MDG 5), major

infectious diseases (MDG 6), non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including mental health and injuries, and universal health coverage, under one universal and quantitative health goal. The simplicity of this approach is beautiful. Following this pattern, we could develop a tool to measure convergence in health globally, in line with the principle of universality to which we are all committed.

This approach seems to make sense from a scientific point of view as well. The proposal to set an overall indicator of avoiding 40% of premature deaths in each country is based on trends in mortality rates over the past 40 years and an estimate of what can be achieved by scaling up current cost-effective approaches. This quantification of a goal on health includes the major targets relating to MDGs 4, 5, and 6 and targets on NCDs proposed by the various communities, notably a 25% reduction in premature mortality from NCDs by 2025. This indicator is evidence based and ambitious yet achievable. It is, therefore, a good starting point for future political action and initiative.

Norheim and colleagues' study³ shows what an important part science could play in the negotiations at the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly. We, therefore, strongly urge the medical community to consider the approach outlined by Norheim and colleagues³ and develop a common position that can enable us to arrive at a single health SDG with a limited number of simple, understandable, and measurable targets. We would also welcome similar approaches for other SDGs by the relevant communities.

We believe that the health SDG could provide the key framework for global health and prosperity. In anticipation of this framework, Norway is already taking concrete action. First, we are taking steps to improve public health in Norway. Our aim is to reduce NCDs, including mental disorders, by 25% by 2025. Second, Norway is working together with partner nations, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and World Bank President Jim Yong Kim to develop financial frameworks both for the current MDGs and for the future SDGs. Third, Norway is actively promoting projects that focus on both education and health, reflecting the aim of the SDG agenda of realising synergies between sectors. Fourth, later in September, 2014, we will launch a national initiative called Vision 2030 to encourage researchers, commercial actors, civil society, and others to produce innovative ideas that could play a part in achieving the education and health SDGs both in Norway and abroad. Finally, together with partners in global health, Norway will explore ways to accelerate the deployment of innovations that are currently in the pipeline, and how investments can be catalysed to harness these innovations for promoting global health in the longer term.⁴

With so much left to do in the field of global health, by scientists as well as politicians, there is no time to lose. It is, therefore, vital that we all take action now.

BB is Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs. BH is Norwegian Minister of Health and Care Services.

Comment

Quantifying targets for the SDG health goal

George Alleyne, Robert Beaglehole, Ruth Bonita

Open Access

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(14\)61655-X](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(14)61655-X)

Summary

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) represent the best example of an international commitment to a set of normative principles underpinned by ideals of equity, solidarity, and peace.^{1,2} The goals achieved universal support because they were ambitious, included indicators that permitted measurement and accountability, and set 2015 for final reporting. The goals institutionalised poverty as multidimensional, and shaped development as beyond

economics.³ Criticisms of the MDGs included the omission of many of the concerns of the Millennium Declaration, and the lack of adequate consultation on the process.

Articles

Avoiding 40% of the premature deaths in each country, 2010–30: review of national mortality trends to help quantify the UN Sustainable Development Goal for health

Prof Ole F Norheim, PhD, Prof Prabhat Jha, DPhil, Kesetebirhan Admasu, MD, Tore Godal, MD, Ryan J Hum, MEng, Margaret E Kruk, MD, Octavio Gómez-Dantés, MD, Colin D Mathers, PhD, Hongchao Pan, PhD, Prof Jaime Sepúlveda, MD, Wilson Suraweera, MSc, Stéphane Verquet, PhD, Addis T Woldemariam, MD, Gavin Yamey, MD, Prof Dean T Jamison, PhD, Prof Richard Peto, FRS

Open Access

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(14\)61591-9](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(14)61591-9)

Summary

Background

The UN will formulate ambitious Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, including one for health. Feasible goals with some quantifiable, measurable targets can influence governments. We propose, as a quantitative health target, “Avoid in each country 40% of premature deaths (under-70 deaths that would be seen in the 2030 population at 2010 death rates), and improve health care at all ages”. Targeting overall mortality and improved health care ignores no modifiable cause of death, nor any cause of disability that is treatable (or also causes many deaths). 40% fewer premature deaths would be important in all countries, but implies very different priorities in different populations. Reinforcing this target for overall mortality in each country are four global subtargets for 2030: avoid two-thirds of child and maternal deaths; two-thirds of tuberculosis, HIV, and malaria deaths; a third of premature deaths from non-communicable diseases (NCDs); and a third of those from other causes (other communicable diseases, undernutrition, and injuries). These challenging subtargets would halve under-50 deaths, avoid a third of the (mainly NCD) deaths at ages 50–69 years, and so avoid 40% of under-70 deaths. To help assess feasibility, we review mortality rates and trends in the 25 most populous countries, in four country income groupings, and worldwide.

Methods

UN sources yielded overall 1970–2010 mortality trends. WHO sources yielded cause-specific 2000–10 trends, standardised to country-specific 2030 populations; decreases per decade of 42% or 18% would yield 20-year reductions of two-thirds or a third.

Results

Throughout the world, except in countries where the effects of HIV or political disturbances predominated, mortality decreased substantially from 1970–2010, particularly in childhood. From 2000–10, under-70 age-standardised mortality rates decreased 19% (with the low-income and lower-middle-income countries having the greatest absolute gains). The proportional decreases per decade (2000–10) were: 34% at ages 0–4 years; 17% at ages 5–49 years; 15% at ages 50–69 years; 30% for communicable, perinatal, maternal, or nutritional causes; 14% for NCDs; and 13% for injuries (accident, suicide, or homicide).

Interpretation

Moderate acceleration of the 2000–10 proportional decreases in mortality could be feasible, achieving the targeted 2030 disease-specific reductions of two-thirds or a third. If achieved, these reductions avoid about 10 million of the 20 million deaths at ages 0–49 years that would be seen in 2030 at 2010 death rates, and about 17 million of the 41 million such deaths at ages 0–69 years. Such changes could be achievable by 2030, or soon afterwards, at least in areas free of war, other major effects of political disruption, or a major new epidemic.

Funding

UK Medical Research Council, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, Centre for Global Health Research, and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Series

HIV and sex workers

Male sex workers: practices, contexts, and vulnerabilities for HIV acquisition and transmission

Stefan David Baral, M Reuel Friedman, Scott Geibel, Kevin Rebe, Borche Bozhinov, Daouda Diouf, Keith Sabin, Claire E Holland, Roy Chan, Carlos F Cáceres

260

HIV risk and preventive interventions in transgender women sex workers

Tonia Poteat, Andrea L Wirtz, Anita Radix, Annick Borquez, Alfonso Silva-Santisteban, Madeline B Deutsch, Sharful Islam Khan, Sam Winter, Don Operario

274

An action agenda for HIV and sex workers

Chris Beyrer, Anna-Louise Crago, Linda-Gail Bekker, Jenny Butler, Kate Shannon, Deanna Kerrigan, Michele R Decker, Stefan D Baral, Tonia Poteat, Andrea L Wirtz, Brian W Weir, Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, Michel Kazatchkine, Michel Sidibé, Karl-Lorenz Dehne, Marie-Claude Boily, Steffanie A Strathdee

287

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Jan 2015 Volume 3 Number 1 e1-e61

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[Reviewed earlier]

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Jan 2015 Volume 15 Number 1 p1-130

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/issue/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 19, Issue 1, January 2015

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A Multidisciplinary Journal of Population Health and Health Policy

December 2014 Volume 92, Issue 4 Pages 633–840

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[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 517 Number 7534 pp244-406 15 January 2015

http://www.nature.com/nature/current_issue.html

[The African Genome Variation Project shapes medical genetics in Africa](#)

Open

Deepti Gurdasani, Tommy Carstensen, Fasil Tekola-Ayele, Luca Pagani, Ioanna Tachmazidou + et al.

The African Genome Variation Project contains the whole-genome sequences of 320 individuals and dense genotypes on 1,481 individuals from sub-Saharan Africa; it enables the design and interpretation of genomic studies, with implications for finding disease loci and clues to human origins.

New England Journal of Medicine

January 15, 2015 Vol. 372 No. 3

<http://www.nejm.org/toc/nejm/medical-journal>

[Sharing Individual Patient Data from Clinical Trials](#)

Jeffrey M. Drazen, M.D.

N Engl J Med 2015; 372:201-202 [January 15, 2015](#) DOI: 10.1056/NEJMp1415160

Free Full Text, Audio, Comments

[Practical, Legal, and Ethical Issues in Expanded Access to Investigational Drugs](#)

J.J. Darrow, A. Sarpatwari, J. Avorn, and A.S. Kesselheim

The authors review the FDA policies and procedures that permit some patients with serious conditions to receive investigational drugs before formal product approval and examine the legal and ethical issues associated with expanded access.

Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly

December 2014; 43 (6)

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[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 4, No. 2 December 2014

<http://oxmofm.com/current-issue/>

[Reviewed earlier]

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December 2014 - Volume 33 - Issue 12 pp: 1211-1312,e316-e337

<http://journals.lww.com/pidj/pages/currenttoc.aspx>

[Reviewed earlier]

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January 2015, VOLUME 135 / ISSUE 1

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<http://journals.plos.org/plospathogens/>

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Prehospital & Disaster Medicine

Volume 29 - Issue 06 - December 2014

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Public Health Ethics

Volume 7 Issue 3 November 2014

<http://phe.oxfordjournals.org/content/current>

Special Symposium on Dual Loyalties: Health Providers Working for the State

[Reviewed earlier]

Qualitative Health Research

February 2015; 25 (2)

<http://qhr.sagepub.com/content/current>

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[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 33 Issue 4 December 2014

<http://rsq.oxfordjournals.org/content/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 2, Issue 3, 2014

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September 2014 Vol. 36, No. 3

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December 2014 Volume 34, Issue 12 Pages 2063–2188

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/risa.2014.34.issue-12/issuetoc>

[New issue; No relevant content]

Science

16 January 2015 vol 347, issue 6219, pages 209-348

<http://www.sciencemag.org/current.dtl>

The Ebola Epidemic

[**High hopes for Guinean vaccine trial**](#)

[Martin Enserink*](#)

The push to test Ebola vaccines in the field is accelerating. Two candidates may go into phase III trials in a matter of weeks; a third one has just entered a phase I trial. Researchers have designed very different phase III studies for Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea, the three countries with ongoing virus transmission. One problem they're facing is that the number of new cases has dropped sharply in Liberia and is beginning to ebb in Sierra Leone. That's why many scientists say Guinea—where researchers plan to try a highly unusual ring vaccination design—is the most promising testing ground.

Social Science & Medicine

Volume 126, *In Progress* (February 2015)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/02779536/126>

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Stability: International Journal of Security & Development

[accessed 17 January 2015]

<http://www.stabilityjournal.org/articles>

[No new relevant content]

Sustainability

Volume 7, Issue 1 (January 2015), Pages 1-

<http://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/6/11>

[Reviewed earlier]

TORTURE Journal

Volume 24, Nr. 1, 2014

<http://www.irct.org/torture-journal>

[Reviewed earlier]

Tropical Medicine and Health

Vol. 42(2014) No. 4

https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/tmh/42/4/_contents

[No relevant content]

Tropical Medicine & International Health

January 2015 Volume 20, Issue 1 Pages 1–119

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/tmi.2014.20.issue-1/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

UN Chronicle

Vol.LI No. 2 2014 September 2014

<http://unchronicle.un.org/>

[Reviewed earlier]

Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies

An International Interdisciplinary Journal for Research, Policy and Care

Volume 10, Issue 1, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rvch20/current#.Uzg2bFcWNdc>

[New issue; No content selected]

World Heritage Review

n°73 - November 2014

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/review/73/>

World Heritage and our protected planet

[Reviewed earlier]

Yale Human Rights & Development Law Journal

Volume XIV, Issue 2

<http://www.law.yale.edu/academics/YHRDLJcurrentissue.htm>

[Reviewed earlier]

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Ebola/EVD: Additional Coverage

UNMEER [UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response] [@UNMEER](#) [#EbolaResponse](#)

Editor's Note: UNMEER's [website](#) is aggregating and presenting content from various sources including its own External Situation Reports, press releases, statements and other formats.

We present a composite below from the week ending 17 January 2015. We also note that 1) a regular information category in these reports – human rights – has apparently eliminated as it no longer appears in any of the continuing updates, and 2) the content level of these reports continues, in our view, to trend less informative and less coherent. We will review continuing coverage of this material over the next few weeks.

UNMEER External Situation Reports

UNMEER External Situation Reports are issued daily (excepting Saturday) with content organized under these headings:

- *Highlights*
- *Key Political and Economic Developments*
- *Human Rights*
- *Response Efforts and Health*
- *Logistics*
- *Outreach and Education*
- *Resource Mobilisation*

- *Essential Services*
- *Upcoming Events*

The "Week in Review" will present highly-selected elements of interest from these reports. The full daily report is available as a pdf using the link provided by the report date.

:: **16 Jan 2015** *UNMEER External Situation Report*
Response Efforts and Health

2. In Sierra Leone, the UNICEF-led Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) network have identified 15,258 children as being directly affected by the Ebola crisis (7,664 girls and 7,594 boys), with 7,968 children having lost one or both parents to Ebola and 552 unaccompanied or separated from their caregiver. 9,103 Ebola-affected children have been provided with psychosocial support.

8. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling USD 1.5 billion, has been funded for USD 1.15 billion, which is around 77% of the total ask.

Essential Services

13. The guidelines for the reopening of schools in February was shared with educational authorities in Sinoe County, Liberia. The schools need to establish a committee to oversee the implementation of the guidelines, register the students and identify people trained in IPC procedures. Medical Team International (MTI) offered to distribute the guidelines to the schools. UNICEF will provide three thermoflashes per school to 220 schools. Among the challenges and issues in instituting the guidelines are: 1) the lack of personnel to implement them in the schools (some schools have one teacher for 100 students); 2) the inaccessibility of some schools due to their remote location; 3) lack of basic equipment like printers and photocopiers to disseminate the guidelines; and 4) lack of clarity on no-touch policy for people caring for children under 3-years-old (it may not be possible to institute the policy in these cases). The general community health volunteers (gCHVs) plan to support the schools in some locations.

14. Preparations are underway for a second mass distribution of anti-malaria treatments in Ebola hotspots in Sierra Leone. An estimated 2.5 million are expected to be reached in the coming

:: **15 Jan 2015** *UNMEER External Situation Report*
Key Political and Economic Developments

1. According to press reports, President Ernest Bai Koroma of Sierra Leone predicted while visiting Port Loko, Tonkolili and Bombali in the northern District that his country would be Ebola-free by May.

2. In Forécariah, Kindia Prefecture, Guinea, following the lynching of two police officers and a driver by the local population on 17 January, tension remains high. Evaluation team for the campaign "Zero Ebola in 60 days" reported that several villages were currently inaccessible due to the heightened tension.

:: **14 Jan 2015** *UNMEER External Situation Report*
Key Political and Economic Developments

1. UNDP is leading an Early Recovery Assessment mission in the three most affected countries. The mission includes representatives from the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the European Union and UN agencies. In Liberia, the mission met with President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, as well as with Ministers and Deputy Ministers, the Governance Commission, Land Commission, Civil Services Agency and the leadership of the IMS and UNMEER. The

mission is today in Sierra Leone and will then travel to Guinea before compiling a plan for early recovery in the three most affected countries.

2. The Islamic Development Bank (IDB), has announced financing in the amount of USD 35 million to countries affected by Ebola.

Response Efforts and Health

3. Health workers have been paid across Liberia in a coordinated effort led by the Ministry of Health and supported by UNDP and UNMEER. In total, more than USD 1 million in cash was distributed to thousands of workers, with Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance and UNDP staff travelling to remote areas over the past six days. Logistics assistance was provided by WFP and UNMEER, as well as the County Health Teams. The Ministry is now collecting data from the field and will report on final numbers this week.

6. As of last week, the number of children in Liberia registered as orphaned due to EVD is 4,372. All of the children identified are currently receiving follow-up and psychosocial support. The Child Protection Sub-Cluster estimates that there can be as many as 7,500 Ebola orphans in Liberia. UNICEF is partnering with the government and NGOs to train and engage more social workers to identify and ensure that all the orphans are in an adequately protective environment.

:: **13 Jan 2015** *UNMEER External Situation Report* *Key Political and Economic Developments*

3. Two new World Bank reports indicate that the socio-economic impacts of Ebola in Liberia and Sierra Leone are far-reaching and persistent. Both countries continue to experience job losses, despite their differing health outlooks. These impacts have not been limited to the areas where infections have been the highest, which points to economy-wide slowdowns. As a result, many households have been forced to take short-term actions to cope, which can have substantial long-term effects on welfare.

Outreach and Education

14. UNICEF, in partnership with the Monrovia and Paynesville city councils, Liberia launched Operation Stop Ebola – a mass media, community outreach and engagement campaign targeting 900,000 people or about 80 percent of the population of Montserrado County. To this end, 170 commissioners, governors and community leaders have been trained.

15. In Sierra Leone, social mobilizers from various agencies mobilized 782 religious leaders and 2,077 community leaders and reached 11,003 households to inform them about improvements in services and to mobilize people to seek early care and treatment. The intensification resulted in an increase in number of calls to the 117 hotline to report sick or suspected cases or to seek information and care. It also led to an increase in 'walk-ins' and

:: **12 Jan 2015** *UNMEER External Situation Report* *Response Efforts and Health*

3. WFP has finalised the rehabilitation of a hospital in Kambia, Sierra Leone, to be managed by Partners in Health (PiH). This hospital will be used as a Holding Centre with 40 beds and on 9 January was officially inaugurated by President Ernest Bai Koroma. WFP has the capacity to provide additional necessary equipment and staff to support the construction of additional wings at the hospital; this Centre could be extended to become an Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) with a capacity to hold up to 100 beds, by erecting an additional 10m x 24m Mobile Storage Unit (MSU).

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