

# ***The Sentinel***

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

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***14 February 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:*

*David R. Curry*

*Editor &*

*Founding Director*

*GE2P2 – Center for Governance, Evidence, Ethics, Policy, Practice*

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

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

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### ***:: 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.*

### **[Four Ideas for a Stronger U.N.](#)**

By KOFI ANNAN and GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND

FEB. 6, 2015

*The New York Times, [The Opinion Pages](#) / Op-Ed Contributors*

Seventy years ago, the United Nations was founded "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war." Looking around the world today, the least one can say is that it is not fully

succeeding in this mission. From Nigeria through the Middle East to Afghanistan and Ukraine, millions are suffering and dying from that scourge, or are imminently threatened by it, and the United Nations seems powerless to save them.

We have four ideas for making the organization stronger and more effective.

A big part of the problem is that the Security Council, which is supposed to maintain world peace and security on behalf of all member states, no longer commands respect — certainly not from armed insurgents operating across borders, and often not from the United Nations' own members.

Throughout the world, and especially in the Global South, people struggle to understand why, in 2015, the Council is still dominated by the five powers that won World War II. They are more and more inclined to question its authority, and the legitimacy of its decisions.

We ignore this threat at our peril. Times have changed since 1945, and the Security Council must adapt.

Almost everyone claims to favor expanding the Council to include new permanent members, but for decades now states have been unable to agree who these should be, or whether, like the existing ones, they should have the power to veto agreements reached by their fellow members.

Our first idea aims to break this stalemate. Instead of new permanent members, let us have a new category of members, serving a much longer term than the nonpermanent ones and eligible for immediate re-election. In other words they would be permanent, provided they retained the confidence of other member states. Surely that is more democratic?

Secondly, we call on the five existing permanent members to give a solemn pledge. They must no longer allow their disagreements to mean that the Council fails to act, even when — for instance, as currently in Syria — people are threatened with atrocious crimes.

Let the five permanent members promise never to use the veto just to defend their national interests, but only when they genuinely fear that the proposed action will do more harm than good to world peace and to the people concerned. In that case, let them give a full and clear explanation of the alternative they propose, as a more credible and efficient way to protect the victims. And when one or more of them do use the veto in that way, let the others promise not to abandon the search for common ground, but to work even harder to find an effective solution on which all can agree.

Thirdly, let the Council listen more carefully to those affected by its decisions. When they can agree, the permanent members too often deliberate behind closed doors, without listening to those whom their decisions most directly affect. From now on, let them — and the whole Council — give groups representing people in zones of conflict a real chance to inform and influence their decisions.

And finally, let the Council, and especially its permanent members, make sure the United Nations gets the kind of leader it needs. Let them respect the spirit as well as the letter of what

the United Nations Charter says about choosing a new secretary general, and no longer settle it by negotiating among themselves behind closed doors. Under current procedures, governments nominate their own citizens as candidates for the position. Members of the Security Council then conduct rounds of secret voting known as “straw polls” to ascertain who has broadest and deepest support; crucially, the five permanent members use different colored voting slips so that their preferences — and those they do not favor — are made clear to the other 10 temporary members.

Let us have a thorough and open search for the best qualified candidates, irrespective of gender or region; let the Council then recommend more than one candidate for the General Assembly to choose from; and let the successful candidate be appointed for a single, nonrenewable term of seven years. He or she (and after eight “he’s” it’s surely time for a “she”) must not be under pressure to give jobs or concessions to any member state in return for its support. This new process should be adopted without delay, so that it can be used to find the best person to take over in January 2017.

These four proposals are spelled out in greater detail [in a statement](#) issued this Saturday by The Elders, an independent group of global leaders working together for peace and human rights. We believe they form an essential starting point for the United Nations to recover its authority. And we call on the peoples of the world to insist that their governments accept them, in this, the 70th anniversary year of the United Nations.

*Kofi A. Annan, chairman of The Elders, served as secretary general of the United Nations from 1996 to 2007. Gro Harlem Brundtland, deputy chairwoman of The Elders, is a former prime minister of Norway and served as director general of the World Health Organization from 1998 to 2003.*

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### **“Let’s connect for a safe, empowering and inclusive Internet” Safer Internet Day - Tuesday 10 February 2015**

*GENEVA (10 February 2015) – Top United Nations experts on children’s rights and on freedom of expression join the voices of children, parents, teachers, policymakers, law enforcement, industry and civil society in their call to create a better and safe Internet.*

*Speaking ahead of the global Safer Internet Day, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children, Marta Santos Pais; the Special Rapporteur on sale and sexual exploitation of children, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio; and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression, David Kaye, call on States and the IT industry to tackle head on online child sexual abuse and exploitation, while protecting the right to freedom of expression of both children and adults.*

Information and communication technologies evolve and spread at phenomenal speed. This evolution represents an amazing opportunity that more and more children are using to learn, play, create, socialize, and express themselves, in particular through the Internet. Indeed, through their access to Internet, children can exercise their right to access to information and to freedom of expression, their rights to be heard, to participate in public debate and develop a critical thinking.

However, without determined and coordinated action, millions of children will continue to be excluded from the benefits of the Internet, child victims of on-line violence, abuse and exploitation will continue to multiply, and impunity for these offences will continue fueling criminality.

Openness and accessibility are fundamental aspects of the Internet – but therein also lie some of the greatest risks. New technologies are easing the production and proliferation of child abuse material, with new exploitative activities appearing such as the live streaming of child sexual abuse on demand. The quantification and identification of cases are made difficult by the possibility of concealing illegal activities on the Internet. The harm caused to child victims is amplified when images of abuse and exploitation go viral.

Exposure to harmful information or abusive material, grooming by predators, breaches of privacy, cyber-bullying, and production and distribution of exploitative behaviour cannot be the price to pay for innovation and freedom.

As communications technologies evolve, some States have adopted disproportionate restrictions on freedom of expression on the Internet, presenting them as measures to protect children from harm while, in effect, they limit the rights of children and adults. Child protection and freedom of expression must not be addressed as opposing goals.

On the contrary, the challenge of creating a safe online environment for children lies in developing a range of responses that strike the appropriate balance between maximizing the potential of new technologies to promote and protect children's rights while minimizing the risks and ensuring children's safety and well-being. Rather than curtailing children's natural curiosity and sense of innovation for fear of encountering risks online, it is critical to tap into their resourcefulness and enhance their capacities to surf the internet with safety.

Considerable progress has been made in recent years in addressing risks and harms while maximizing opportunities offered by new technologies to prevent online abuse and empower children, through awareness raising, education programmes and specialized training, focusing on schools, and supporting parents and care-givers, among others.

It is high time to scale up these efforts by connecting through a truly global alliance to develop an empowering, safe and inclusive digital agenda for children.

We call on States to establish a clear and comprehensive legal framework ensuring explicit prohibition of all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation against children, including in the cyber space, as well as promoting and protecting children's rights to freedom of expression and access to information. States also need to invest in prevention programmes and secure effective protection, recovery and compensation of child victims.

We call on States, the industry and civil society to create child-friendly detection and reporting mechanisms, including helplines to seek advice and applications to report violent incidents and suspicious behaviour. Internet service and content providers and technology companies should assist in the identification of victims and offenders, and in the removal of child abuse material from the Internet.

We also call on States to ensure, through effective transnational cooperation mechanisms, the investigation and prosecution of offenders wherever they are, and to strengthen capacity to tackle online child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Evidence shows that by protecting children's rights and adopting measures to tackle online exploitative behaviour against children, a reduction of harm and a safe online environment can be achieved for children to fully exercise their rights online and offline, including their freedom of expression.

We need an empowering, inclusive and safe Internet for all children, wherever they are. Let us all connect safely to make it happen!"

*Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children:*

<http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/>

*Check the new Study by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General Santos Pais on "Releasing children's potential and minimizing risks - ICTs, the Internet and Violence against Children"*

*Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography:*

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Children/Pages/ChildrenIndex.aspx>

*Check the new report on how to tackle online sexual abuse and exploitation of children by Special Rapporteur de Boer-Buquicchio, to be presented in March to the UN Human Rights Council: [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Children/SR/A.HRC.28.56\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Children/SR/A.HRC.28.56_en.pdf)*

*Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/FreedomOpinion/Pages/OpinionIndex.aspx>*

*Check the last report on children's right to freedom of expression by the Special Rapporteur Kaye presented to the UN General Assembly:*

[http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage\\_e.aspx?si=A/69/335](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/69/335)

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## **Foundations Partner to Build a Stronger Digital Society**

February 10, 2015

*[Excerpt from announcement]*

Five foundations will jointly address the challenges and opportunities of the digital age, including committing to help keep the Internet open, secure, accessible and affordable to all. The foundations "will together seek to strengthen digital society, guided by a set of shared principles (below) on the role of the Internet and technology in advancing the public interest."

The initiative also launches a series of new, aligned commitments by the five foundations—in addition to their ongoing grant making in the field—to realize the potential of a digital society.

The "[NetGain Challenges](#)," will support novel ideas and finance new research for the development of cutting-edge innovations and digital technologies to improve lives.

## **Declaration – The Internet, Philanthropy, and Progress: Principles for Future Work**

*Ford Foundation, Knight Foundation, Macarthur Foundation Mozilla, and Open Society Foundation*

The rapid growth of the Internet creates challenges and opportunities in every area of contemporary life, from health and education to economic development, political engagement, civic life, and more. This change is enormous in scale and touches virtually every area of concern to philanthropy.

The Internet is not inherently good or bad. It can be used to foster enlightenment and learning, and promote justice. It can make information of all types available and commerce more efficient; open government to new voices and views; and connect people in ways that create understanding and encourage common cause. It can also be used to incite, manipulate, and humiliate; to facilitate new security threats and reinforce existing ones; exert control; stifle legitimate discourse and weaken society; concentrate power in the hands of a few; and leave many people and communities on the sidelines.

Along with the time-honored ways people communicate and engage with each other, people now connect in a networked public sphere: a digital commons where debate unfolds and communities are created. In this space, the flow of information, influence, and ideas is fundamentally different from that with non-digital counterparts, sometimes in surprising ways. This new public sphere can include and amplify more voices and opinions; or it can reinforce existing abuses of power.

Philanthropy has a unique role to play in helping to shape a better world. Foundations often come together for greater impact to tackle complex issues such as poverty, climate change, human rights, public health, and urbanization. The ubiquitous nature and power of the Internet demands that we come together again to help ensure that it is used for the common good.

Working together, we commit to influencing policy, markets, norms, and the design and use of the Internet and information technologies to make the world a better place. As leaders in the field of philanthropy, we aim to:

- :: Work to make the Internet an open, secure, and equitable space for free expression, economic opportunity, knowledge exchange, and civic engagement that everyone can access and afford.

- :: Support the opportunities created by the networked public sphere: new modes of civic and social participation, lowered barriers to engagement, and innovative ways to organize for positive change and social justice; and guard against potential harm: censorship, self-segregation, the spread of misinformation, and polarization.

- :: Transform learning and ensure that young people have the skills they need to succeed in a connected, complex world: digital literacy, critical thinking, problem solving, curiosity, empathy, understanding, persistence, and more.

- :: Cultivate leaders in business, government, and civil society to understand and fulfill the promise of the Internet, and support cross-sector alliances to ensure technology and data are used to advance the public good.

- :: Contribute to the design of Internet and information technology policies, practices, and products that enhance data security and protection of individual privacy.

:: Ensure that philanthropy leads in digital security and data ethics in its own practices.  
As leaders in philanthropy, we will work to ensure that the Internet continues to be built, used, and governed in ways that create opportunity for all.

These principles will guide how we use the Internet every day in our work and with our partners.

We invite others to join us.

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### **MOBILES FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT - 2014 Trends and Gaps**

United Nations Development Programme & Motorola Solutions

February 2015 :: 44 pages

*[Excerpts]*

#### **Executive Summary**

The rapid diffusion of mobile technologies around the globe has triggered new opportunities to enhance human development. Indeed, mobiles can bring basic services and information to billions of people at the bottom of the pyramid, foster democratic governance by giving people a voice in key decision-making processes that affect their lives, and promote transparency and accountability in both the public and private sectors...

...In this light, this report aims to contribute to the existing body of knowledge by first, focusing on development and developing countries, second, taking a closer look at local innovators, and third, linking social innovation to development priorities. In doing so, the report builds on the data we have collected from both primary and secondary sources to provide evidence-based suggestions on how we can better harness mobile technologies to confront critical development issues in concrete fashion.

The development categories used for our analysis include poverty reduction, education, health and governance, all of which are key areas of development. In turn, each development category was further subcategorized to further refine insights about actual trends and potential gaps in these areas. The subclassifications are based on the work that UNDP, UNESCO and WHO, among others, undertake on the ground in developing countries

The key findings of the report can be summarized as follows:

:: A wide disparity of activities among the four core development categories. Poverty reduction activities are pervasive, representing half of all sampled work, while health and governance lag behind. Education falls in between and represents one out of every four interventions.

:: Each region under analysis prioritizes a particular category of activity thus suggesting key regional differences per development category. While Africa drives poverty reduction activities, Latin America leads in governance, and education-related activities are a priority in industrialized countries.

:: Private sector development (poverty), lifelong learning and ICTs in education (both in education), HIV and development (health), and access to information and e-governance (governance) represent the most prominent activities in each respective development category.

:: Specific regions are key drivers for these subcategories: Africa for private sector development, lifelong learning (excluding industrialized countries) and HIV and development, and Latin America for ICTs in education and access to information and e-governance.  
:: In terms of gaps, activities on e-business (which includes m-business), m-learning and m-health seem to be lagging vis-a-vis other subcategories.  
:: There is an overall gap in gender equality and women's empowerment activities in all regions and subregions.  
:: In the era of social media, crowdsourcing and e-democracy, it is surprising that governance activities are at the bottom of our development category structure...

[Motorola Solutions Foundation and UNDP release new research report: Increasing the potential of mobile technologies to advance human development](#)

Press Release - 09 Feb 2015

The UNDP [Mobiles for Human Development 2014: Trends and Gaps](#) report compiled and analysed almost 2,500 cases worldwide of practitioners (government institutions, private sector or civil society organisations, and individuals) using mobile technologies to improve the delivery of basic services and information, foster transparency and accountability in both public and private sectors, and enhance human development.

Patrick Keuleers, Director of Governance and Peacebuilding, UNDP Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS) stated, "The research has highlighted critical gaps that need to be addressed by development practitioners, social innovators and application developers at the global, national and local levels. One gap we could address together is how to link innovations in mobile apps with development efforts. This research report helps to frame our thinking on how to support further mobile engagement in the implementation and monitoring of the new [Sustainable Development Goals](#) which will be part of the UN [post-2015 development agenda](#)."

Research findings note that the use of mobile technologies for development (M4D) is pervasive. Half of M4D activities sampled for this study focus on poverty reduction, while the rest focus on education, followed by health and governance.. When it comes to M4D activities in health, half takes place in Africa, with Eastern Africa leading in the efforts to address HIV and to strengthen health systems.

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[\*\*Illicit Financial Flow: Report of the High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa\*\*](#)

Commissioned by the AU/ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

February 2015 :: 126 pages

Report pdf: [Illicit Financial Flow](#)

*[Excerpts from Overview and Report]*

The 4th Joint African Union Commission/United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (AUC/ECA) Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development was held in 2011. This Conference mandated ECA to establish the High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa. Underlying this decision was the determination to ensure Africa's accelerated and sustained development, relying as much as possible on its own resources.

This Report reflects the work that the High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows has carried out since it was established in February 2012, particularly to:



- :: Develop a realistic and accurate assessment of the volumes and sources of these outflows;
- :: Gain concrete understanding of how these outflows occur in Africa, based on case studies of a sample of African countries and;
- :: Ensure that we make specific recommendations of practical, realistic, short- to medium-term actions that should be taken both by Africa and by the rest of the world to

#### 1.1.1 Illicit financial flows as a development challenge for Africa

Over the last 50 years, Africa is estimated to have lost in excess of \$1 trillion in illicit financial flows (IFFs) (Kar and Cartwright-Smith 2010; Kar and Leblanc 2013). This sum is roughly equivalent to all of the official development assistance received by Africa during the same timeframe.<sup>2</sup> Currently, Africa is estimated to be losing more than \$50 billion annually in IFFs.

But these estimates may well fall short of reality because accurate data do not exist for all African countries, and these estimates often exclude some forms of IFFs that by nature are secret and cannot be properly estimated, such as proceeds of bribery and trafficking of drugs, people and firearms. The amount lost annually by Africa through IFFs is therefore likely to exceed \$50 billion by a significant amount...

...The resource needs of African countries for social services, infrastructure and investment also underscore the importance of stemming IFFs from the continent. At current population trends, Africa is set to have the largest youth population in the world. By 2050 the median age for Africa will be 25 years, while the average for the world as whole will be about 36 years (United Nations Population Division, 2012). Infrastructure constraints also act as a brake on growth, just as do the low savings and investment rates of the continent. In 2012 gross capital formation rates in Nigeria and South Africa were 13 per cent and 19 per cent, respectively, as compared to a rate of 49 per cent in China and 35 per cent in India (United Nations Statistics Division, 2014; World Bank, 2014). Yet Africa is estimated to need an additional \$30–\$50 billion annually to fund infrastructure projects (Foster and Briceño-Garmendia, 2010; African Development Bank, 2014).

#### *Findings of the HLP Report on IFFs*

- :: Finding 1: Illicit financial flows from Africa are large and increasing
- :: Finding 2: Ending illicit financial flows is a political issue
- :: Finding 3: Transparency is key across all aspects of illicit financial flows
- :: Finding 4: Commercial routes of illicit financial flows need closer monitoring
- :: Finding 5: The dependence of African countries on natural resources extraction makes them vulnerable to illicit financial flows
- :: Finding 6: New and innovative means of generating illicit financial flows are emerging
- :: Finding 7: Tax incentives are not usually guided by cost-benefit analyses
- :: Finding 8: Corruption and abuse of entrusted power remains a continuing concern
- :: Finding 9: More effort needed in asset recovery and repatriation
- :: Finding 10: Money laundering continues to require attention
- :: Finding 11: Weak national and regional capacities impede efforts to curb illicit financial flows
- :: Finding 12: Incomplete global architecture for tackling illicit financial flows
- :: Finding 13: Financial secrecy jurisdictions must come under closer scrutiny
- :: Finding 14: Development partners have an important role in curbing illicit financial flows from Africa
- :: Finding 15: Illicit financial flow issues should be incorporated and better coordinated across United Nations processes and frameworks

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**EBOLA/EVD** [to 14 February 2015]

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

**WHO: Ebola Situation Report – 11 February 2015**

*[Excerpt; Editor's text bolding]*

**SUMMARY**

**Total weekly case incidence increased for the second consecutive week, with 144 new confirmed cases reported in the week to 8 February.** Guinea reported a sharp increase in incidence, with 65 new confirmed cases compared with 39 the week before. Transmission remains widespread in Sierra Leone, which reported 76 new confirmed cases, while the resurgence in cases in the western district of Port Loko continued for a second week. Liberia continues to report a low number of new confirmed cases.

**Despite improvements in case finding and management, burial practices, and community engagement, the decline in case incidence has stalled. The spike in cases in Guinea and continued widespread transmission in Sierra Leone underline the considerable challenges that must still be overcome to get to zero cases. The infrastructure, systems, and people needed to end the epidemic are now in place; response measures must now be fully implemented.**

The surge of new confirmed cases reported by Guinea was driven primarily by transmission in the capital, Conakry (21 confirmed cases) and the western prefecture of Forecariah (26 confirmed cases). Community engagement continues to be a challenge in Conakry and Forecariah, and in Guinea more widely. Almost one-third of the country's EVD-affected prefectures reported at least one security incident in the week to 8 February. Effective contact tracing, which relies on the cooperation of communities, has also proved challenging. In the week to 1 February, just 7 of 42 cases arose among registered contacts. A total of 34 unsafe burials were reported, with 21 EVD-positive deaths reported in the community.

Seven new confirmed cases were reported in the east-Guinean prefecture of Lola. A field team is currently deployed to Côte d'Ivoire to assess the state of preparedness in western areas of the country that border Lola.

Follow-up preparedness missions are planned for Mali and Senegal later this month, culminating in a tri-partite meeting between Guinea, Mali, and Senegal to strengthen cross-border surveillance.

A total of 3 confirmed cases was reported from Liberia. All of the cases originated from the same area of Montserrado county, linked to a single chain of transmission.

Following the steep decline in case incidence in Sierra Leone from December until the end of January, incidence has now stabilized. A total of 76 cases were reported in the week to 8 February, a decrease from the 80 confirmed cases reported in the week to 1 February, but higher than the 65 confirmed cases reported in the week to 25 January. Transmission remains

widespread, with 7 districts reporting new confirmed cases. A total of 41 unsafe burials were reported in the week to 8 February.

The case fatality rate among hospitalized cases (calculated from all confirmed and probable hospitalized cases with a reported definitive outcome) remains high, between 53% and 60%.

#### COUNTRIES WITH WIDESPREAD AND INTENSE TRANSMISSION

There have been almost **23 000 reported confirmed, probable, and suspected cases** of EVD in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (table 1), **with almost 9000 reported deaths** (outcomes for many cases are unknown). A total of 65 new confirmed cases were reported in Guinea, 3 in Liberia, and 76 in Sierra Leone in the 7 days to 8 February (data missing for 8 February in Liberia). At the start of the epidemic many reported suspected cases were genuine cases of EVD. At this stage, with improved surveillance systems in place, a far smaller proportion of suspected cases are confirmed to have EVD. Consequently, the incidence of new confirmed cases gives a more accurate picture of the epidemic.

A stratified analysis of cumulative confirmed and probable cases indicates that the number of cases in males and females is similar (table 2). Compared with children (people aged 14 years and under), people aged 15 to 44 are approximately three times more likely to be affected. People aged 45 and over are almost four times more likely to be affected than are children.

A total of 830 confirmed health worker infections have been reported in the 3 intense-transmission countries; there have been 488 reported deaths (table 3)...

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#### **[U.S. Update on Ebola Response Includes Withdrawal of Almost All U.S. Troops from West Africa](#)**

*[Excerpt: Text and Video]*

Ten months ago, the first U.S. personnel deployed to West Africa to fight the Ebola outbreak on the frontlines in West Africa. This epidemic has grown into the deadliest Ebola outbreak the world has ever seen — and the President is committed to treating and tackling Ebola as both a national security priority, and an example of American leadership.

The U.S. has built, coordinated, and led a worldwide response to the Ebola outbreak while strengthening our preparedness here at home. And thanks to the hard work of our military members, civilian responders, and health care workers, we have dramatically bent the curve of the epidemic. Cases are down 80 percent from peak levels. With this improved outlook, the President is planning to bring virtually all of the troops who deployed to the region home by April 30, while continuing to ramp up our civilian response beyond the 10,000 civilian workers who are already involved in our response effort...

**[U.S. White House – FACT SHEET: Progress in Our Ebola Response at Home and Abroad](#)** - February 11, 2015

#### **[:: 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 14 February 2015]

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

13 February 2015

SOC/4830

#### [Concluding Fifty-third Session, Commission for Social Development Recommends Four Draft Resolutions for Adoption by Economic and Social Council](#)

Concluding its fifty-third session today, the Commission for Social Development approved by consensus four draft resolutions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council that addressed issues of African development, ageing, youth and the rights of persons with disabilities.

10 February 2015

GA/11620

#### [Participants Stress Crucial Role of Public Entities in Implementing Sustainable Development Goals, as General Assembly Concludes Debate on Post-2015 Agenda](#)

Parliaments, cities and local authorities could provide a “rich tapestry of opportunities” in the context of sustainable development, said ministers and other senior officials as the General Assembly concluded its High-level Thematic Debate on Means of Implementation for a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda today.

10 February 2015

SOC/4829

#### [Decrying Unfulfilled Goals of 1995 World Summit, Delegates in Commission for Social Development Call for New, Transformative Public Policies](#)

Twenty years after the landmark “Copenhagen Summit”, speakers in the Commission for Social Development today called for transformative public policies that supported a rights-based vision of a world which uplifted living standards for society’s most neglected while recognizing the vast differences among countries’ abilities to bring about that worthy goal.

9 February 2015

GA/11618

#### [Turning Sustainable Development Vision into Reality for Millions Worldwide Focus of General Assembly Debate on Implementing Post-2015 Agenda](#)

As the General Assembly opened its two-day high-level meeting aimed at finding ways to turn the new sustainable development vision into reality for millions worldwide, ministers and other senior officials crafted and shared approaches to “connect the dots” of financing the ambitious global agenda.

9 February 2015

SOC/4828

[Inclusiveness, Equal Access Critical to Keeping Persons with Disabilities at Heart of Post-2015 Efforts, Special Rapporteur Tells Commission for Social Development](#)

Social protections, inclusive employment and equal access to education were essential for ensuring that people with disabilities remained at the heart of development efforts in the post-2015 era, the Special Rapporteur on Persons with Disabilities told the Commission on Social Development today, outlining priorities for her three-year tenure since the establishment of her mandate by the Human Rights Council last December.

10 February 2015

GA/11620

[Participants Stress Crucial Role of Public Entities in Implementing Sustainable Development Goals, as General Assembly Concludes Debate on Post-2015 Agenda](#)

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SOC/4828

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12 February 2015

DSG/SM/845-DEV/3165

[Migration Challenges Cannot Be Addressed in Isolation, Deputy Secretary-General Tells Annual Meeting, Urging New Ways to Protect Migrants](#)

Following are UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson's remarks, as delivered, to the thirteenth annual coordination meeting on international migration, in New York today.

9 February 2015

DSG/SM/841-GA/11619-DEV/3164

[Deputy Secretary-General Says Achieving Sustainable Development Goals Requires 'Coherent and Holistic' Financial, Non-Financial Implementation Means](#)

Following are UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson's remarks at the High-Level Thematic Debate on Means of Implementation for a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda, in New York, today.

**UN OHCHR** Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 14 February 2015]

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

[UN human rights expert calls for immediate halt to further executions in Indonesia](#) 2/13/2015

[Governments must not delegate responsibility of basic education to private sector, UN expert says](#) 2/12/2015

[UN Human Rights Office launches major online database of treaty body case law](#) 2/11/2015

**SRSG/CAAC** Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict [to 14 February 2015]

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

12 Feb [Joint Press Statement by EU High Representative Federica Mogherini and UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict Leila Zerrougui on the occasion of the International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers](#)

12 Feb [Joint Press Release OSRSG-CAAC/UNICEF: More brutal & intense conflicts leave children increasingly at risk of recruitment](#)

**SRSG/SVC** Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict [to 14 February 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 14 February 2015]

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

[UNHCR urges Europe to recreate a robust search and rescue operation on Mediterranean, as Operation Triton lacks resources and mandate needed for saving lives](#)

12 February 2015

[Update: Major tragedy in the Mediterranean confirmed, 300 migrants and refugees are missing](#)

11 February 2015

**UNOCHA** [to 14 February 2015]

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

12 Feb 2015

[Mali: UN and Partners call for \\$2 billion to help Africa's Sahel Region](#)

12 Feb 2015

[Nigeria: UN and Partners call for \\$2 billion to help Africa's Sahel Region \[EN/AR\]](#)

12 Feb 2015

[occupied Palestinian territory: Fact Sheet: occupied Palestinian territory Strategic Response Plan 2015 \[EN/AR\]](#)

12 Feb 2015

[occupied Palestinian territory: Aid agencies request \\$705 million to address humanitarian needs in Palestine during 2015 \[EN/AR\]](#)

**UNISDR** UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 14 February 2015]

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

[UN helps Algeria strengthen disaster risk reduction](#)

As the world gears up for the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the UN in Algeria is helping the Government to bolster the safety of communities, in a country that has suffered from a string of devastating earthquakes and repeated floods.

12 Feb 2015

[Partnership needed to address trans-boundary disasters in Central Asia, South Caucasus](#)

Ministers from Central Asia and the South Caucasus have called for a stronger regional approach to disaster resilience, as they step up effort to tackle the increasingly 'trans-boundary' nature of disaster risk.

10 Feb 2015

**UNICEF** [to 14 February 2015]

[http://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_71508.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_71508.html)

[Schools to reopen in Liberia after 7-month closure due to Ebola](#)

DAKAR, 13 February 2015 – As children in Liberia prepare to return to their classrooms next week, following seven months of Ebola-related school closures, UNICEF and its partners are putting in place safety measures to minimize the risk of transmission of the virus.

[Despite deepening political crisis in Yemen, UNICEF to stay and deliver](#)

SANA'A, Yemen/GENEVA, 13 February 2015 – As the political crisis deepens in Yemen, UNICEF reaffirms its commitment to stay and deliver for the children of Yemen.

[More brutal and intense conflicts leave children increasingly at risk of recruitment](#)

NEW YORK, 12 February 2015 – Children are increasingly vulnerable to recruitment and use by armed groups as conflicts around the world become more brutal, intense and widespread, UNICEF and the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict said today to mark the International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers.

[More children released from armed group in South Sudan](#)

JUBA/NAIROBI/GENEVA/NEW YORK, 10 February 2015 – UNICEF and partners are overseeing the release of another 300 children from an armed group in South Sudan.

[UNICEF and Hungary announce agreement in principle to establish new UNICEF Global Services Centre in Budapest](#)

NEW YORK/BUDAPEST, 10 February 2015 – The Government of Hungary and UNICEF announced today that they have agreed in principle to establish UNICEF's first-ever Global Shared Services Centre in Budapest. The new centre will conduct a broad range of UNICEF's financial and human resources operations worldwide, enabling the children's organization to realize greater efficiencies and cost savings.

**UN Women** [to 14 February 2015]

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

[UN Women Executive Director to discuss the future of impact and how women will play a leading role](#)

Date : February 10, 2015

On 10 February, UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka will join the 2015 Clinton Global Initiative's (CGI) Winter Meeting, a yearly gathering with global leaders to discuss, create and implement innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges. She will speak at the plenary session on "The Future of Impact", which will be moderated by former U. S. President Bill Clinton.

[UN Women Executive Director inaugurates first regular Executive Board session of 2015](#)

Date : February 9, 2015

Mr. President, Members of the Executive Board, distinguished delegates, colleagues and friends, Good morning. First of all, please allow me to thank and recognize the fine leadership of our outgoing President, Ambassador Gonzalo Koncke Pizzorno of Uruguay, who has steered his excellent bureau and board during their tenure.

**Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues** [to 14 February 2015]

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

[Permanent Forum members participate at second global indigenous peoples forum at IFAD](#)

February 13, 2015

On 12 and 13 February 2015, Permanent Forum members Joan Carling and Maria Eugenia Choque Quispe participated in the second global meeting of the Indi...

[Observations by the Permanent Forum on World Bank draft safeguards on indigenous peoples](#)

February 09, 2015

On Friday, 6 February, the Chair of the Permanent Forum, Dalee Sambo Dorrough, transmitted a letter to Dr. Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank...

**WHO & Regionals** [to 14 February 2015]

:: [Global Alert and Response \(GAR\): Disease Outbreak News \(DONs\)](#)

- [13 February 2015](#) Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – The Philippines
- [12 February 2015](#) Human infection with avian influenza A(H5N6) virus – China
- [11 February 2015](#) Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- [11 February 2015](#) Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Qatar
- [11 February 2015](#) Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – United Arab Emirates

:: The [Weekly Epidemiological Record \(WER\) 13 February 2015](#), vol. 90, 7 (pp. 45–56) includes:

:: Maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination: validation surveys in Lao People's Democratic Republic, December 2013

**WHO Regional Offices**



### **WHO African Region AFRO**

:: [Cholera prevention measures reduce transmission among displaced people in South Sudan - 09 February 2015](#)

### **WHO Region of the Americas PAHO**

:: [New PAHO/WHO publication gives guidance on early diagnosis of childhood cancer](#)  
(02/12/2015)

:: [Recent measles outbreaks point to gaps in elimination efforts in the Americas](#)  
(02/10/2015)

### **WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO**

*No new digest content identified.*

### **WHO European Region EURO**

:: [WHO opens office on primary health care in Kazakhstan](#) 11-02-2015

### **WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO**

:: [Mobile clinics bring health services to communities in need in Iraq](#)

7 February 2015 – In December 2014, WHO handed over 12 mobile medical clinics to the Federal Ministry of Health of Iraq and the Ministry of Health of the Kurdistan region to support the provision of primary health care services in underserved areas housing populations in need. Funding for the clinics was provided by Saudi Arabia. Four clinics were deployed to the Dohuk governorate, in which a large influx of large internally displaced people has put enormous pressure on the health system and its ability to deliver health care services...

### **WHO Western Pacific Region**

*No new digest content identified.*

### **UNAIDS** [to 14 February 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

### **UNFPA** United Nations Population Fund [to 14 February 2015]

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

12 February 2015

[Top 10 myths about child marriage](#)

UNITED NATIONS, New York – Despite widespread condemnation of child marriage, the practice persists around the world, perpetuated by a toxic mix of poverty and gender inequality. Its effects are devastating, yet the...

### **UNDP** United Nations Development Programme [to 14 February 2015]

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

13 Feb 2015

[Lebanon's storm preparedness helps response plan](#)

A decade of efforts to better prepare and respond to disasters was highlighted when seasonal storm "Zina" struck Lebanon in early January 2015.

13 Feb 2015

[Ending insecurity in the Sahel requires a regional approach, says the UNDP](#)

We must combine national and transnational interventions to address the situations of extreme vulnerability that the Sahelian populations confront

13 Feb 2015

[Surviving Ebola and the road to early recovery](#)

Josephine Dolley survived Ebola. But it cost her dearly – 29 members of her family died including her husband and three teenage boys.

13 Feb 2015

['With end in sight, time to redouble efforts to stop Ebola' – UN Development Chief](#)

Conakry, Guinea - Speaking at a press conference today at the end of a two-day visit to Guinea, UNDP Administrator Helen Clark stressed the need to 'go the last mile' in eradicating the outbreak in the country.

09 Feb 2015

[Motorola Solutions Foundation and UNDP release new research report: Increasing the potential of mobile technologies to advance human development](#)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Motorola Solutions Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Motorola Solutions, Inc. (NYSE: MSI), today announced new research findings to help developing countries, social innovators, policy makers and development practitioners identify and address key socio-economic gaps that obstruct advancements in human development.

09 Feb 2015

[Eradicating exclusion key to ending the violence in CAR, says UNDP](#)

Bangui, Central African Republic (CAR) - Massive investments are required to bridge the social divide in CAR, said Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, the head of the Africa bureau at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

09 Feb 2015

[UNDP sees public-private partnerships for investments in infrastructure as vital for achieving sustainable development](#)

With populations growing, some estimates suggest annual infrastructure spending in developing countries must increase between US\$1.8-2.3 trillion each year by 2020, and more of these resources must come from the private sector through public-private partnerships, according to Magdy Martínez-Solimán, UNDP's Director of Bureau for Policy and Programme Support.

09 Feb 2015

[Helen Clark: Speech at the Launch of the Tsunami Global Lessons Learned Project Disaster Recovery Toolkit](#)

Jakarta, Indonesia

08 Feb 2015

[Helen Clark: Speech on 'REDD+ and the Sustainable Development Goals in the Post-2015 World'](#)

Jakarta, Indonesia

**UN Division for Sustainable Development** [to 14 February 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**UNEP** United Nations Environment Programme [to 14 February 2015]

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

[Report on Health and Biodiversity Demonstrates Human Health Benefits from Protecting Biodiversity](#)

The report demonstrates that the relationship between biodiversity and human health is extensive and complex.

14-2-2015

[Bringing Science to Policymakers](#)

Once the science establishes the need for action, governments can act both unilaterally and in a more internationally coordinated fashion

13-2-2015

[Georgia Leads the Way in Valuing its Natural Capital](#)

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) aims to inform policy making at national levels by increasing the evidence base for countries to account for their natural assets in decision-making and policy formulation

12-2-2015

[Reducing Mercury Impacts in Small-Scale Gold Mining](#)

Adopted in 2013, the Minamata Convention on Mercury aims to combat the global threat posed to human health and the environment from mercury pollution worldwide.

12-2-2015

[India's Leadership Role in Upcoming Climate Change Negotiations Highlighted during UNEP Energy Meeting with India's Minister of Environment](#)

Government of India and UNEP agree to strengthen energy efficiency, and emphasized India's leadership role in global efforts for an ambitious, comprehensive and equitable agreement in Paris in 2015, at energy talks in Delhi on Friday.

10-2-2015

**DESA** United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 14 February 2015]

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

[Forum seeks to identify aims on women's health for post-2015](#)

11 February 2015, New York

United Nations Headquarters in New York hosted the inaugural World Women's Health and Development Forum today, bringing together world leaders, representatives of UN system

entities, scientists, healthcare professionals, and members of civil society, the media and the private sector to discuss how best to advance the health, wealth and empowerment of women worldwide.

#### [Forest action and the post-2015 development agenda](#)

10 February 2015, New York

Mr. Manoel Sobral Filho, the new Director of the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat in UN DESA, has devoted his life to forests. In his conversation with DESA News, he highlights key challenges and opportunities for forests, and how 2015 is truly a year for global action...

#### [Evaluating 20 years of work for social development](#)

9 February 2015, New York

In 1995, the World Summit for Social Development was held in Copenhagen. The summit led to a global agenda for increased social progress, justice and the betterment of the human condition. Last week, 20 years after the agenda was set, the Summit was commemorated and the achievement of its objectives were evaluated during the opening of the 53rd session of the Commission for Social Development.

**UNODC** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 14 February 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 14 February 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**FAO** Food & Agriculture Organization [to 14 February 2015]

<http://www.fao.org/news/archive/news-by-date/2015/en/>

#### [Crunching genomes to boost animal health](#)

Working closely with FAO, SIB experts have developed tools to improve early detection and fast alert systems to prevent and respond to transboundary disease emergencies in poultry or livestock.

10-02-2015

**IFAD** International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 14 February 2015]

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

12 February: UN agency and Pakistan sign financing agreement to support smallholder farmers who depend on livestock for food security

[English](#)

11 February: Unique global gathering highlights indigenous peoples' role in fighting poverty and hunger

[Arabic](#) | [English](#) | [Italian](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#)

10 February: International leaders in Rome to discuss rural transformation as a path to more even distribution of employment and wealth around the world

[Arabic](#) | [English](#) | [Italian](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#)

9 February: Forum brings together representatives of indigenous peoples' from all over the world

Fifty representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations from all over the world gather on 12 and 13 February at International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) headquarters in Rome to discuss traditional food systems and sustainable rural development.

[Arabic](#) | [English](#) | [Italian](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#)

**ILO International Labour Organization** [to 14 February 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**ICAO** International Civil Aviation Organization [to 14 February 2015]

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

[ICAO Announces 2015 Women's Aviation Scholarship](#)

12/2/15

**IMO** International Maritime Organization [to 14 February 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**WMO** World Meteorological Organization [to 14 February 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**UNIDO** United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 14 February 2015]

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

[Pakistan urges UNIDO to help boost the economy to reduce poverty](#)

Friday, 13 February 2015

ISLAMABAD, 12 February 2015 – Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's key adviser, Sartaj Aziz, has asked the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to expand its operations in the country and to implement more...

**UN WTO** World Tourism Organization [to 14 February 2015]

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

[Former head of UNICEF to chair the UNWTO World Tourism Network on Child Protection](#)

UNWTO is pleased to announce that Carol Bellamy, former Executive Director of UNICEF (1995-2005), is the new chair of the UNWTO World Tourism Network on Child Protection. Ms.

Bellamy starts her tenure at the Network's 30th meeting in connection with ITB Berlin in March 2015, where the Network's agenda for the coming year will be established.

**ITU** International Telecommunications Union [to 14 February 2015]

[http://www.itu.int/net/pressoffice/press\\_releases/index.aspx?lang=en#.VF8FYcl4WF8](http://www.itu.int/net/pressoffice/press_releases/index.aspx?lang=en#.VF8FYcl4WF8)

[World Radio Day broadcast focuses on Youth and Innovation](#)

*ITU developing new global standards for sustainable growth of radio*

Geneva, 13 February 2015

**UNESCO** [to 14 February 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**WIPO** World Intellectual Property Organization [to 14 February 2015]

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

[United States of America, Japan Join International Design System](#)

The United States of America and Japan have joined the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs, adding two of the world's biggest economies to a WIPO-administered registry that supports creators worldwide.

Feb 9, 2015 [PR/2015/772](#)

**CBD** Convention on Biological Diversity [to 14 February 2015]

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

13 February 2015

[PRESS RELEASE : Report on health and biodiversity demonstrates human health benefits from protecting biodiversity](#)

The newly released [Summary](#) of the state of knowledge review, [Connecting Global Priorities: Biodiversity and Human Health](#), was launched at the 14th World Congress on Public Health. Upon the release of the full length volume, the book will be the new flagship publication under the CBD joint work programme on biodiversity and health co-led in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and numerous other partners. It will be an important source of information to assist Parties in the implementation of the UN-wide Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and to inform discussions on the emerging sustainable development goals and post-2015 Development Agenda.

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**USAID** [to 14 February 2015]

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

[USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah Reflects on a Half-Decade of Development Leadership](#)

February 12, 2015

[Video] This Thursday, February 12, Dr. Rajiv Shah will deliver his final speech as Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) at an event hosted by the American Enterprise Institute and the Center for American Progress. For the past five years

Administrator Shah has led USAID in its mission to end extreme poverty and promote resilient, democratic societies. During this time Administrator Shah has led key development initiatives, including Feed the Future, Power Africa, the U.S. Global Development Lab, and efforts to end preventable child and maternal deaths. Administrator Shah will discuss his tenure at USAID with John Norris of the Center for American Progress and Danielle Pletka of the American Enterprise Institute.

#### [United States Announces Additional Results in Grand Challenge to Fight Ebola](#)

February 11, 2015

*Innovations support current Ebola response and future epidemic preparedness*

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced today additional nominees for awards in the Fighting Ebola: a Grand Challenge for Development. A collaborative expert review identified 12 innovations that can reinforce the response to current and future Ebola outbreaks.

#### [Statement from USAID Administrator, Rajiv Shah on the Ebola Response Transition](#)

February 10, 2015

Our nation's life-saving response to the worst Ebola epidemic in history represents an impressive display of American values, commitment, and ingenuity. Even as the headlines have slowed, the tireless work of thousands of frontline health care workers and disasters responders has not. In a year marked by an unprecedented number of humanitarian crises—from South Sudan to Syria—we remain committed to providing help in an emergency, regardless of danger or difficulty. It is one of the most profound expressions of who we are as the American people.

#### [Saving Lives at Birth: A Grand Challenge for Development Announces Round 5 Call for Innovative Solutions to Prevent Infant & Maternal Deaths](#)

February 9, 2015

Today, the Saving Lives at Birth: A Grand Challenge for Development partners launched their fifth call for groundbreaking, sustainable innovations to save the lives of mothers and newborns in the hardest to reach corners of the world. The latest round is part of a \$50 million program expansion to build upon and accelerate Saving Lives at Birth's investment in innovative prevention and treatment ideas and approaches that aim to reduce infant and maternal mortality and prevent stillbirth around the time of birth.

**DFID** [to 14 February 2015]

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

#### [UK steps up support to victims of Malawi floods](#)

12 February 2015 DFID Press release

#### [William Hague launches new Women, Peace and Security Centre at LSE](#)

10 February 2015 DFID, FCO, MOD and OLHC Press release

#### [Greening: Britain stands shoulder to shoulder with Jordan as UK pledges new support for Syria crisis](#)

8 February 2015 DFID and FCO Press release

**ECHO** [to 14 February 2015]

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

[UPDATED: EU assists Albania during heavy floods](#)

11/02/2015

Update - 11.02.2015, 14:00An EU Civil Protection Team is deployed to Albania today to liaise with national authorities and facilitate the coordination of incoming assistance. Several more EU Member States are considering sending assistance...

[Commissioner Stylianides condemns killing of Sudanese Red Crescent workers](#)

10/02/2015

The EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides conveys his deepest condolences to the families of the three humanitarian aid workers killed in Sudan, Kurmuk locality, on Sunday 8 February 2015.

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**African Union** [to 14 February 2015]

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

Feb.09.2015

[African Experts on Statistics and Civil Registration Converge in Yamoussoukro to brainstorm on promotion of data revolution for good governance](#)

**The African Development Bank Group** [to 14 February 2015]

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

[African Development Bank appoints three High-Level Advisors on Fragility](#)

12/02/2015 - The African Development Bank's new [Strategy for Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience for the period 2014–2019](#) aims to place the Bank at the centre of Africa's efforts to pave the way for a more resilient and inclusive development trajectory. Enhancing the Bank's leadership role in policy dialogue, partnerships and advocacy around issues of fragility is critical in this process. Strategic partnerships in areas that are essential to overcoming fragility but that are outside its core mandate, such as justice and security, will enable the Bank access important information and share its knowledge in such matters.

For the Bank to deliver on addressing fragility there is a need to systematically and continuously engage with the Regional Member Countries at the highest level possible. High-calibre individuals who have relevant knowledge, political influence, excellent reputation and strong networks among African policy-makers will enhance the Bank's capacity and ability to demonstrate thought leadership on issues of fragility. The [work of the High Level Panel on Fragile States](#) in 2014 provided greater insights into the characteristics, manifestations and threats of fragility. Also, noted was that the capacities and resources of affected states and societies vary significantly hence the need for adapting to each context and focus on key entry points.

[AfDB awards US\\$1 million emergency relief assistance for drought victims in Somalia](#)

12/02/2015 - The African Development Bank Group (AfDB) has awarded US \$1 million emergency relief assistance to Somalia where over one million people affected by drought and famine are in dire need of humanitarian assistance.



[Africa launches platform to enhance collaboration between countries for the delivery of quality Early Childhood Development programs](#)

10/02/2015 - A regional platform to improve the provision of quality Early Childhood Development (ECD) programs in Africa was launched on Monday, February 9 in Kigali, Rwanda, during the Ministerial Conference for Sub-Saharan Africa on Education Post-2015.

**ASEAN** [to 14 February 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**UNCTAD** [to 14 February 2015]

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

[Communication equipment was the main growth driver of trade in information technology goods in 2013](#)

*China remains the leader in the export and import of ICT goods*

UNCTAD/PRESS/PR/2015/002

Geneva, Switzerland, (13 February 2015)

New UNCTAD data shows renewed growth in the trade of information, communication and technology (ICT) goods in 2013. However, whereas communication equipment and electronic components expanded, trade in consumer electronics and computers fell.

Exports of ICT goods – products such as mobile phones, smartphones, laptops, tablets, integrated circuits and various other parts and components – picked up in 2013 with an annual growth rate of 5 per cent to reach US\$1.9 trillion (table 1). ICT goods grew slightly faster than total merchandise trade, representing 11 per cent of exports and 12 per cent of imports, with communication equipment being the main growth driver. Communication equipment's share in total imports of ICT goods has continued to expand from about 13 per cent in the early 2000s to 24 per cent in 2013. In nominal terms, such imports amounted to US\$500 billion (table 2). For the first time, developing countries' imports of communication equipment in 2013 overtook computer and peripheral equipment as the largest subcomponent...

**World Trade Organisation** [to 14 February 2015]

[http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news13\\_e/news13\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news13_e/news13_e.htm)

*No new digest content identified.*

*[We limit coverage to regional and global level initiatives, recognizing that a number of country-level announcements are added each week]*

**OECD** [to 14 February 2015]

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

[Ambitious reforms can create a growth path that is both strong and inclusive, OECD says](#)

9 February 2015

Determined and systemic action to implement a comprehensive reform agenda across a wide range of policy areas offers governments the best chance to boost weak demand, restore

healthy economic growth, create jobs and ensure that the gains are broadly shared across society, according to the OECD's latest Going for Growth report.

**IMF** [to 14 February 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

*[We limit coverage to regional and global level initiatives, recognizing that a number of country-level announcements are added each week]*

[IMF Establishes a Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust to Enhance Support for Eligible Low Income Countries Hit by Public Health Disasters](#)

Press Release No. 15/53

February 13, 2015

The Ebola epidemic in parts of West Africa is a humanitarian catastrophe that has drawn attention of the international community to the need of addressing the rapid spread of life threatening infectious diseases that cause substantial domestic disruption and cross international borders.

On February 4, 2015, the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) discussed how to better support Low-Income Countries hit by public health disasters. The Board approved the establishment of the Catastrophe Containment and Relief (CCR) Trust, allowing the Fund to provide debt relief in these cases, as well as to members experiencing other types of catastrophic disasters. These grants can ease pressures on the members' balance of payments and create fiscal space to tackle relief and recovery challenges.

The CCR will provide grants for debt relief totaling \$100 million for the three countries affected by Ebola in West Africa—Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea. This comes in addition to the \$130 million of assistance provided in September 2014, and a second round of new concessional loans amounting to about \$160 million to be considered soon by the Executive Board.

*Background*

In their November 2014 meeting in Brisbane, the G-20 called on the Bretton Woods Institutions to continue their strong support to countries severely affected by the Ebola outbreak through a combination of concessional loans, debt relief and grants, and asked the institutions to explore new, flexible mechanisms to address the economic effects of future comparable crises. The CCR Trust is the Fund's response to that call. It replaces the Post-Catastrophe Debt Relief (PCDR) Trust established on June 25, 2010 in the wake of a massive earthquake in Haiti, and expands the circumstances under which the Fund can provide exceptional assistance to its low income members to include public health disasters. Through the new instrument, the Fund is able to quickly and flexibly adjust its policies in the face of unexpected international developments, including pandemics, to serve the needs of its membership, especially the most vulnerable.

At the conclusion of the Executive Board meeting on the CCR, IMF Managing Director Christine stated: "I welcome the establishment of the Catastrophe Containment Relief Trust. It aims at enhancing our support to the countries in Africa hit by Ebola, as well as other low income countries that may be affected by public health disasters in the future."...

**World Bank** [to 14 February 2015]

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

*[We limit coverage to regional and global level initiatives, recognizing that a number of country-level announcements are added each week]*

### [Scaling Up Universal Health Coverage and Containing Non-Communicable Diseases in the Middle East and North Africa: Challenges, Linkages and Strategies](#)

KUWAIT CITY, February 12, 2015 – Addressing the twin challenges of scaling up universal health coverage (UHC) and containing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is the focus of a five-day policy seminar sponsored by the World Bank in coordination with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Middle East Center for Economics and Finance (CEF). The policy seminar brings together 37 senior level representatives from Ministries of Health, Finance, and Planning and health agencies in the MENA region, as well as representatives from academia and non-governmental organizations. Presentations by World Bank specialists with expert contributions from World Health Organization (WHO), Johns Hopkins University, US Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), are geared towards familiarizing policy makers and participants with global and regional experiences in scaling up universal health cover

Show Less  
Date: February 12, 2015

### [New World Bank Group Push to Revive Agriculture, Avert Hunger for over One Million People at Risk in Ebola-hit Countries](#)

*Record 10,500 tons of seed to be delivered for April planting season*

WASHINGTON, February 12, 2015—In a concerted push to revive agriculture and avert hunger in Ebola-hit countries, the World Bank Group has mobilized up to \$15 million in emergency financing to provide a record 10,500 tons of maize and rice seed to over 200,000 farmers in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone in time for the April planting season. More than one million people could go hungry unless they have reliable access to food and emergency measures are taken immediately to safeguard crop and livestock production. A World Bank Group report shows that the Ebola crisis has taken a heavy toll on the economies in all three countries, and the agriculture and food sectors have been particularly hard hit....

Date: February 12, 2015

### [Improving Markets for Seeds and Fertilizers in West Africa](#)

Despite these positive developments, most countries are a long way from having the required capacities and institutional structures needed to implement the new trade rules, and it will likely be many more years before true harmonized trade can begin. Rather than rely so intensively on regional harmonization and efforts to implement advanced international standards, therefore, the analysis points to a need for pragmatic solutions and simple changes that would have direct impact in the near term while longer-term progress towards full harmonization continues. Other key messages include: There are many good reasons for regional collaboration on seed and fertilizer. Soil types and rainfall patterns cut across West Africa mainly in east to west bands, meaning that neighboring countries are often the nearest source of supply and/or best market outlet for adapted seeds and appropriate fertilizer types. New institutional structures and capacities must be developed before the regional regulations...

Date: February 10, 2015

### [World Bank Group, ECOWAS and UEMOA to hold Second Tripartite Meeting on Regional Integration in West Africa](#)

ACCRA, February 9, 2015 – The World Bank Group, ECOWAS and UEMOA are holding their Second Tripartite Meeting in Accra, Ghana, during February 10-11, 2015, to deliberate on issues

pertinent to the socio-economic development of the ECOWAS Sub-region. The meeting will, among other things, review the status of implementation of the Abidjan Action Plan which was agreed during their first meeting in Abidjan in July 2013, and will focus on a number of key thematic areas such as Ebola, Agriculture, Regional Infrastructure and Cross Border Management. According to Mr. Colin Bruce, World Bank Africa Region's Director responsible for Regional Integration, "Since we met in June 2013, we have made considerable progress in implementing our ambitious joint action plan in the six priority areas of Agriculture, Education, Trade and Trade Facilitation, Transport, Regional Investment Climate and the Sahel  
Date: February 9, 2015

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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 14 February 2015]

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

#### **AMREF Kenya Awarded US\$5 Million Contract to Improve Sanitation and Hygiene**

11 February 2015

Nairobi, Kenya

Amref Kenya has been awarded a contract worth KShs 450,000,000 to execute a five-year programme aimed at reaching over 1.92 million Kenyans thus contributing towards the national goal of Open Defecation Free Kenya by the year 2020.

Dubbed the Kenya Sanitation and Hygiene Improvement Programme (K-SHIP), it will act as a seed fund for the promotion of sanitation and hygiene in the country. The programme intends to intervene in 11 sub-counties/counties namely Kinango, Tharaka, Naivasha, Narok South, Gucha, Muranga, Vihiga, Mbeere North, Busia, Uasin Gishu and Kuria...

#### **Aravind Eye Care System** [to 14 February 2015]

*No new digest content identified.*

#### **BRAC** [to 14 February 2015]

*No new digest content identified.*

#### **CARE International** [to 14 February 2015]

#### **Urgent Need for Humanitarian Assistance in Western Africa Refugee Crisis**

NIGER

11 FEBRUARY 2015

The conflict in northern Nigeria is causing a regional humanitarian crisis, with tens of thousands of refugees and returnees fleeing the border into Niger, Chad and Cameroon.

**Danish Refugee Council** [to 14 February 2015]

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

[DRC statement about Kayla Jean Mueller](#) (10.02.15)

DRC is profoundly saddened by the death of the US humanitarian aid worker, Kayla Jean Mueller...

[Putting on the brakes: Averting a deepening crisis in South Sudan](#) (09.02.15)

NGOs urge regional leaders and donors to redouble efforts to push for a lasting peace agreement that transforms South Sudan's trajectory from devastation to development.

**Casa Alianza** [to 14 February 2015]

**Covenant House** [to 14 February 2015]

<http://www.casa-alianza.org.uk/news>

*No new digest content identified.*

**ECPAT** [to 14 February 2015]

[ECPAT releases new Regional Overviews on CSEC](#)

Posted on 02/11/2015, 14:45

ECPAT has published Regional Overviews on the situation of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) for [Africa](#), [Europe](#), [the Commonwealth of Independent States \(CIS\)](#), [East and South-East Asia](#)

[ECPAT celebrates Safer Internet Day 2015](#)

Posted on 02/10/2015, 12:50

ECPAT International celebrates the 12th Safer Internet Day on 10 February 2015 with more than 100 countries and thousands of schools, securing the online involvement of over 50 million people worldwide. It is up to all stakeholders- children and young people, parents and caregivers, teachers and educators, or governments and civil society –to help create a better internet together.

**Fountain House** [to 14 February 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Handicap International** [to 14 February 2015]

*No new digest content identified.*

**Heifer International** [to 14 February 2015]

February 10, 2015

[Mission Measurement Announces Clinton Global Initiative Commitment to Action-Heifer International a Named Partner](#)

NEW YORK, NY

Today, at the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) Winter meeting, President Clinton announced a new Commitment to Action designed to increase the impact of food security programs. Joining Mission Measurement in this effort are eight initial Food Security Genome Consortium members. They include leading corporations/corporate foundations (General Mills Foundation, Tyson Foods, etc.) and leading NGOs (Capital Area Food Bank, CARE, Heifer International and Share Our Strength).

**[HelpAge International](#)** [to 14 February 2015]

[The World's Growing Aging Population Presents Financial Challenges and Market Opportunities for Public and Private Sectors](#)

New report examines the unmet financial needs of older people, particularly in Latin America, and charges policymakers and financial services providers to consider older people as an increasingly important market segment.

Posted: 10 February 2015 [See full treatment in *Week in Review* above]

**[International Rescue Committee](#)** [to 14 February 2015]

12 Feb 2015

[Humanitarian crisis in Ukraine deteriorates as International Rescue Committee sends emergency team](#)

12 Feb 2015

[Thousands displaced by attacks in Niger in desperate need of food, says IRC](#)

11 Feb 2015

[GE Foundation, Jhpiego and the International Rescue Committee Highlight Ebola Relief at New York Fashion Week Pop-Up](#)

09 Feb 2015

[Putting on the brakes: Averting a deepening crisis in South Sudan](#)

**[ICRC - International Committee of the Red Cross](#)** [to 14 February 2015]

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

[Red Cross Red Crescent denounces continued violence against volunteers working to stop spread of Ebola](#)

*News release*

12 February 2015

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is deeply concerned about continued violence perpetrated against its volunteers in Guinea. Due to the fear and mistrust surrounding Ebola virus disease, Red Cross staff and volunteers have regularly been attacked by scared communities.

[Colombia: Dutch citizen released](#)

*News release*

11 February 2015

Geneva / Bogotá (ICRC) – A Dutch citizen who was captured last month by the National Liberation Army (ELN) was today handed over to a team made up of delegates from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and representatives of the Catholic Church. The handover took place in a rural part of Norte de Santander department, in north-eastern Colombia.

[Lebanon: Strengthening the resilience of communities affected by violence](#)

*News release*

11 February 2015

Tripoli, Lebanon's second largest city, has been the scene of recurrent outbursts of armed violence between the marginalized communities of the Bab al-Tabbaneh and Jabal Mohsen neighbourhoods. Since November 2014, the ICRC has launched several projects to help both communities to recover from long-standing cycles of poverty and violence and regain their dignity.

**IRCT** [to 14 February 2015]

*News*

[IRCT congratulates TPO Cambodia on 20th anniversary](#)

09 February 2015

*In focus*

[IRCT's new strategy: to become global knowledge hub on health-based rehabilitation of torture victims and chief promoter of the right to rehabilitation](#)

09 February 2015

The IRCT has published its strategic plan for 2015-2020, which details the progress the movement has made in the last strategic period and outlines new objectives and commitments for the upcoming five-year period.

The movement's two key strategic objectives for the next five years are to become a leading hub of global knowledge on health-based rehabilitation and to lead global consensus-making processes on the right to rehabilitation's contents, scope and standards. The IRCT will seek to achieve these objectives through a series of activities grouped under capacity building, research development and advocacy.

"We are very pleased to share our vision and goals for the next strategic period. This document is a critical milestone for the IRCT and its members as it sets out the direction for the torture rehabilitation movement over the coming five years," says Victor Madrigal-Borloz, IRCT Secretary-General.

**MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières** [to 14 February 2015]

*Selected Press Releases/Field News*

*No new digest content identified*

**Mercy Corps** [to 14 February 2015]

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



### [Mercy Corps, Rockefeller Foundation Launch Asia Regional Network to Build City Resilience to Climate Change](#)

Indonesia, February 12, 2015

Local and regional urban practitioners in Asia urged to join expanded resilience network Bangkok, Thailand — At the first [Asia-Pacific Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation](#) this week in Bangkok, the [Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network](#) (ACCCRN) will launch a member-based regional network headed by global humanitarian organization Mercy Corps. As a result of ACCCRN's expanding footprint, [Mercy Corps](#) will build a larger coalition of national, regional and local practitioners and institutions committed to helping cities withstand and recover from the projected impacts of climate change. Today more than half of the world's population lives in urban areas, and this number will increase along with vulnerability to erratic and severe weather patterns.

### [Testimony on the humanitarian response in the Democratic Republic of Congo by Andrea Koppel at the World Bank's 2015 Fragility Forum](#)

DR Congo, February 11, 2015

On Wednesday, February 11, 2015, Mercy Corps was invited to provide remarks at the annual World Bank Fragility Forum. Andrea Koppel, the Vice President of Global Engagement and Policy spoke on behalf of Mercy Corps, presenting the findings of a joint report, "Assessing Humanitarian Response in North Kivu," produced by Mercy Corps, World Vision, the Search for Common Ground and the Congolese government.

### [USAID and Skoll Foundation Announce Joint Investment in Evidence Action for Clean Water in Uganda](#)

Uganda, February 11, 2015

Low-cost chlorine dispensers to provide safe water to 3.2 million people in rural Uganda Washington, D.C. –DATE- The U.S. Agency for International Development ([USAID](#)), and the [Skoll Foundation](#) announced a joint investment of \$2 million in [Evidence Action](#) to scale up its Dispensers for Safe Water program, a proven and highly cost effective approach for providing clean water to rural communities.

The investment is the third of its kind by the [Innovation Investment Alliance](#), a Global Development Alliance between the Skoll Foundation and USAID that is supported by the global humanitarian agency [Mercy Corps](#), which is focused on scaling the impact of proven social entrepreneurs.

Dispensers for Safe Water installs innovative low-cost chlorine dispensers directly at the water source in rural communities in Uganda, Kenya and Malawi....

### **Operation Smile** [to 14 February 2015]

#### *Upcoming Mission Schedule*

Feb 15 - 21 | Cauayan, Isabela, Philippines

Feb 18 - 21 | Cobarruguis, Quirino, Philippines

Feb 19 - 27 | Tegucigalpa, Honduras

### **OXFAM** [to 14 February 2015]

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

[Putting on the brakes: Averting a deepening crisis in South Sudan](#)



9 February 2015

NGOs urge regional leaders and donors to redouble efforts to push for a lasting peace agreement that transforms South Sudan's trajectory from devastation to development.

**Partners In Health** [to 14 February 2015]

Feb 13, 2015

[Malawi Maternity Ward Welcomes First Babies](#)

Partners In Health/Abwenzi Pa Za Umoyo is now seeing patients at its new maternity and gynecology wards in Neno District. The PIH/APZU team and the Ministry of Health hope the improved care encourages pregnant women to deliver at the hospital.

Feb 12, 2015

[In Their Own Words: Ebola Clinicians Share Stories](#)

Feb 11, 2015

[Haiti: Radiology Improves Hospital Care](#)

At University Hospital, coordination among staff members on the ground in Haiti, Partners In Health in Boston, and U.S.-based doctors keeps the radiology department running smoothly.

**PATH** [to 14 February 2015]

*No new digest content identified.*

**Plan International** [to 14 February 2015]

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

13/02/2015:

[Radio continues to give a voice to thousands of children across the developing world](#)

Radio continues to be the most important tool to provide young people with information and give a voice to children across the developing world, many of whom live in remote or disaster-prone areas, says Plan.

09/02/2015:

[Plan International leads on child protection in Sierra Leone](#)

Plan International has been named lead humanitarian organisation in the field of child protection by the government of Sierra Leone, particularly for its response work involving Ebola survivors.

**Save The Children** [to 14 February 2015]

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

[Save the Children Calls on EU leaders to Urgently Strengthen the Search and Rescue Capacity in the Mediterranean](#)

FAIRFIELD, Conn. (Feb. 11, 2015) — More than 300 migrants are presumed dead, according to UN's refugee agency, after the boats carrying them sank trying to reach Italy having departed the Libyan coast on Saturday. Latest reports indicate that just 9 people survived.

"Save the Children has repeatedly raised concerns that the Italian navy's comprehensive search-and-rescue operation, Mare Nostrum, was stopped last October, citing fears about accentuating the already extreme risks faced by migrants, especially those most vulnerable, such as women and children, in migrant sea crossings," said Carolyn Miles, president and CEO of Save the Children.

"Sadly, despite this latest tragedy, the number of migrants continuing to attempt treacherous sea crossings is increasing. In January 2015, despite the bad weather conditions, 3,528 migrants reached Italy, including 195 women and 374 children -- a staggering rise of 60 percent compared to the number of migrants arriving in 2013.

"Save the Children calls on EU leaders to urgently strengthen the search and rescue capacity in the Mediterranean to help mitigate the high number of migrant and refugee deaths at sea."...

#### [Search and Rescue Must be Strengthened After Migrant Deaths](#)

Lampedusa, Italy (Feb. 10, 2015) – Save the Children is calling upon Italy and Europe to strengthen its search and rescue capabilities in the Mediterranean Sea to prevent further tragedies following the deaths of 29 migrants owing to hypothermia.

The migrants attempting this treacherous sea crossing were picked up by the Italian coastguard after fleeing from violence in their home countries, including Libya.

"Appalling sea conditions encountered in the winter haven't disrupted the flow of arrivals by sea. There is firm evidence of no alternatives for those who are forced, in spite of everything, to attempt this desperate crossing," said Rafaella Milano of Save the Children Italy...

#### **SOS-Kinderdorf International** [to 14 February 2015]

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

#### [SOS Malawi: Children, parents cut-off by floods](#)

10.02.2015 - Thousands of children in flood-stricken Malawi are separated from their parents, as homes have collapsed. SOS Children's Villages teams respond to president's call for help.

#### **Tostan** [to 14 February 2015]

*No new digest content identified.*

#### **Women for Women International** [to 14 February 2015]

*No new digest content identified.*

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#### **ChildFund Alliance**

<http://childfundalliance.org/>

#### [Andrew Johnson speaks to the UN about children's rights.](#)

January 27th, 2015

Andrew Johnson, Acting Secretary General of ChildFund Alliance speaks about children being free from violence at a side-event...

#### **Disasters Emergency Committee** [to 14 February 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 14 February 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 14 February 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Global Fund** [to 14 February 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**ODI** [to 14 February 2015]

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

[EU State Building Contracts: early lessons from the EU's new budget support instrument for fragile states](#)

*Research reports and studies, February 2015*

Myra Bernardi, Tom Hart, Gideon Rabinowitz

First lessons from the European Union's new instrument for budget support in fragile states.

[Adapting development: improving services to the poor](#)

*Publication - February 2015*

Leni Wild, David Booth, Clare Cummings, Marta Foresti and Joseph Wales

On current trends, it will take decades or longer to bring basic services to the world's most disadvantaged people. Meeting this challenge means recognising the political conditions that enable or obstruct development progress - a radical departure from the approach of the Millennium Development Goals.

**The Sphere Project** [to 14 February 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Start Network** [Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies] [to 14 February 2015]

[http://www.start-network.org/news-blog/#.U9U\\_O7FR98E](http://www.start-network.org/news-blog/#.U9U_O7FR98E)

[What does the future hold for humanitarians? Notes from the Futures Roundtable](#)

February 11, 2015

Posted by [Paul Currian](#) in [Blog](#).

Last November the Start Network was invited to participate in a Futures Roundtable, held at the Royal Society in London. This was planned as part of the consultation process for the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), but with a twist. It wasn't just humanitarian practitioners sitting round the table, but a selection of experts from completely different sectors: the insurance industry, the technology sector, the research sciences.

The workshop was convened by one of our long-term partners, Randolph Kent of the Planning from the Future project at Kings College London, and UN OCHA. The future always excites us (it's where all of us are going to live, after all) and so our own Sean Lowrie and Paul Currian agreed to co-facilitate the workshop. The results were interesting – and you can read a short report we've attached below – but what was more interesting was the process.

By bringing together participants with more diverse backgrounds than usual, the workshop was able to discuss issues and generate scenarios that had not previously been raised in WHS consultations. The workshop could have gone on for longer, but we were lucky to get these participants – all of whom told us they found the workshop very constructive – for a day and half. The future? We're talking with Randolph about how to repeat the experience.

[Read the summary report here](#)

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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>

10 February 2015

[Leading Foundations Join Together to Launch Initiative to Build a Stronger Digital Society](#)

Philanthropy leaders commit to putting Internet rights at center of philanthropic work

[See Declaration above in *Week in Review*]

#### **William and Flora Hewlett Foundation**

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

#### **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/>

Publication

[Protecting Human Rights Defenders and Journalists in Mexico](#)

Published February 11, 2015

A [report](#) from the [Washington Office on Latin America](#) and [Peace Brigades International](#) assesses Mexico's Mechanism to Protect Human Rights Defenders and Journalists. The report draws on a series of case studies to identify several areas for improvement of the Mechanism, including staffing and funding shortages and delays in risk assessments that determine protections for individuals. The report provides recommendations for strengthening the Mechanism to the Mexican government, the governments of Mexico's 31 states and Federal District, and the U.S. government.

February 10, 2015 - [From The Field](#)

[Foundations Partner to Build a Stronger Digital Society](#)

Five foundations will jointly address the challenges and opportunities of the digital age, including committing to help keep the Internet open, secure, accessible and affordable to all. MacArthur and its [NetGain](#) partners – the Ford, Knight, Mozilla, and Open Society Foundations – will together seek to strengthen digital society, guided by a set of [shared principles](#) on the role of the Internet and technology in advancing the public interest. [See Declaration above in *Week in Review*]

### **David and Lucile Packard Foundation**

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

[Packard Foundation Names Meg Caldwell Deputy Director, Oceans](#)

February 10, 2015

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation announced today that Meg Caldwell will join the Foundation as Deputy Director, Oceans. She will lead the Foundation's Oceans and Fisheries team in this newly created role within the...

[New Training on PRIs Available](#)

February 10, 2015

Today a new, interactive training tool is available free of charge to help the staff of private foundations explore the rules and potential impact of program-related investments, or PRIs. Like a grant, a PRI supports...

### **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>

[Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program Announces New Collaboration with the American Society of Nephrology](#)

February 10, 2015 | News Release

A research grant and stipend promotes diversity and inclusiveness to enhance nephrology and improve patient care.

[Health Data Exploration Project Announces Agile Research Project Awards](#)

February 10, 2015 | News Release

Calit2's Health Data Exploration project announced five recipients in the \$200K Agile Research competition. The research grants were created to generate new training and learning opportunities to advance the use of personal data for public good.

[Fast Company Names Robert Wood Johnson Foundation One of World's 10 Most Innovative Not-For-Profits](#)

February 9, 2015 | News Release

RWJF included in ranking of most innovative organizations in recognition of its vision of building a Culture of Health.

**Wellcome Trust**

<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/News/2015/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**

February 2015 Volume 43, Issue 2, p99-198

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**American Journal of Preventive Medicine**

February 2015 Volume 48, Issue 2, p121-240

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**American Journal of Public Health**

Volume 105, Issue 2 (February 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene**

February 2015; 92 (2)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**BMC Health Services Research**

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

(Accessed 14 February 2015)

*Research article*

**[Historical account of the national health insurance formulation in Kenya: experiences from the past decade](#)**

Timothy Abuya, Thomas Maina, Jane Chuma BMC Health Services Research 2015, 15:56 (12 February 2015)

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

*Research article*

**[Streamlined research funding using short proposals and accelerated peer review: an observational study](#)**

Adrian G Barnett, Danielle L Herbert, Megan Campbell, Naomi Daly, Jason A Roberts, Alison Mudge, Nicholas Graves BMC Health Services Research 2015, 15:55 (7 February 2015)

[Abstract](#) | [Full text](#) | [PDF](#)

**BMC Infectious Diseases**

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

(Accessed 14 February 2015)

[No new relevant content]

**BMC Medical Ethics**

(Accessed 14 February 2015)

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

[No new relevant content]

## **BMC Public Health**

(Accessed 14 February 2015)

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

*Research article*

### **Health care providers' perceptions of and attitudes towards induced abortions in sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia: a systematic literature review of qualitative and quantitative data**

Ulrika Loi, Kristina Gemzell-Danielsson, Elisabeth Faxelid, Marie Klingberg-Allvin BMC Public Health 2015, 15:139 (12 February 2015)

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

*Research article*

### **Effectiveness of short message services reminder on childhood immunization programme in Kadoma, Zimbabwe - a randomized controlled trial, 2013**

Donewell Bangure, Daniel Chirundu, Notion Gombe, Tawanda Marufu, Gibson Mandozana, Mufuta Tshimanga, Lucia Takundwa BMC Public Health 2015, 15:137 (12 February 2015)

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

*Research article*

### **The world health organization's health promoting schools framework: a Cochrane systematic review and meta-analysis**

Rebecca Langford<sup>1\*</sup>, Christopher Bonell<sup>2</sup>, Hayley Jones<sup>1</sup>, Theodora Poulidou<sup>1</sup>, Simon Murphy<sup>3</sup>, Elizabeth Waters<sup>4</sup>, Kelli Komro<sup>5</sup>, Lisa Gibbs<sup>4</sup>, Dan Magnus<sup>1</sup> and Rona Campbell<sup>1</sup>

[Author Affiliations](#)

BMC Public Health 2015, 15:130 doi:10.1186/s12889-015-1360-y

Published: 12 February 2015

*Abstract* (provisional)

Background

Healthy children achieve better educational outcomes which, in turn, are associated with improved health later in life. The World Health Organization's Health Promoting Schools (HPS) framework is a holistic approach to promoting health and educational attainment in school. The effectiveness of this approach has not yet been rigorously reviewed.

Methods

We searched 20 health, education and social science databases, and trials registries and relevant websites in 2011 and 2013. We included cluster randomised controlled trials. Participants were children and young people aged four to 18 years attending schools/colleges. HPS interventions had to include the following three elements: input into the curriculum; changes to the school's ethos or environment; and engagement with families and/or local communities. Two reviewers identified relevant trials, extracted data and assessed risk of bias. We grouped studies according to the health topic(s) targeted. Where data permitted, we performed random-effects meta-analyses.

Results

We identified 67 eligible trials tackling a range of health issues. Few studies included any academic/attendance outcomes. We found positive average intervention effects for: body mass index (BMI), physical activity, physical fitness, fruit and vegetable intake, tobacco use, and being bullied. Intervention effects were generally small. On average across studies, we found little evidence of effectiveness for zBMI (BMI, standardized for age and gender), and no evidence for fat intake, alcohol use, drug use, mental health, violence and bullying others. It was not possible to meta-analyse data on other health outcomes due to lack of data.



Methodological limitations were identified including reliance on self-reported data, lack of long-term follow-up, and high attrition rates.

#### Conclusion

This Cochrane review has found the WHO HPS framework is effective at improving some aspects of student health. The effects are small but potentially important at a population level.

#### Research article

#### **[Barriers to modern contraceptive methods uptake among young women in Kenya: a qualitative study](#)**

Rhoune Ochako, Mwende Mbondo, Stephen Aloo, Susan Kaimenyi, Rachel Thompson, Marleen Temmerman, Megan Kays BMC Public Health 2015, 15:118 (10 February 2015)

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

#### **BMC Research Notes**

(Accessed 14 February 2015)

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

#### Short Report

#### **[Wealth and under-nourishment among married women in two impoverished nations: evidence from Burkina Faso and Congo Democratic Republic](#)**

Ayo Adebawale, Martin Palamuleni, Clifford Odimegwu BMC Research Notes 2015, 8:34 (8 February 2015)

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

#### **British Medical Journal**

07 February 2015(vol 350, issue 7994)

<http://www.bmj.com/content/350/7994>

[Reviewed earlier; new issue of 14 Feb unavailable at review]

#### **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 2, February 2015, 65-132

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/93/2/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>

[Reviewed earlier]

## **Conflict and Health**

[Accessed 14 February 2015]

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

*Research*

### **Assessing the experiences of intra-uterine device users in a long-term conflict setting: a qualitative study on the Thailand-Burma border**

Gedeon J, Hsue SN, Walsh M, Sietstra C, MarSan H and Foster AM Conflict and Health 2015, 9:6 (12 February 2015)

## **Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation**

(Accessed 14 February 2015)

<http://www.resource-allocation.com/>

[No new relevant content]

## **Developing World Bioethics**

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

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[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 25, Issue 1, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cdip20/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

## **Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology**

Volume 10, Number 2 (March 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]

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Volume 24 Issue 1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

## **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]

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February 2015, Volume 32, Issue 2  
<http://emj.bmj.com/content/current>  
[Reviewed earlier]

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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 25, Issue 1, 01 February 2015  
<http://eurpub.oxfordjournals.org/content/24/6>  
[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 51, *In Progress* (February 2015)  
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[Reviewed earlier]

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

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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 14 February 2015]

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

[No new relevant content]

### **Global Public Health**

Volume 10, Issue 2, 2015

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*Special Issue: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for the next decades: What's been achieved? What lies ahead?* [Reviewed earlier]

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Globalization and Health**

[Accessed 14 February 2015]

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

*Debate*

**[Strengthening health systems in low-income countries by enhancing organizational capacities and improving institutions](#)**

Swanson RC, Atun R, Best A, Betigeri A, de Campos F, Chunharas S, Collins T, Currie G et al. Globalization and Health 2015, 11:5 (12 February 2015)

*Research*

**[Maternal mortality: a cross-sectional study in global health](#)**

Sajedinejad S, Majdzadeh R, Vedadhir AA, Tabatabaei MG and Mohammad K Globalization and Health 2015, 11:4 (12 February 2015)

### **Health Affairs**

February 2015; Volume 34, Issue 2

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

*Biomedical Innovation*

[Reviewed earlier]

### **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]

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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>  
[Reviewed earlier]

### **Health Research Policy and Systems**

<http://www.health-policy-systems.com/content>  
[Accessed 14 February 2015]  
[No new relevant content]

### **Human Rights Quarterly**

Volume 37, Number 1, February 2015  
[http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/human\\_rights\\_quarterly/toc/hrq.37.1.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/human_rights_quarterly/toc/hrq.37.1.html)

#### **Who Trusts Local Human Rights Organizations?: Evidence from Three World Regions**

James Ron, David Crow

pp. 188-239

#### *Abstract*

Local human rights organizations (LHROs) are crucial allies in international efforts to promote human rights. Without support from organized civil society, efforts by transnational human rights reformers would have little effect. Despite their importance, we have little systematic information on the correlates of public trust in LHROs. To fill this gap, we conducted key informant interviews with 233 human rights workers from sixty countries, and then administered a new Human Rights Perceptions Poll to representative public samples in Mexico (n = 2,400), Morocco (n = 1,100), India (n = 1,680), and Colombia (n = 1,699). Our data reveal that popular trust in local rights groups is consistently associated with greater respondent familiarity with the rights discourse, actors, and organizations, along with greater skepticism toward state institutions and agents. The evidence fails to provide consistent, strong support for other commonly held expectations, however, including those about the effects of foreign funding, socioeconomic status, and transnational connections.

#### **Rethinking Human Rights and Culture Through Female Genital Surgeries**

Ekaterina Yahyaoui Krivenko

pp. 107-136

#### *Abstract*

The article revisits the relationship between culture and human rights through the analysis of one traditionally condemned cultural practice known in human rights law as female genital mutilation. The analysis draws on anthropological and medical literature and demonstrates the importance of interdisciplinary analysis to any inquiry within the area of relationship between culture and human rights. An analogy between the traditional practice of female genital mutilations and the less widely publicized female genital aesthetic surgeries practiced in many Western countries serves as a methodological tool. Laws and attitudes towards both practices are compared, demonstrating many similarities and thus the difficulty of drawing a clear-cut line between a cultural and an a-cultural practice. In this light, human rights' insistence on condemnation of the practices of the Other exclusively appears as hegemonizing, racializing, and, ultimately, discriminatory in its effects. Some suggestions as to what a more adequate human rights approach could look like are made as well, as the constant necessity for interdisciplinary inquiry in human rights law is emphasized.

### **Human Service Organizations Management, Leadership & Governance**

Volume 39, Issue 1, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wasw21/current#.VOAi4i5nBhV>

#### **Social Change Efforts of Direct Service Nonprofits: The Role of Funding and Collaborations in Shaping Social Innovations**

DOI:10.1080/23303131.2014.973623

Micheal L. Shiera\* & Femida Handyb

pages 6-24

Accepted author version posted online: 03 Nov 2014

Published online: 23 Jan 2015

#### ***Abstract***

Direct social service nonprofit organizations have taken on increasing responsibility in initiatives seeking to create social change for their service user populations and within the community. This research utilized a mixed methods study design to investigate the characteristics of the inter-organizational context that are particularly supportive of these social change efforts. The results show that characteristics of collaboration, degree of marketization, and funder support predict the extent of engagement in social change efforts. The results have implications for developing the capacity of direct service nonprofits to undertake their social missions.

### **Humanitarian Exchange Magazine**

ISSUE 63 January 2015

<http://www.odihpn.org/humanitarian-exchange-magazine/issue-63>

#### ***The Typhoon Haiyan response***

[Reviewed earlier]

### **IDRiM Journal**

Vol 4, No 2 (2014)

<http://idrimjournal.com/index.php/idrim/issue/view/12>

[Reviewed earlier]

## **Infectious Diseases of Poverty**

[Accessed 14 February 2015]

<http://www.idpjournals.com/content>

*Research Article*

### **An ecohealth assessment of poultry production clusters (PPCs) for the livelihood and biosecurity improvement of small poultry producers in Asia**

Libin Wang, Edi Basuno, Tuan Nguyen, Worapol Aengwanich, Nyak Ilham and Xiaoyun Li

*Infectious Diseases of Poverty* 2015, 4:6 doi:10.1186/2049-9957-4-6

Published: 9 February 2015

*Abstract* (provisional)

#### **Background**

Poultry production cluster (PPC) programs are key strategies in many Asian countries to engage small commercial poultry producers in high-value production chains and to control infectious poultry diseases. This study assessed the multiple impacts of PPCs through a transdisciplinary ecohealth approach in four Asian countries, and drew the implications for small producers to improve their livelihoods and reduce the risk of spreading infectious diseases in the poultry sector.

#### **Methods**

The data collection combined both quantitative and qualitative methods. It comprised: formal structured household survey questionnaires, measuring the biosecurity level of poultry farms with a biosecurity score card; and key informant interviews. Descriptive statistics were used to process the quantitative data and a content analysis was used to process the qualitative data.

#### **Results**

This research found that poultry farms in clusters do not necessarily have better economic performance than those outside PPCs. Many farmers in PPCs only consider them to be an advantage for expanding the scale of their poultry operations and improving household incomes, and they are less concerned about--and have limited capacities to--enhancing biosecurity and environmental management. We measured the biosecurity level of farms in PPCs through a 14-item checklist and found that biosecurity is generally very low across all sample sites. The increased flies, mosquitoes, rats, and smells in and around PPCs not only pollute the environment, but also cause social conflicts with the surrounding communities.

#### **Conclusion**

This research concluded that a poultry cluster, mainly driven by economic objectives, is not necessarily a superior model for the control of infectious diseases. The level of biosecurity in PPCs was found to be low. Given the intensity of poultry operations in PPCs (farms are densely packed into clusters), and the close proximity to residential areas of some PPCs, the risk of spreading infectious diseases, in fact, increases. Good management and collective action for implementing biosecurity measures are key for small producers in PPCs to address common challenges and pursue health-based animal production practices.

## **International Health**

Volume 109 Issue 2 February 2015

<http://trstmh.oxfordjournals.org/content/109/2.toc>

*Special issue: Innovative community-based vector control interventions for improved dengue and Chagas disease prevention in Latin America*

[Reviewed earlier]

**International Journal of Epidemiology**

Volume 43 Issue 6 December 2014

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment**

Volume 5 Issue 4 2014

<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/toc/ijdrbe/5/4>

[Reviewed earlier]

**International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction**

Volume 11, Pages 1-78 (March 2015)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/22124209/11>

[Reviewed earlier]

**International Journal of Infectious Diseases**

April 2015 Volume 33, p1

<http://www.ijidonline.com/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

**International Journal of Mass Emergencies & Disasters**

November 2014 (VOL. 32, NO. 3)

<http://www.ijmed.org/issues/32/3/>

[Reviewed earlier]

**International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology**

Volume 22, Issue 1, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/tsdw20/current#.VIORRslLDg2>

[Reviewed earlier]

**International Migration Review**

Winter 2014 Volume 48, Issue 4 Pages 921–1110

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Intervention – Journal of Mental Health and Psychological Support in Conflict Affected Areas**

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]



**JAMA**

February 10, 2015, Vol 313, No. 6

<http://jama.jamanetwork.com/issue.aspx>

*Viewpoint* / February 10, 2015

**The 2014 Ebola Outbreak and Mental Health: Current Status and Recommended Response**

FREE

James M. Shultz, MS, PhD1; Florence Baingana, MB, ChB, MMed (Psychiatry), MSc (HPPF)2; Yuval Neria, PhD3

Author Affiliations

JAMA. 2015;313(6):567-568. doi:10.1001/jama.2014.17934.

...CONCLUSIONS

Fear reactions are predictable and pervasive and may exacerbate disease spread in pandemic areas. Efforts to develop effective treatments and vaccines should be coupled with a response to help with efforts to control preventable viral transmission and support the psychological needs of the public overall as well as infected patients, family members, health care workers, and other responders. The West Africa pandemic provides insights into the psychological consequences associated with a "worst case scenario" event involving a highly virulent infectious disease. An effective response is essential both in West Africa to address the psychosocial needs associated with population-wide direct exposure to disease, death, and distress; and in the United States, to counterbalance fear-driven behaviors and policy making with prudent and effective preparedness for emerging infectious diseases.

**JAMA Pediatrics**

February 2015, Vol 169, No. 2

<http://archpedi.jamanetwork.com/issue.aspx>

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Community Health**

Volume 40, Issue 1, February 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10900/40/1/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Development Economics**

Volume 114, *In Progress* (May 2015)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/03043878/114>

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health**

February 2015, Volume 69, Issue 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Global Ethics**

Volume 10, Issue 3, 2014

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjge20/.U2V-Elf4L0l#.VAJEj2N4WF8>

*Tenth Anniversary Forum: The Future of Global Ethics*

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Global Infectious Diseases (JGID)**

January-March 2015 Volume 7 | Issue 1 Page Nos. 1-50

<http://www.jgid.org/currentissue.asp?sabs=n>

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved (JHCPU)**

Volume 25, Number 4, November 2014

[http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal\\_of\\_health\\_care\\_for\\_the\\_poor\\_and\\_underserved/toc/hpu.25.4.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_health_care_for_the_poor_and_underserved/toc/hpu.25.4.html)

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Management**

Volume 4 Issue 2

<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/toc/jhlscm/4/2>

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health**

Volume 17, Issue 1, February 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10903/17/1/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies**

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 5 March 1, 2015

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

[New issue; No new relevant content]

**Journal of International Development**

January 2015 Volume 27, Issue 1 Pages 1–154  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jid.v27.1/issuetoc>  
[Reviewed earlier]

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Winter 2014 Volume 42, Issue 4 Pages 408–602  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jlme.2014.42.issue-4/issuetoc>  
*Special Issue: SYMPOSIUM: The Buying and Selling of Health Care*  
[Reviewed earlier]

### **Journal of Medical Ethics**

February 2015, Volume 41, Issue 2  
<http://jme.bmj.com/content/current>  
[New issue; No relevant content]

### **Journal of Public Health Policy**

Volume 36, Issue 1 (February 2015)  
<http://www.palgrave-journals.com/jphp/journal/v36/n1/index.html>  
[Reviewed earlier]

### **Journal of the Royal Society – Interface**

06 February 2015; volume 12, issue 103  
<http://rsif.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/current>  
[New issue; No relevant content]

### **Knowledge Management for Development Journal**

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

### **The Lancet**

Feb 14, 2015 Volume 385 Number 9968 p577-662 e7-e11  
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/issue/current>

*Comment*

#### **Older people's health in sub-Saharan Africa**

Isabella A G Aboderin, John R Beard

Published Online: 05 November 2014

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(14\)61602-0](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(14)61602-0)

Awareness is growing that the world's population is rapidly ageing. Although much of the related policy debate is about the implications for high-income countries, attention is broadening to less developed settings.<sup>1</sup> Middle-income country populations, in particular, are

generally ageing at a much faster rate than was the case for today's high-income countries, and the health of their older populations could be substantially worse.<sup>2</sup> However, little consideration has been given to issues of old age in sub-Saharan Africa, which remains the world's poorest and youngest region.<sup>3</sup> Development and health agendas for that region, including those being discussed in relation to targets to succeed the Millennium Development Goals,<sup>4</sup> understandably centre on how to increase the capacity of and opportunities for the region's young people. Yet strong arguments exist for why the health of older people (aged 60 years and older) should not be overlooked. Not least is the substantial size of these populations—already double the number of older adults in northern Europe—which is expected to grow faster than anywhere else, increasing from 46 million in 2015 to 157 million by 2050.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, life expectancy at age 60 years in sub-Saharan Africa is 16 years for women and 14 years for men, suggesting that, for those who survive early life, a long old age is already a reality.<sup>2</sup>

However, perhaps the most important reason to consider the older population in present plans for increased human and economic wellbeing in sub-Saharan Africa is that, contrary to common assumptions, older Africans play roles that are crucial to achievement of this wellbeing. Within families, older people are often carers or guardians of younger kin. They directly shape younger generations' access to health, education, and other capabilities, and thus their future human capital. The extent of older people's caregiving is increasingly recognised in the context of HIV/AIDS—more than 60% of orphaned children in Namibia and Zimbabwe, for example, are looked after by their grandmothers.<sup>5</sup> This care function is also important in everyday settings of poverty or labour-related parental absence—in the urban slums of Nairobi, Kenya, for instance, more than 30% of older women and 20% of older men (aged 60 years or older) care for one or more non-biological child (African Population and Health Research Center, Centre for Research on Ageing, University of Southampton, unpublished).

Beyond the family, older African people have key economic roles. In most sub-Saharan African countries, older people largely remain in the labour force,<sup>6</sup> particularly in smallholder agriculture, which encompasses the bulk of food production and must be revitalised if nutrition security and sufficient job opportunities are to be ensured for younger generations. As a result of selective rural–urban outmigration, incapacity, or uninterest of younger adults in farming, older people constitute a substantial share of smallholders. In Kenya, for example, the average age of a farmer is estimated to be 60 years.<sup>7</sup> Similarly, preliminary analyses of national survey data from Malawi and Kenya show close to 20% of decision makers on smallholder land use in both countries to be aged 60 years and older (African Population and Health Research Center, unpublished). The extent to which older African people can execute their social and economic functions effectively depends heavily on their physical and mental capacity.<sup>8, 9</sup> Conversely, if their health deteriorates to a point at which they themselves need care, the responsibility is likely to fall on female younger kin, whose own health, and employment and education opportunities, can be affected.<sup>10</sup> Impaired health in older age in sub-Saharan Africa thus affects not only older individuals, but families, communities, and prospects for development more broadly.

Yet older African people face a large morbidity and disability burden, particularly from chronic disease. Our preliminary analysis of 2010 Global Burden of Disease data identifies cardiovascular and circulatory disease, nutritional deficiencies, cirrhosis of the liver, and diabetes as major causes of disability-adjusted life years in sub-Saharan Africa's older population. Moreover, representative surveys of older adults' health show high rates of

hypertension,[11](#) musculoskeletal disease,[12](#) visual impairment,[13](#) functional limitations,[9](#) and depression.[14](#) Additionally, infectious diseases continue to affect older Africans, underscored by a substantial prevalence of HIV infection and its exacerbating effect on several non-communicable diseases.[15](#) At the same time, evidence of heterogeneity in health and function within older populations and the importance of modifiable factors in shaping it underscore the importance of health-promoting interventions to enable successful ageing in the region.[16](#) Yet a large proportion of, or even most, older Africans lack the requisite care—results of the WHO [Study](#) on Adult Health and Ageing[11](#) in Ghana, for example, showed 96% of those with hypertension to have no adequate treatment for the disorder.

A crucial but often omitted perspective is a comparison with younger age groups. Illness and disability rates of older people substantially outstrip those of younger adults.[17](#), [18](#) This contrasts starkly with findings from high-income countries that show older age to be an increasingly unreliable predictor of greater morbidity or impaired function.[19](#) Yet, despite having worse health than younger age groups, older people in sub-Saharan Africa have been observed to use health services substantially less than younger people do.[17](#), [18](#) This disparity points to possible age-based inequalities in access to health care that need attention in addition to the widely considered axes of inequities in health (ie, economic status, sex, ethnic origin, or rural or urban residence).

Barriers to health care faced by older African people include absence of an escort or high costs of transport to health providers, and private sector fees for medicines or treatment.[18](#), [20](#) Older patients use commercial providers because of the unavailability, perceived poor quality, or age insensitivity of services in government facilities.[18](#) These providers, in a bid to achieve the health Millennium Development Goals, typically remain focused on services for infectious diseases, children, and reproductive age adults.[18](#), [20](#) The supply-side difficulties are exacerbated by important demand-side factors. Such obstacles include resource allocation norms within poor families, which can prioritise the needs of the young at the expense of the old, and older adults' often little appreciation of the value of, or need for, management of asymptomatic chronic disease.[18](#), [20](#)

In view of the direct importance of older African people's physical and mental health for the achievement of core development goals, their burden of ill health and likely inequitable access to necessary care provide compelling economic and social grounds for action. These needs should be incorporated into emergent frameworks for attainment of universal health coverage in sub-Saharan Africa in the form of a commitment to maintenance of health and function across the entire life course. Essential action on non-communicable diseases, in particular, will need to extend beyond a focus on prevention of early mortality from key diseases to include provision of chronic care for key non-fatal disorders that affect the function of older populations. However, such a commitment will need to be accompanied by concerted evidence generation if it is to be converted into practice. Such research will need to: better define health needs and care gaps for older Africans; identify feasible and effective models for adaptation of health systems in sub-Saharan Africa; and persuade decision makers to invest in these models. Longitudinal studies such as the WHO Study on Adult Health and Ageing or [10/66 dementia research](#) are starting to improve understanding of priority intervention needs in a small number of sub-Saharan African countries. However, further social and epidemiological investigations are needed in these and other national contexts. These studies will need to be complemented by assessments of effectiveness of the few existing health financing, human resource, essential

medicine or technology, and service delivery approaches targeted at older people in sub-Saharan Africa, and by design and testing of new models.

Lastly, national evidence on possible age-based health inequities and economic effects of ill health in the older population is needed to help garner political will for action. Such information could be generated—as part of the called-for data revolution for the post-Millennium Development Goals agenda—through systematic expansions to sampling, data collection, or analysis protocols of routine surveys, such as Demographic and Health Surveys, regularly undertaken by countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The fact that developing-country governments have launched a joint Commission on Ageing in Developing Countries bodes well. This Commission should help promote the necessary research and operationalisation of emerging findings by policy makers and external drivers of health-system development in sub-Saharan Africa.

We declare no competing interests.

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Olukoya, P. Ghana country assessment report on ageing and health. World Health Organization, Geneva; 2014

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## *Articles*

### **[A population-based, multifaceted strategy to implement antenatal corticosteroid treatment versus standard care for the reduction of neonatal mortality due to preterm birth in low-income and middle-income countries: the ACT cluster-randomised trial](#)**

Dr Fernando Althabe, MD, José M Belizán, MD, Elizabeth M McClure, PhD, Jennifer Hemingway-Foday, MPH, Mabel Berrueta, MD, Agustina Mazzoni, MD, Alvaro Ciganda, BIT, Prof Shivaprasad S Goudar, MD, Prof Bhalachandra S Kodkany, MD, Prof Niranjana S Mahantshetti, MD, Prof Sangappa M Dhaded, DM, Geetanjali M Katageri, MD, Prof Mrityunjay C Metgud, MD, Anjali M



Joshi, BAMS, Prof Mrutyunjaya B Bellad, MD, Narayan V Honnungar, MBBS, Prof Richard J Derman, MD, Sarah Saleem, MBBS, Omrana Pasha, MD, Sumera Ali, MD, Farid Hasnain, PhD, Prof Robert L Goldenberg, MD, Fabian Esamai, MBChB, Paul Nyongesa, MD, Silas Ayunga, MD, Edward A Liechty, MD, Ana L Garces, MD, Lester Figueroa, MD, Prof K Michael Hambidge, MD, Nancy F Krebs, MD, Prof Archana Patel, MD, Anjali Bhandarkar, MD, Manjushri Waikar, MD, Prof Patricia L Hibberd, MD, Prof Elwyn Chomba, MD, Prof Waldemar A Carlo, MD, Angel Mwiche, MD, Melody Chiwila, RN, Albert Manasyan, MD, Sayury Pineda, MD, Sreelatha Meleth, PhD, Vanessa Thorsten, MPH, Kristen Stolka, MPH, Dennis D Wallace, PhD, Marion Koso-Thomas, MD, Prof Alan H Jobe, MD, Prof Pierre M Buekens, MD

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## *Summary*

### Background

Antenatal corticosteroids for pregnant women at risk of preterm birth are among the most effective hospital-based interventions to reduce neonatal mortality. We aimed to assess the feasibility, effectiveness, and safety of a multifaceted intervention designed to increase the use of antenatal corticosteroids at all levels of health care in low-income and middle-income countries.

### Methods

In this 18-month, cluster-randomised trial, we randomly assigned (1:1) rural and semi-urban clusters within six countries (Argentina, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Pakistan, and Zambia) to standard care or a multifaceted intervention including components to improve identification of women at risk of preterm birth and to facilitate appropriate use of antenatal corticosteroids. The primary outcome was 28-day neonatal mortality among infants less than the 5th percentile for birthweight (a proxy for preterm birth) across the clusters. Use of antenatal corticosteroids and suspected maternal infection were additional main outcomes. This trial is registered with [ClinicalTrials.gov](http://ClinicalTrials.gov), number [NCT01084096](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT01084096).

### Findings

The ACT trial took place between October, 2011, and March, 2014 (start dates varied by site). 51 intervention clusters with 47 394 livebirths (2520 [5%] less than 5th percentile for birthweight) and 50 control clusters with 50 743 livebirths (2258 [4%] less than 5th percentile) completed follow-up. 1052 (45%) of 2327 women in intervention clusters who delivered less-than-5th-percentile infants received antenatal corticosteroids, compared with 215 (10%) of 2062 in control clusters ( $p<0\cdot0001$ ). Among the less-than-5th-percentile infants, 28-day neonatal mortality was 225 per 1000 livebirths for the intervention group and 232 per 1000 livebirths for the control group (relative risk [RR] 0·96, 95% CI 0·87–1·06,  $p=0\cdot65$ ) and suspected maternal infection was reported in 236 (10%) of 2361 women in the intervention group and 133 (6%) of 2094 in the control group (odds ratio [OR] 1·67, 1·33–2·09,  $p<0\cdot0001$ ). Among the whole population, 28-day neonatal mortality was 27·4 per 1000 livebirths for the intervention group and 23·9 per 1000 livebirths for the control group (RR 1·12, 1·02–1·22,  $p=0\cdot0127$ ) and suspected maternal infection was reported in 1207 (3%) of 48 219 women in the intervention group and 867 (2%) of 51 523 in the control group (OR 1·45, 1·33–1·58,  $p<0\cdot0001$ ).

### Interpretation

Despite increased use of antenatal corticosteroids in low-birthweight infants in the intervention groups, neonatal mortality did not decrease in this group, and increased in the population overall. For every 1000 women exposed to this strategy, an excess of 3·5 neonatal deaths occurred, and the risk of maternal infection seems to have been increased.



## Funding

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

## ***Series***

### **Subjective wellbeing, health, and ageing**

Prof Andrew Steptoe, DPhil, Prof Angus Deaton, PhD, Prof Arthur A Stone, PhD

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#### *Summary*

Subjective wellbeing and health are closely linked to age. Three aspects of subjective wellbeing can be distinguished—evaluative wellbeing (or life satisfaction), hedonic wellbeing (feelings of happiness, sadness, anger, stress, and pain), and eudemonic wellbeing (sense of purpose and meaning in life). We review recent advances in the specialty of psychological wellbeing, and present new analyses about the pattern of wellbeing across ages and the association between wellbeing and survival at older ages. The Gallup World Poll, a continuing survey in more than 160 countries, shows a U-shaped relation between evaluative wellbeing and age in high-income, English speaking countries, with the lowest levels of wellbeing in ages 45–54 years. But this pattern is not universal. For example, respondents from the former Soviet Union and eastern Europe show a large progressive reduction in wellbeing with age, respondents from Latin America also shows decreased wellbeing with age, whereas wellbeing in sub-Saharan Africa shows little change with age. The relation between physical health and subjective wellbeing is bidirectional. Older people with illnesses such as coronary heart disease, arthritis, and chronic lung disease show both increased levels of depressed mood and impaired hedonic and eudemonic wellbeing. Wellbeing might also have a protective role in health maintenance. In an analysis of the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing, we identify that eudemonic wellbeing is associated with increased survival; 29·3% of people in the lowest wellbeing quartile died during the average follow-up period of 8·5 years compared with 9·3% of those in the highest quartile. Associations were independent of age, sex, demographic factors, and baseline mental and physical health. We conclude that the wellbeing of elderly people is an important objective for both economic and health policy. Present psychological and economic theories do not adequately account for the variations in patterns of wellbeing with age across different parts of the world. The apparent association between wellbeing and survival is consistent with a protective role of high wellbeing, but alternative explanations cannot be ruled out at this stage.

## ***Series***

### **Macroeconomic implications of population ageing and selected policy responses**

Prof David E Bloom, PhD, Somnath Chatterji, MD, Paul Kowal, PharmD, Peter Lloyd-Sherlock, PhD, Prof Martin McKee, DSc, Bernd Rechel, PhD, Larry Rosenberg, MPA, James P Smith, PhD

Published Online: 05 November 2014

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#### *Summary*

Between now and 2030, every country will experience population ageing—a trend that is both pronounced and historically unprecedented. Over the past six decades, countries of the world had experienced only a slight increase in the share of people aged 60 years and older, from 8% to 10%. But in the next four decades, this group is expected to rise to 22% of the total population—a jump from 800 million to 2 billion people. Evidence suggests that cohorts entering older age now are healthier than previous ones. However, progress has been very uneven, as indicated by the wide gaps in population health (measured by life expectancy) between the worst (Sierra Leone) and best (Japan) performing countries, now standing at a difference of 36

years for life expectancy at birth and 15 years for life expectancy at age 60 years. Population ageing poses challenges for countries' economies, and the health of older populations is of concern. Older people have greater health and long-term care needs than younger people, leading to increased expenditure. They are also less likely to work if they are unhealthy, and could impose an economic burden on families and society. Like everyone else, older people need both physical and economic security, but the burden of providing these securities will be falling on a smaller portion of the population. Pension systems will be stressed and will need reassessment along with retirement policies. Health systems, which have not in the past been oriented toward the myriad health problems and long-term care needs of older people and have not sufficiently emphasised disease prevention, can respond in different ways to the new demographic reality and the associated changes in population health. Along with behavioural adaptations by individuals and businesses, the nature of such policy responses will establish whether population ageing will lead to major macroeconomic difficulties.

### **The Lancet Global Health**

Feb 2015 Volume 3 Number 2 e62-e112

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **The Lancet Infectious Diseases**

Feb 2015 Volume 15 Number 2 p131-248

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Maternal and Child Health Journal**

Volume 19, Issue 2, February 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10995/19/1/page/1>

*Special Issue : MCH Leadership*

*[19 articles focused around MCH leadership themes]*

[Reviewed earlier]

### **The Milbank Quarterly**

*A Multidisciplinary Journal of Population Health and Health Policy*

December 2014 Volume 92, Issue 4 Pages 633–840

[http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1468-0009/currentissue](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1468-0009/currentissue)

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Nature**

Volume 518 Number 7537 pp5-132 5 February 2015

[http://www.nature.com/nature/current\\_issue.html](http://www.nature.com/nature/current_issue.html)

[New issue; No relevant content]

### **New England Journal of Medicine**

February 12, 2015 Vol. 372 No. 7

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

[New issue; No relevant content]

### **Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly**

February 2015; 44 (1)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration**

Volume 4, No. 2 December 2014

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Pediatrics**

February 2015, VOLUME 135 / ISSUE 2

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/current.shtml>

[Reviewed earlier]

### **PLOS Currents: Disasters**

[Accessed 14 February 2015]

<http://currents.plos.org/disasters/>

[No new relevant content]

### **PLoS Currents: Outbreaks**

<http://currents.plos.org/outbreaks/>

(Accessed 14 February 2015)

#### **[Temporal Changes in Ebola Transmission in Sierra Leone and Implications for Control Requirements: a Real-time Modelling Study](#)**

February 10, 2015 · [Research](#)

**Background:** Between August and November 2014, the incidence of Ebola virus disease (EVD) rose dramatically in several districts of Sierra Leone. As a result, the number of cases exceeded the capacity of Ebola holding and treatment centres. During December, additional beds were introduced, and incidence declined in many areas. We aimed to measure patterns of transmission in different regions, and evaluate whether bed capacity is now sufficient to meet future demand.

**Methods:** We used a mathematical model of EVD infection to estimate how the extent of transmission in the nine worst affected districts of Sierra Leone changed between 10th August 2014 and 18th January 2015. Using the model, we forecast the number of cases that could occur until the end of March 2015, and compared bed requirements with expected future capacity.

Results: We found that the reproduction number,  $R$ , defined as the average number of secondary cases generated by a typical infectious individual, declined between August and December in all districts. We estimated that  $R$  was near the crucial control threshold value of 1 in December. We further estimated that bed capacity has lagged behind demand between August and December for most districts, but as a consequence of the decline in transmission, control measures caught up with the epidemic in early 2015.

Conclusions: EVD incidence has exhibited substantial temporal and geographical variation in Sierra Leone, but our results suggest that the epidemic may have now peaked in Sierra Leone, and that current bed capacity appears to be sufficient to keep the epidemic under-control in most districts.

### **Estimating Drivers of Autochthonous Transmission of Chikungunya Virus in its Invasion of the Americas**

February 10, 2015 · [Research](#)

#### **Background**

Chikungunya is an emerging arbovirus that has caused explosive outbreaks in Africa and Asia for decades and invaded the Americas just over a year ago. During this ongoing invasion, it has spread to 45 countries where it has been transmitted autochthonously, infecting nearly 1.3 million people in total.

#### **Methods**

Here, we made use of weekly, country-level case reports to infer relationships between transmission and two putative climatic drivers: temperature and precipitation averaged across each country on a monthly basis. To do so, we used a TSIR model that enabled us to infer a parametric relationship between climatic drivers and transmission potential, and we applied a new method for incorporating a probabilistic description of the serial interval distribution into the TSIR framework.

#### **Results**

We found significant relationships between transmission and linear and quadratic terms for temperature and precipitation and a linear term for log incidence during the previous pathogen generation. The lattermost suggests that case numbers three to four weeks ago are largely predictive of current case numbers. This effect is quite nonlinear at the country level, however, due to an estimated mixing parameter of 0.74. Relationships between transmission and the climatic variables that we estimated were biologically plausible and in line with expectations.

#### **Conclusions**

Our analysis suggests that autochthonous transmission of Chikungunya in the Americas can be correlated successfully with putative climatic drivers, even at the coarse scale of countries and using long-term average climate data. Overall, this provides a preliminary suggestion that successfully forecasting the future trajectory of a Chikungunya outbreak and the receptivity of virgin areas may be possible. Our results also provide tentative estimates of timeframes and areas of greatest risk, and our extension of the TSIR model provides a novel tool for modeling vector-borne disease transmission.

### **High-resolution Genomic Surveillance of 2014 Ebolavirus Using Shared Subclonal Variants**

February 9, 2015 · [Research](#)

Background: Viral outbreaks, such as the 2014 ebolavirus, can spread rapidly and have complex evolutionary dynamics, including coinfection and bulk transmission of multiple viral populations. Genomic surveillance can be hindered when the spread of the outbreak exceeds the evolutionary rate, in which case consensus approaches will have limited resolution. Deep sequencing of infected patients can identify genomic variants present in intrahost populations at

subclonal frequencies (i.e. <50%). Shared subclonal variants (SSVs) can provide additional phylogenetic resolution and inform about disease transmission patterns.

Methods: We use metrics from population genetics to analyze data from the 2014 ebolavirus outbreak in Sierra Leone and identify phylogenetic signal arising from SSVs. We use methods derived from information theory to measure a lower bound on transmission bottleneck size.

Results and Conclusions: We identify several SSV that shed light on phylogenetic relationships not captured by consensus-based analyses. We find that transmission bottleneck size is larger than one founder population, yet significantly smaller than the intrahost effective population. Our results demonstrate the important role of shared subclonal variants in genomic surveillance.

## **PLoS Medicine**

(Accessed 14 February 2015)

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

[No new relevant content]

## **PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases**

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

(Accessed 14 February 2015)

*Viewpoints*

### **[The Newest “Omics”—Metagenomics and Metabolomics—Enter the Battle against the Neglected Tropical Diseases](#)**

Geoffrey A. Preidis ,

Affiliation: Section of Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition, Department of Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children’s Hospital, Houston, Texas, United States of America

Peter J. Hotez

Affiliations: National School of Tropical Medicine, Department of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology & Microbiology, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, United States of America, Sabin Vaccine Institute and Texas Children’s Hospital Center for Vaccine Development, Houston, Texas, United States of America, James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy, Rice University, Houston, Texas, United States of America, Department of Biology, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, United States of America

Published: February 12, 2015

DOI: 10.1371/journal.pntd.0003382

#### *Introduction*

The international Human Microbiome Project [1,2] trumpeted the coming of age of the field of metagenomics, the study of entire communities of microbes and their contributions to health and disease. Metagenomic analyses are most often undertaken by sequencing the bacterial 16S ribosomal RNA (rRNA) subunit or by whole metagenome shotgun sequencing, typically on a massively parallel pyrosequencing platform. These technologies have expanded the scope of traditional culture-dependent microbiological methods and have enhanced our understanding of the rich microbial communities that inhabit the intestine, skin, oral cavity, and genitourinary tract and how these commensal microbes interact with both pathogen and host.

In parallel, the field of metabolomics emerged as the systematic, nonbiased analysis of all low-molecular-weight small molecules, or metabolites, produced by a system in response to an environmental stimulus. Metabolites are secreted into body fluids by host and microbial cells,

measured by mass spectrometry–based approaches, and aligned against libraries of known biochemicals. These techniques have been used to gain insights into mechanisms of pathogenesis and to identify new biomarkers of disease. Metabolomics also offers clues to the presence and function of microbes living deep within the small bowel that are difficult to sample directly and highlights the complex relationship between resident microbes, host metabolism, pharmacotherapeutic action, and relative health or disease.

Metagenomics and metabolomics are the two most rapidly advancing “omics” technologies and lie at either end of the “omics cascade” [3]; the former identifies the genetic potential of a community, whereas the latter reports the actual biology that produces a phenotype. These fields have enabled discoveries pertinent to a number of human conditions—namely, acute gastroenteritis, antibiotic-associated diarrhea, inflammatory bowel disease, irritable bowel syndrome, liver disease, undernutrition, and obesity—and have begun to shed new light on multiple aspects of the neglected tropical diseases. Moreover, there are exciting opportunities to now pair metagenomic and metabolomic data in order to gain new and unprecedented insights into the host–parasite relationship. Here, we explore the nascent metagenomic and metabolomic contributions to the diagnosis, pathogenesis, treatment, and prevention (including vector control) of neglected tropical diseases. We then look ahead to the full potential of the postgenomics era and consider how metagenomics and metabolomics could help in the control and elimination of these diseases...

### **PLoS One**

[Accessed 14 February 2015]

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

[No new relevant content]

### **PLoS Pathogens**

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

(Accessed 14 February 2015)

[No new relevant content]

### **PNAS - Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America**

(Accessed 14 February 2015)

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/>

[No new relevant content]

### **Prehospital & Disaster Medicine**

Volume 30 - Issue 01 - February 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **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>

*Special Issue: Responses to Treatment*

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Refugee Survey Quarterly**

Volume 33 Issue 4 December 2014

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Resilience: International Policies, Practices and Discourses**

Volume 2, Issue 3, 2014

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/resi20/current#.VF7VUsI4WF9>

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Revista Panamericana de Salud Pública/Pan American Journal of Public Health (RPSP/PAJPH)**

September 2014 Vol. 36, No. 3

[http://www.paho.org/journal/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=151&Itemid=266&lang=en](http://www.paho.org/journal/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=151&Itemid=266&lang=en)

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Risk Analysis**

December 2014 Volume 34, Issue 12 Pages 2063–2188

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Science**

13 February 2015 vol 347, issue 6223, pages 689-800

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

*In Depth*

*Infectious Diseases*

#### **Ebola drug trials lurch ahead**

Kai Kupferschmidt, Jon Cohen

News leaked last week that the drug favipiravir worked in some Ebola patients, but even researchers running the study in Guinea said questions remain about its efficacy. Interpreting the data is difficult because there is no control arm that treated patients can be compared with.

This is just one of several confusing twists in the search for a treatment that can stave off death and disease from Ebola virus. Chimerix, the maker of an antiviral called brincidofovir, surprised investigators in Liberia when it suddenly ended a study of its drug after discussions with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Chimerix noted that the study was having trouble enrolling patients because Liberia has seen a steep drop in cases, but the researchers running it said they had hoped to expand the trial to Sierra Leone, where most new infections are happening. Liberia is also beginning another trial with ZMapp, a cocktail of Ebola antibodies, and study leaders are having difficulty convincing Sierra Leone and Guinea to join because the study uses a placebo control. Finally, a trial of convalescent serum taken from recovered patients is getting under way in Guinea, but there are now questions about whether it should be compared with favipiravir as a control.

*Policy Forum*

*Health Care Policy*

### **Randomize evaluations to improve health care delivery**

Amy Finkelstein<sup>1,2,3,\*</sup>, Sarah Taubman<sup>2</sup>

Author Affiliations

<sup>1</sup>Department of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA.

<sup>2</sup>J-PAL North America, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA.

<sup>3</sup>National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA.

The medical profession has long recognized the importance of randomized evaluations; such designs are commonly used to evaluate the safety and efficacy of medical innovations such as drugs and devices. Unfortunately, innovations in how health care is delivered (e.g., health insurance structures, interventions to encourage the use of appropriate care, and care coordination approaches) are rarely evaluated using randomization. We consider barriers to conducting randomized trials in this setting and suggest ways for overcoming them. Randomized evaluations of fundamental issues in health care policy and delivery should be—and can be—closer to the norm than the exception.

### **Social Science & Medicine**

Volume 126, In Progress (February 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Stability: International Journal of Security & Development**

[accessed 14 February 2015]

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

[No new relevant content]

### **Sustainability**

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

<http://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/7/1>

[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](https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/tmh/42/4/_contents)

[No relevant content]

**Tropical Medicine & International Health**

March 2015 Volume 20, Issue 3 Pages 251–406

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**UN Chronicle**

Vol. LI No. 3 2014 December 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>

[Reviewed earlier]

**World Heritage Review**

n°74 - January 2015

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/review/74/>

***World Heritage: Fostering resilience******In focus***

:: Fostering resilience: Towards reducing disaster risks to World Heritage, p. 4  
World Heritage sites are exposed to a wide variety of natural and human-induced hazards, such as earthquakes, cyclones or fires, which can have devastating effects on their value as well as on the lives and assets of the communities concerned.

:: Post-disaster reconstruction: Xijie historic quarter in Dujiangyan, Sichuan province, p. 16  
The reconstruction project combined the objectives of heritage conservation, post-disaster reconstruction and social equity through broad community participation and close cooperation among concerned government agencies, stateowned enterprises, local residents and universities.

:: Building resilience at iSimangaliso Wetland Park, p. 22  
iSimangaliso has built ecological and social resilience, dealing with risks to the site, and is

implementing a broad-based strategy that will mitigate the social and ecological stressors associated with predicted environmental change.

:: Post-disaster heritage initiative in Pakistan, p. 28

The post-disaster development programmes undertaken by the Heritage Foundation of Pakistan are designed to nurture traditional and creative skills, particularly of women in marginalized sections of society.

:: The 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, p. 38

The 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which will take place in Sendai (Japan) from 14 to 18 March 2015, is the most important intergovernmental gathering on disaster risks in ten years. The conference is expected to adopt the post-2015 international policy on Disaster Risk Reduction...

### **Yale Human Rights & Development Law Journal**

Volume XIV, Issue 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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