

The Sentinel

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

14 March 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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A highly selective capture of strategic developments, research, commentary, analysis and 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.

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Editor's Note:

The unhappy anniversary of the Syrian conflict grounded a number of statements as well as new analysis of the associated humanitarian crisis. We selected a composite presented below. Additional commentary by agencies, NGOs and in the literature is available throughout this edition.

Joint statement – As Syria conflict enters a fifth year, what does it take to end the crisis and end the suffering?

NEW YORK/GENEVA/ROME/AMMAN, 13 March 2015 - "The appalling crisis in Syria is entering a fifth year. A crisis that continues to exact an unconscionable human cost. A crisis that the international community has failed to stop.

"More than 200,000 people have been killed. Children and young people are subject to and surrounded by violence, despair and deprivation. Women and girls, and men and boys in detention, are at particular risk of sexual violence. More than 12.2 million people in Syria need life-saving aid and 3.9 million refugees have fled across borders seeking safety and security.

"We have expressed our horror, our outrage, our frustration as we have watched the tragedy unfold. As humanitarian leaders we are committed to continuing to do our best to help all those caught in the middle of this war. People who are vulnerable. Besieged. With nowhere to go.

"We need world leaders to put aside their differences and use their influence to bring about meaningful change in Syria: to press the parties to end indiscriminate attacks on civilians; to secure the lifting of sieges where more than 212,000 people have been trapped without food for months; to enable delivery of vital surgical and other medical supplies; to end the collective punishment of civilians by cutting off of water and power supplies; and to avoid the complete collapse of the education system.

"The people of Syria – and people around the world – want the suffering to end.

"We ask 'what does it take' to end this crisis? The future of a generation is at stake. The credibility of the international community is at stake."

- Valerie Amos, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs
- Zainab Hawa Bangura, Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict
- Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization
- Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director, World Food Programme
- Antonio Guterres, High Commissioner for Refugees
- Pierre Krähenbühl, Commissioner-General, UNRWA
- Anthony Lake, Executive Director, UNICEF
- Leila Zerrougui, Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict

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Refugees endure worsening conditions as Syria's conflict enters 5th year

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Press Releases, 12 March 2015

Geneva, 12 March 2015 – As the Syrian conflict enters its fifth year, millions of refugees in neighbouring countries and those displaced within the country are caught in alarmingly deteriorating conditions, facing an even bleaker future without more international support, UNHCR warned today.

With no political solution to the conflict in sight, most of the 3.9 million Syrian refugees in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt see no prospect of returning home in the near future, and have scant opportunity to restart their lives in exile. Well over half of all Syrian refugees in Lebanon live in insecure dwellings – up from a third last year – posing a constant challenge to keep them safe and warm. A survey of 40,000 Syrian families in Jordan's urban areas found that two-thirds were living below the absolute poverty line.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres reiterated that much, much more needed to be done to pull Syrians out of their nightmare of suffering. "After years in exile, refugees' savings are long depleted and growing numbers are resorting to begging, survival sex

and child labour. Middle-class families with children are barely surviving on the streets: one father said life as a refugee was like being stuck in quicksand – every time you move, you sink down further," he said.

"This worst humanitarian crisis of our era should be galvanizing a global outcry of support, but instead help is dwindling. With humanitarian appeals systematically underfunded, there just isn't enough aid to meet the colossal needs – nor enough development support to the hosting countries creaking under the strain of so many refugees," Guterres added. He pointed out that with the massive influx of Syrian refugees over the past four years, Turkey had now become the world's biggest refugee hosting country and had spent over US\$ 6 billion on direct assistance to refugees...

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12 March 2015

SG/SM/16588

International Community Must Not Shirk from Collective Responsibility to Syria, Secretary-General Warns, Urging Support for Syrian-Led Political Transition

Secretary-General

The following statement by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was issued today:

The Syrian people feel increasingly abandoned by the world as they enter the fifth year of the war that has torn their country apart. They and their neighbours continue to suffer under the eyes of an international community, still divided and incapable of taking collective action to stop the killing and destruction.

In March 2011, thousands of Syrian civilians went to the streets peacefully calling for political reform. This legitimate demand was met with a violent response from the Syrian authorities.

Over time, civilians took up arms in response, regional Powers became involved, and radical groups gained a foothold.

Today over 220,000 Syrians have been killed. Almost half of the country's men, women and children have been forced to flee their homes. More than 4 million people have sought refuge in neighbouring countries, while a further 7.6 million are displaced within Syria. Every day brings more death, displacement and destruction, raising the fearsome prospect of the total collapse of this country and even more serious consequences in the region.

While global attention is rightfully focused on the threat to regional and international peace and security, which terrorist groups such as Da'esh pose, our focus must continue to be with the Syrian people. Bringing the deadly Syrian conflict to an end is imperative if we are to extinguish the fires of violent extremism and sectarianism that burn throughout the entire region.

The United Nations continues to provide daily life-saving assistance to the Syrian people. In Aleppo, Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura is tirelessly working to bring about a suspension on the use of heavy weapons so that the United Nations can deliver additional humanitarian assistance to the city's beleaguered population. Later this month, I will chair an International Pledging Conference in Kuwait to raise funds to help the Syrian people and countries throughout the region that are bearing the heavy burden of hosting millions of Syrian refugees. I hope that the response at the conference will be extremely generous. I thank the Government of Kuwait for hosting the event for the third time.

Humanitarian assistance can only alleviate Syria's suffering, not stop the war. For this, a political solution to this senseless conflict is necessary. I call upon the international community to unite and lend its full support to United Nations efforts to forge an inclusive, Syrian-led political transition based on the Geneva Communiqué and which meets the aspirations of the Syrian people for freedom, dignity and justice. It is also incumbent upon the Syrian parties themselves, including especially President Bashar al-Assad, to take decisive steps to end the bloodshed and to start a political process. Governments or movements that aspire to legitimacy do not massacre their own people.

The lack of accountability in Syria has led to an exponential rise in war crimes, crimes against humanity and other human rights violations. Each day brings reports of fresh horrors: executions, widespread arbitrary arrests, abductions and disappearances, as well as systematic torture in detention; indiscriminate bombardment of civilian areas, including with barrel bombs; siege and starvation tactics; use of chemical weapons, and atrocities committed by Da'esh and other extremist groups.

We have an obligation to the Syrian people to help ensure that serious crimes committed over the past four years do not go unpunished. The Security Council has in the past shown its ability to act against the use of chemical weapons in Syria and to compel the delivery of humanitarian assistance to vulnerable Syrians. I call upon the Security Council to take determined measures to resolve this crisis and on the way forward.

Let us work together now to build a better future for the people of Syria and the region. We cannot shirk this collective responsibility.

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Report: [FAILING SYRIA – ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS IN PROTECTING AND ASSISTING CIVILIANS IN SYRIA](#)

Written by Martin Hartberg, with Dominic Bowen and Daniel Gorevan, Camilla Jelbart Mosse, David Andres Vinas, Karl Schembri, Tiril Skarstein, Joelle Bassoul, Misty Buswell and Nina Nepesova assisted in its production.

March 2015 :: 30 pages [Download Report](#)

Agency Sponsors

ACTED

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American Friends Service Committee

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Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect

Hand in Hand For Syria

Handicap International

Human Rights and Democracy Media Center (SHAMS)

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Norwegian Church Aid

Norwegian Refugee Council

NuDay Syria

Oxfam
Pax Christi International
Save the Children
Syria Relief Network
Syrian American Medical Society
Tulip for Syria Relief
Un Ponte Per
World Vision International

Excerpt

CONCLUSION

It is over a year since UNSC Resolution 2139 was adopted, and four years since the start of the crisis. While subsequent resolutions have been passed by the UNSC, humanitarian access in Syria has decreased, and millions more people have been displaced and are in need of assistance. The number of people killed has risen by thousands.

The primary responsibility for the implementation of the resolutions, and the failure to do so, lies with the parties to the conflict. The conflict itself, however, is increasingly international and regional in character and the members of the UNSC and member states of the United Nations must change tack.

The UNSC has the legal authority to require action, and now its members must use their influence with the warring parties and their financial resources to put an end to the suffering of Syrian civilians. They must listen to the silent majority of Syrians who wish to see an end to the violence, and a sustainable and just peace in their country.

Practical steps must be taken as a matter of urgency. Deliberate obstruction of aid must halt immediately, as must the use of indiscriminate weapons in built-up areas, the targeting of civilians, and their arbitrary detention, kidnapping and torture. The impunity which characterizes the conflict must be brought to an end. Real backing for the UN Peace Envoy's plans must be matched by a push to reconvene talks in line with the 2012 Geneva Communiqué, and redoubled efforts to end the violence engulfing the country and region.

Press Release

Aid Agencies Give UN Security Council a "Fail" Grade on Syria

21 Humanitarian and Human Rights Organizations Say Warring Parties and Powerful States Have Failed to Implement UNSC Resolutions Leading to "Worst Year" of Crisis for Civilians in Syria.

Washington, D.C. (March 12, 2015) — The agencies today released a scathing critique of the UN Security Council powers detailing how they have failed to alleviate the suffering of civilians in Syria amid intensifying conflict four years after the start of the crisis.

Despite three Security Council resolutions adopted in 2014 that demanded action to secure protection and assistance for civilians, humanitarian access to large parts of Syria has diminished and more people are being killed, displaced and are in need of help than ever before, according to the report "Failing Syria."...

In the hard-hitting report agencies present a score card that compares the demands made in the Security Council resolutions last year, with the reality on the ground. The grim statistics reveal how the resolutions have been ignored or undermined by the parties to the conflict,

members of the Security Council and other UN member states, leading to the worst year of the crisis for civilians:

:: People are not protected: 2014 has seen reports of 76,000 people killed in the conflict out of a total of at least 220,000 deaths over four years.

:: Aid access has not improved: 4.8 million people reside in areas defined by the UN as "hard to reach," 2.3 million more than in 2013.

:: Humanitarian needs have increased: 5.6 million children are in need of aid, a 31 percent increase since 2013.

:: Humanitarian funding has decreased compared to needs: In 2013, 71% of the funds needed to support civilians inside Syria and refugees in neighbouring countries were provided. In 2014, this had declined to 57%.

"The bitter reality is that the Security Council has failed to implement its resolutions. Last year was the darkest year yet in this horrific war. Parties to the conflict have acted with impunity and ignored the Security Council's demands, civilians are not protected and their access to relief has not improved," said Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council Jan Egeland...

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Report: [International and local/diaspora actors in the Syria response – A diverging set of systems?](#)

Overseas Development Institute - Humanitarian Policy Group - HPG Working Paper Eva Svoboda and Sara Pantuliano

March 2015 :: 31 pages ISBN: 978 1 909464 91 9

Pdf: <http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9523.pdf>

Executive Summary

The conflict in Syria – coming amid a slew of large-scale emergencies in the Central African Republic and South Sudan, alongside the Ebola crisis in West Africa – has posed particular challenges for humanitarian response in its scale and complexity. Five years since the first demonstrations against the government prospects for an end to the fighting seem as elusive as ever. As the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, put it in December 2014: 'In many parts of Syria the level of violence has worsened, with civilians continuing to pay heavily with loss of life, serious injuries, psychological trauma, ongoing and recurring displacement and massive damage to property and infrastructure'.¹

At the end of 2014 the UN launched its largest appeal yet, asking for \$8.4 billion to cover not only urgent humanitarian needs, but also funding for development projects. Securing that funding will be difficult: in 2014 the UN received only half of the amount it had requested from donors, and there is little to suggest that this latest appeal will fare much better.

The formal humanitarian system has struggled with issues of access and protection in a conflict marked by widespread and deliberate disregard for civilians. Violations include unlawful killings, arbitrary arrest and detention, hostage-taking, sexual and gender-based violence and sieges. While the responsibility to protect civilians rests primarily with the warring parties, the

belligerents' only aim seems to be to win the war at any cost. Although humanitarian organisations have a responsibility to remind the parties of their obligations and address the consequences of violations, information on protection is difficult to obtain and is neither centralised nor sufficiently analysed. Protection agencies are geographically separated and dispersed in different countries, and communication and coordination between them is weak.

The lack of physical presence of international aid agencies has shone a spotlight onto what is commonly called the 'local response': groups and organisations that do not belong to the formal or traditional humanitarian sector of the UN, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and international NGOs. This is a diverse category, comprising professional bodies (often medical groups) that existed prior to the conflict, charities, networks of anti-government and community activists, diaspora organisations, coordination networks and fighting groups that also provide relief. These groups have almost inadvertently filled the gap left by the limited international presence, providing both assistance and protection – even if the majority of these groups neither see themselves as protection actors nor use the term.

According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), around 600 to 700 'local' groups have been created since the start of the conflict. Much of their work is not necessarily captured by any coordination mechanism within the formal humanitarian sector, and yet they are playing a vital role in responding to needs that would only be met inadequately or not at all. Challenges in accessing populations in need by the formal humanitarian system have made partnerships an essential tool in the Syria response. However, the conflict has confirmed what others have shown before: that the formal humanitarian sector finds it extremely difficult to establish genuine, inclusive partnerships.² Instead, local/diaspora groups are often seen as mere service providers, rather than genuine counterparts. Making genuine partnerships work will require flexibility and adaptability from traditional donors and international aid agencies. This does not mean doing away with all procedures and standards, but rather adapting them as far as possible to the realities on the ground.

There is an assumption that the challenges faced by the formal humanitarian system are fundamentally different from those faced by local/diaspora groups. Yet access, insecurity, funding and the effects of counter-terrorism legislation are issues that all aid agencies are grappling with. Focusing on differences rather than recognising similarities encourages the belief that local and international aid agencies cannot work together, and discourages them from exploring how they could. As needs in Syria far outweigh what each individual organisation can do, it is time to explore how forces can be combined, while also recognising that there will be instances where international aid agencies and local/diaspora groups will operate separately.

1 See

<https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/15%20December%202014%20USG%20SecCo%20statement%20on%20Syria.pdf>

2 See <https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/WHS%20Concept%20Note.pdf>.

[Syrian community provides aid where UN struggles to reach - new report](#)

ODI Press Release - 13th March, 2015

Syrian community provides aid where UN struggles to reach - new report

As the Syria conflict enters its fifth year, the growth of 600-700 diaspora and local aid groups has 'filled the gap' left by the limited presence of struggling international aid agencies, providing both assistance and protection to Syrians says a new report launched today by UK-based think

tank the Overseas Development Institute (ODI).

With funds to the aid response totalling approximately US \$4.8 billion since the conflict began, Syria is the biggest humanitarian crisis in the world. But these local groups struggle from a lack of money, and inflexible systems which make it hard for donors to fund them directly – despite having access to beleaguered populations.

“Armed groups in Syria are often more willing to negotiate access with local and diaspora groups than international aid agencies as they share personal and tribal contacts and often come from the same communities,” said Eva Svoboda, researcher from the ODI’s Humanitarian Policy Group and author of the report ‘International and local/diaspora actors in the Syria response’...

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Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Sendai, Japan

14-18 March 2015

Selected Press Releases

[Japan launches US\\$4 billion Sendai Cooperation Initiative as Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction opens](#)

14 March 2015, SENDAI – The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Shinzo Abe, today pledged \$US 4 billion to support implementation of the “Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction” over the next four years.

Speaking at the opening of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Mr. Abe said: “Disaster risk reduction is the most important challenge for both developed and developing countries. For developing countries in particular, where 90% of disaster victims are concentrated.”

The package will focus on the development of disaster-proof infrastructure, the promotion of global and regional cooperation and the training of 40,000 government officials and local leaders to play a leading role in national efforts for disaster risk reduction. Japan will make its expertise and knowledge available...

[UN Secretary-General calls for massive investment in disaster risk reduction](#)

14 Mar 2015

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Disaster Risk and Age Index

HelpAge International

March 2015 :: 28 pages pdf:

<https://helpage.app.box.com/s/tvysbv0xtp6178ay07xzo9whhlbh0j10/1/3205761453/27057739673/1>

Written by Clare Harris and Aleksandr Mihnovits; Edited by Sarah Graham-Brown

Foreward

It is a sign of the world’s resilience that in 2014 approximately 868 million people or nearly 12 per cent of the world’s population are over the age of 60. By 2050 – just over a generation away – there will be 2 billion people over 60, nearly as many as children under 15.

Older people are a precious resource with much to contribute by way of life experience and understanding of risk but they are often left out of key decision making in disaster risk reduction. UNISDR has been working with HelpAge International and other partners to ensure that older people are included in disaster risk reduction work and that the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction is explicit about their needs and how they can become more involved at community level.

The importance of this is self-evident from the publication...of the *Disaster Risk and Age Index* which captures the collision of two trends: ageing populations and the acceleration of risk in a world which is increasingly exposed to natural and technological hazards.

This report helps to measure and assess countries' progress in supporting older populations in respect of disaster risk, highlighting gaps in international and national data sets and pointing to appropriate policies. It demonstrates clearly how leaving out older people in approaches to development, including disaster risk management planning, can lead to bad outcomes for them in disasters. Such planning must take into account the vulnerabilities as well as the capacities of the older generation. Otherwise they will be disproportionately affected by disasters, as we have seen happen all too often in high- and low-income countries.

This pilot index provides feedback to countries and policy makers on how they are doing globally, and, of equal importance, the data demonstrates the changes needed to improve the disaster resilience of older people, from education and social pensions to age-inclusive disaster risk management. Proactive initiatives on sex- and age-disaggregated data should be applauded, demonstrating what is possible currently, and also highlighting where we need to build and systematise the collection of sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data as a priority for disaster risk reduction.

Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction

[Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction Sendai, Japan 14 – 18 March 2015, launch of the first Disaster Risk and Age Index](#)

Press Release: 11 March 2015

This week, HelpAge International is launching the first Disaster Risk and Age Index, ranking 190 countries across the world on the disaster risk faced by older people, at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai...

...The report has an in-depth focus on the South and East Asia area, as this is the region demonstrating some of the highest disaster and climate change related risks coupled with the fastest ageing populations. For example in Vietnam, there will be a 61.4% increase in the proportion of older people aged 60+, between 2010 and 2030.

Already, 66% of the world's over 60s live in less developed regions and by 2050 this is projected to rise to 79%. The world's population of older people is expected to rise to 2.02 billion by 2050.[2]

"It is a sign of resilience that there will be this many older people in the world by 2050. But it is the unprecedented rate at which populations are ageing, alongside the increasing frequency of disasters, that presents policy makers with a challenge," said Toby Porter, Chief Executive for HelpAge International.

"We need to collect data disaggregated by sex, age and disability to demonstrate the impact of disasters on older people. This will help us to develop appropriate strategies in order to save lives," said Porter...

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Addressing Dementia – The OECD Response

OECD Health Policy Studies

March 13, 2015 :: 126 pages

Online version: http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/social-issues-migration-health/addressing-dementia_9789264231726-en#page1

The large and growing human and financial cost of dementia provides an imperative for policy action. It is already the second largest cause of disability for the over-70s and it costs \$645bn per year globally, and ageing populations mean that these costs will grow. There is no cure or effective treatment for dementia, and too often people do not get appropriate health and care services, leading to a poor quality of life. Our failure to tackle these issues provides a compelling illustration of some of today's most pressing policy challenges. We need to rethink our research and innovation model, since progress on dementia has stalled and investment is just a fraction of what it is for other diseases of similar importance and profile. But even then a cure will be decades away, so we need better policies to improve the lives of people living with dementia now. Communities need to adjust to become more accommodating of people with dementia and families who provide informal care must be better supported. Formal care services and care institutions need to promote dignity and independence, while coordination of health and care services must be improved. But there is hope: if we can harness big data we may be able to address the gaps in our knowledge around treatment and care.

Better dementia care and a future cure require action today, says OECD

Press Release 13/03/2015 - The current policy approach to tackling dementia is socially and economically unsustainable, according to a new OECD report. Countries need to take action now to improve the lives of people living with dementia and their carers, prioritise public research on dementia, and improve the incentives for private investment in dementia innovation.

Addressing Dementia: The OECD Response says that the human and financial costs of this incurable disease are huge. Nearly 50 million people are living with dementia worldwide, costing societies over half a trillion US dollars each year, roughly equal to the GDP of Switzerland.

With people living longer, more people are becoming dependent on others for support in living with dementia. But a family carer or a friend looking after a person with dementia is 20% more likely to have mental health problems and more likely to be out of work. Counselling, respite care and flexible work arrangements needs to be strengthened. Low pay, poor working conditions and the poor image of long-term care work must be tackled if professional care is to improve.

Progress in developing a cure for dementia has stalled as the complexity of dementia means that the risk of failure is too high and the rewards for success uncertain, says the report.

More and better basic research to improve understanding of the disease, together with stronger collaboration and a suitably adapted regulatory process, can reduce the risks and increase private sector investment. Increased public funding, including a global research fund, and public-private shared funding mechanisms can also leverage more investment.

There are major opportunities in sharing research data on dementia and in strengthening cooperation across existing data resources, but there needs to be a major shift in the research culture and incentives for collaboration. The OECD is making progress in bringing together key global players in dementia research, helping advance understanding of the causes of dementia.

The OECD also recommends that countries:

- :: continue to prioritise timely diagnosis;
- :: implement models of care that promote greater control and social interaction;
- :: improve access to palliative care outside of hospital, so that more people with dementia can die with dignity in a place of their choosing;
- :: address the important ethical questions surrounding the involvement of people with pre-symptomatic dementia in clinical trials; and
- :: establish new models of consent that address privacy concerns.

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Humanitarian Agencies Join Forces with Private Sector to Improve Electronic Cash Transfers in Aid Response

March 11, 2015

Mercy Corps to lead network that will share knowledge and best practices for e-transfer implementation

Portland, Ore – Leaders in the humanitarian, financial services, and technology sectors have joined forces in a newly launched effort, the Electronic Cash Transfer Learning Action Network. Founded and led by the global humanitarian organization Mercy Corps, with the support of the MasterCard Center for Inclusive Growth, the network is intended to improve how electronic cash and vouchers are used to assist survivors of natural disasters and conflict globally.

"Through this network, humanitarian and industry partners alike will be able to share information about new payment technologies, what works and what doesn't work, as well as receive technical support to improve how we use them in our global aid response," says Sara Murray, electronic cash transfer program manager for Mercy Corps. "Using e-transfers is one of the fastest ways we have to connect people with the resources they need to survive and to help their communities recover."

Sara Murray, electronic cash transfer program manager for Mercy Corps, will lead the network advisory group. Founding members include:

- :: Cash Learning Partnership
- :: International Rescue Committee
- :: MasterCard
- :: Norwegian Refugee Council
- :: Oxfam International

The network is open to all private and non-profit organizations that are committed to improving the reach and quality of electronic cash transfers in humanitarian response efforts.

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9 March 2015

SG/A/1553-BIO/4702-IHA/1353

Secretary-General Appoints Stephen O'Brien of United Kingdom Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced today the appointment of Stephen O'Brien of the United Kingdom as Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.

Pricing the right to education: The cost of reaching new targets by 2030

UNESCO - Education for All Global Monitoring Report

Policy Paper 18

March 2015 :: 8 pages

This paper shows there is an *annual* financing gap of US\$22 billion over 2015-2030 for reaching universal pre-primary, primary and lower secondary education of good quality in low and lower middle income countries.

EBOLA/EVD [to 14 March 2015]

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

WHO: Ebola Situation Report - 11 March 2015

[Excerpt; Editor's text bolding]

COUNTRIES WITH WIDESPREAD AND INTENSE TRANSMISSION

:: There have been over 24,000 reported confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (table 1), with almost 10,000 reported deaths (outcomes for many cases are unknown). A total of 58 new confirmed cases were reported in Guinea, 0 in Liberia, and 58 in Sierra Leone in the 7 days to 8 March (4 days to 5 March for Liberia).

Ebola: EU assists with the evacuation of health workers

13/03/2015

Over recent days, the EU has facilitated the evacuation of six international health workers from Ebola-hit West Africa to equipped European hospitals. "We pay tribute to the tremendous courage of the healthcare workers who are risking their lives..."

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:: Agency/Government/IGO Watch

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

United Nations System Organizational Chart

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

United Nations – Secretary General, Security Council, General Assembly

[to 14 March 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases/Meetings Coverage

13 March 2015

DSG/SM/853-WOM/2030

[Deputy Secretary-General, at New York Event, Urges Action to End Discrimination, Inequality by 2030, Stressing Societal Attitudes Still Stacked against Women](#)

Following are the closing remarks of UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson, as prepared for delivery, at the Commission on the Status of Women Intergenerational Dialogue on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, held in New York today:

9 March 2015

SG/A/1553-BIO/4702-IHA/1353

[Secretary-General Appoints Stephen O'Brien of United Kingdom Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs](#)

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced today the appointment of Stephen O'Brien of the United Kingdom as Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.

9 March 2015

WOM/2021

['As Women Thrive, So Will We All,' Says Secretary-General as Women's Commission Opens Session, Pointing to 'Unacceptably Slow' Progress since Beijing](#)

"As women thrive, so will we all," said United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as he opened the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women today, marking two decades of progress that he warned had been "unacceptably slow" in achieving gender equality since the historic adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995.

8 March 2015

SG/SM/16576-IK/702

[Secretary-General Outraged by Continued Destruction of Iraqi Cultural Sites, Calls for Swift International Action to Hold Perpetrators Accountable](#)

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

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

[Beijing+20 review: "Older women must not remain invisible" – UN expert urges all Governments](#)

3/12/2015

[Côte d'Ivoire: Justice for victims of human rights violations "long overdue" – Zeid](#)

3/11/2015

[Detention is inextricably linked with ill-treatment, children must be protected – UN expert](#)
3/10/2015

[Human Rights Council discusses the rights of persons with disabilities](#)
3/10/2015

[Human Rights Council starts interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteurs on torture and on human rights defenders](#)
3/9/2015

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

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

13 Mar 15

[As Syria Conflict Enters a Fifth Year, What Does it Take to End the Crisis and End the Suffering](#)

11 Mar 15

[Leila Zerrougui at the Human Rights Council: Children More Vulnerable Because of Multiplication of Crises](#)

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

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

13 Mar 15

[Syria: As Conflict Enters Fifth Year What Does It Take to End the Crisis and the Suffering?](#)

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [to 14 March 2015]

[http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-](http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/search?page=&comid=4a0950336&cid=49aea93a7d&scid=49aea93a40)

[bin/texis/vtx/search?page=&comid=4a0950336&cid=49aea93a7d&scid=49aea93a40](http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/search?page=&comid=4a0950336&cid=49aea93a7d&scid=49aea93a40)

[Refugees endure worsening conditions as Syria's conflict enters 5th year](#)

Press Releases, 12 March 2015

Geneva, 12 March 2015 – As the Syrian conflict enters its fifth year, millions of refugees in neighbouring countries and those displaced within the country are caught in alarmingly deteriorating conditions, facing an even bleaker future without more international support, UNHCR warned today...

[UNHCR unveils far-reaching proposals for European action in the Mediterranean Sea](#)

Press Releases, 12 March 2015

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has sent a number of concrete proposals to the European Union to deal with the challenges posed by the thousands of refugees and migrants who risk their lives trying to reach Europe every year.

The proposals, made by UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres in a letter to the European Union, are part of UNHCR's Central Mediterranean Sea Initiative (CMSI), which aims to encourage wide-ranging discussions with the European Commission and among

European states and other concerned stakeholders to address the challenges of mixed migration in the Mediterranean Sea and to save lives.

"We are proposing to the European Union and countries in Europe a number of bold and innovative solutions to address the challenges of mixed migration in the Mediterranean and reduce the number of people losing their lives at sea," said Vincent Cochetel, UNHCR's Director for Europe.

So far this year, around 470 people have died or gone missing in the Mediterranean Sea, compared to 15 in the same period last year.

"To continue with the status quo is not an option," warned Cochetel, "inaction to address these challenges will only mean more people dying."

UNHCR's new proposals include the establishment of a robust European search and rescue operation in the Mediterranean, similar to the Italian Mare Nostrum operation which came to an end last year, and to set up a EU scheme to compensate shipping companies for losses incurred while rescuing people in distress at sea.

UNHCR is also urging the EU to explore solutions to address challenges once refugees arrive in Europe, ensuring adequate support for them and avoiding a few countries having to shoulder the main responsibility for them...

UNOCHA [to 14 March 2015]

<http://www.unocha.org/media-resources/press-releases>

14 Mar 2015

[Vanuatu: Pacific Humanitarian Team Responding To Cyclone Pam](#)

13 Mar 2015

[Syrian Arab Republic: Syria: As Conflict Enters Fifth Year What Does It Take to End the Crisis and the Suffering?](#)

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

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

[Japan launches US\\$4 billion Sendai Cooperation Initiative as Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction opens](#)

14 Mar 2015

The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Shinzo Abe, today pledged \$US 4 billion to support implementation of the "Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction" over the next four years.

[ISO standard to disaster-proof cities announced at UN conference](#)

13 March 2015, SENDAI – The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) today agreed to help pioneer a new ISO Standard in 45 cities already recognized for their commitment to keeping their citizens safe from a range of natural hazards including floods, storms and earthquakes.

The new ISO standard for resilient and sustainable cities – ISO 37120 – is based on 100 indicators which steer and measure the performance of city services and quality of life. It is being implemented by the Toronto-based World Council on City Data (WCCD). [Learn more about ISO 37120](#)

UNICEF [to 14 March 2015]

http://www.unicef.org/media/media_78364.html

[At least 54,000 children affected by cyclone Pam in Vanuatu](#)

NEW YORK, 14 March 2015 - It is estimated that at least half the population of Vanuatu has been affected by cyclone Pam. Of these, at least 54,000 are children.

[As Syria conflict enters a fifth year, what does it take to end the crisis and end the suffering?](#)

NEW YORK/GENEVA/ROME/AMMAN, 13 March 2015 - "The appalling crisis in Syria is entering a fifth year. A crisis that continues to exact an unconscionable human cost. A crisis that the international community has failed to stop.

[Partnering to support children's rights and development - LEGO Group, LEGO Foundation and UNICEF](#)

NEW YORK, March 13, 2015 - Children's rights and early learning are to receive a boost through two new global partnerships between the LEGO Group, the LEGO Foundation and UNICEF, the celebration of which took place today in New York.

[Sendai World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction: UNICEF experts available for interviews](#)

UNICEF experts are available at the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, taking place in Sendai, Japan. UNICEF will call for increased investments in safer and more protective environments for children, both in humanitarian and development contexts, and for the involvement of children and young people in national and global dialogues.

[14 million children impacted by conflict in Syria and Iraq: UNICEF](#)

NEW YORK/AMMAN, 12 March 2015 – Some 14 million children across the region are now suffering from the escalating conflict sweeping Syria and much of Iraq, said UNICEF today.

UN Women [to 14 March 2015]

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

[Press release: Women's Empowerment Principles Stakeholders Call for New UN-Business Paradigm](#)

Date : March 12, 2015

(New York, 11 March 2015) – Over 300 participants from business, Government, civil society and the UN who gathered for the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) event, Unlimited Potential: Business Partners for Gender Equality, concluded the annual meeting by making an historic call to companies and Governments everywhere to scale up efforts to achieve gender equality, advance economic prosperity and realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

[The '7-Day Brief' Competition rallies creatives in MENA in support of UN Women](#)

Date : March 11, 2015

Dubai, 11 March – In support of UN Women's mission to end violence against women, Google partnered with the Dubai Lynx for the 7-Day Brief Competition powered by YouTube. The competition, now in its third year, dispatched a brief to the creative community across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) inviting them to create a 60-second video in just seven days that raises awareness about this social cause

[Press release: Galvanizing global attention, world leaders, celebrities and activists unveil Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality](#)

Date : March 10, 2015

At a star-studded event today in New York City, high-powered speakers took the stage to put out a clarion call: a firm expiry date of 2030 for gender inequality, with real equality being nothing short of 50-50. The packed Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality event was a UN Women-hosted celebration for the 20th anniversary of the historic Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. Speakers called for bolder actions from governments and louder mobilization from citizens to move forward the agenda on women's rights and gender equality, saying progress in the last 20 years has been too slow.

[Press release: Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Hillary Clinton and Business Leaders Call for Women's Economic Empowerment and Rights](#)

Date : March 10, 2015

At the 59th Commission on the Status of Women an unprecedented number of business leaders, UN Member States and civil society organizations gathered for the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) event, Unlimited Potential: Business Partners for Gender Equality, to promote the business case for involving women at every level and the need for all stakeholders, including business, to be strategic partners for gender equality and sustainable development.

[Press release: Closing the gender gap in education](#)

Date : March 10, 2015

Empowering adolescent girls and young women through education is the aim – and the name – of a programme launched in New York today by UNESCO, UN Women, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Bank.

[Press release: Sluggish progress on women in politics will hamper development](#)

Date : March 10, 2015

The Women in Politics 2015 Map launched by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women today shows that although the numbers of women in executive government and in parliament continue to inch forward, the slow rate of progress will severely check global development plans due to be adopted later this year.

[Press release: Governments commit to scale-up investments in women's empowerment](#)

Date : March 9, 2015

UN Commission on the Status of Women adopts declaration to accelerate action on 20th anniversary of Beijing World Conference on Women

["In 2030 we want to be able to talk about a world that has achieved gender equality" – UN Women Executive Director](#)

Date : March 9, 2015

In her message inaugurating the 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women on 9 March, UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka applauded global progress in the mission of empowering women but called on countries to lead substantial change towards gender equality in the next five years, in order to attain Planet 50-50 by 2030.

[Stepping it up on the streets of New York City](#)

Date : March 8, 2015

To the refrain "Planet 50-50 by 2030," thousands sang, chanted and rallied for gender equality during a march to mark International Women's Day on 8 March, in a collective show of solidarity for the global women's movement.

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues [to 14 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

WHO & Regionals [to 14 March 2015]

:: **[WHO issues its first hepatitis B treatment guidelines](#)**

12 March 2015 -- Today, WHO issued its first-ever guidance for the treatment of chronic hepatitis B, a viral infection which is spread through blood and body fluids, attacking the liver and resulting in an estimated 650 000 deaths each year. Worldwide, some 240 million people have chronic hepatitis B virus and are at increased risk of dying from cirrhosis and liver cancer. Effective medicines exist that can prevent people developing these conditions so they live longer.

- [Read the press release](#)
- [Read the guidelines on hepatitis B treatment](#)

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

- [13 March 2015](#) Meningococcal disease - Nigeria
- [11 March 2015](#) Human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus – China
- [11 March 2015](#) Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Qatar
- [11 March 2015](#) Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- [9 March 2015](#) Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Germany

:: The **[Weekly Epidemiological Record \(WER\) 13 March 2015](#)**, vol. 90, 11 (pp. 97–108) includes:

- Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2015–2016 northern hemisphere influenza season

:: WHO Regional Offices

[WHO African Region AFRO](#)

:: **[WHO and World Food Programme join forces to reach zero Ebola cases](#)**

11 March 2015 | GENEVA - WHO and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) are combining their forces in a new partnership in the Ebola-affected countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The arrangement combines the logistics strength of WFP with WHO's public health expertise to help get the current Ebola outbreak down to zero cases in West Africa. The platform also establishes an alert and response infrastructure for future crises.

[WHO Region of the Americas PAHO](#)

:: **[PAHO and Latin American Society of Nephrology call for increased prevention and better access to treatment for kidney disease](#)** (03/09/2015)

WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO

No new digest content identified.

WHO European Region EURO

No new digest content identified.

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO

:: [WHO Regional Director inaugurates primary health care centre and hands over urgently needed mobile medical clinics and ambulances to health authorities in Dohuk, Iraq](#)

Erbil, Iraq, 14 March 2015 – WHO's Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Dr Ala Alwan visited Dohuk governorate of the Kurdistan region of Iraq to officially hand over 15 ambulances and 2 mobile medical clinics to Dohuk health authorities. The donation will provide health services and medical treatments for more than 60 000 beneficiaries for three months.

WHO Western Pacific Region

No new digest content identified.

UNAIDS [to 14 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund [to 14 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNDP United Nations Development Programme [to 14 March 2015]

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

14 Mar 2015

[Helen Clark: Speech on "UNDP's Commitment to Disaster Risk Reduction in the Post-2015 Framework" at the Lunch Welcoming the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction Sendai, Japan](#)

12 Mar 2015

[Magdy Martínez-Solimán: Remarks at Opening Ceremony of the 28th General Meeting of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights](#)

Palais des Nations, Geneva

12 Mar 2015

[West African economies feeling ripple effects of Ebola, says UN](#)

West African nations that experienced low or zero incidence of Ebola have already been affected by the Ebola crisis because of their deep connections with the three most affected countries, according to a new UN report released here today.

12 Mar 2015

[Helen Clark: Statement at the Opening of the Parliamentary Learning Centre](#)

Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

11 Mar 2015

[Indonesia government addresses deforestation challenges in its aim to double palm oil production by 2020](#)

Indonesia's government, including the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Forestry and Environment, held key palm oil sector talks this week in Jakarta with multinational companies, and associations representing thousands of farmers, to identify ways to increase smallholder palm oil productivity and eliminate deforestation from the country's palm oil supply chain.

10 Mar 2015

[UNDP and Japan to support elections, reduce vulnerabilities in Haiti](#)

Port-au-Prince, Haiti - The Ambassador of Japan to Haiti, his Excellency Mr. Katsuyoshi Tamura and the Senior Country Director of the United Nations Development Programme today signed two funding agreements worth US\$ 8.4 million to support elections and build resilience in Haiti.

09 Mar 2015

[Helen Clark: Speech at the Opening of the 59th Commission on the Status of Women](#)

New York, New York

UN Division for Sustainable Development [to 14 March 2015]

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

[Post-2015 intergovernmental negotiations | 23-27 Mar 2015 \(Sustainable Development Goals and Targets\)](#)

For more information on the 23-27 March negotiations, side events and pertinent documents please follow [this link](#)

Interactive Dialogue with Major Groups and other Stakeholders, 25 March 2015

On 25 March 2015, from 10 AM - 1 PM (Trusteeship Council), there will be an Interactive Dialogue with Major Groups and other Stakeholders.

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme [to 14 March 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[UNEP Head Backs German Drive for G7 Resource Efficiency Alliance](#)

Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), has backed the German government plans to propose the establishment of an alliance for resource efficiency to its G7 partners.

13/03/2015

[Scientific Sailing Expedition Kicks Off to Safeguard Oceans from Plastic Pollution](#)

On Sunday, March 15, the R4WO will raise anchor in Bordeaux. Its crew aims to draw up the first global assessment of plastic pollution in oceans.

13/03/2015

[Global Energy-Related Emissions of Carbon Dioxide Stalled in 2014](#)

13/03/2015

[Pastoralism Provides Crucial Services to Humanity, Can Support Green Economy Transition](#)
Better Management of Neglected Sector Would Boost Water Regulation and Biodiversity and Sequester up to 9.8 per cent of Anthropogenic Carbon Emissions
09/03/2015

DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 14 March 2015]
<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news.html>

[Including persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction efforts](#)

13 March 2015, Sendai, Japan

During the past decade, the world has witnessed an increase in the number of major disasters, such as the Asian tsunami in 2004, the Haitian earthquake in 2010, the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, and hurricane Sandy in the United States 2012. Persons with disabilities are disproportionally affected by conflict, disasters and other emergency situations. The Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (3WCDRR) taking place in Japan on 14-18 March, will address this issue.

[Rethinking financing for development architecture](#)

12 March 2015, Santiago, Chile

As regional preparations for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development kicked off today in Santiago, Chile, authorities and ministers from several countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region, as well as senior representatives from the UN, said it is necessary to rethink the international financial architecture and put inclusion at the center of the new post-2015 development agenda.

[Accountability for sustainable development](#)

9 March 2015, New York

There is a growing recognition of the necessity to involve Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) in the national implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. Given their independence, SAIs are uniquely positioned to serve the public by promoting effective public governance. Their role was also put in the spotlight on 2-4 March during the 23rd UN/INTOSAI (International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions) Symposium, held in Vienna, Austria.

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 14 March 2015]
<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/allpress.html?ref=fp>

09/03/2015

[Ministerial meeting on Triangular Initiative discusses action against illicit drugs](#)

09/03/2015

[Hard work of balanced approach to world drug problem goes on every day, says UNODC Chief](#)

UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme [to 14 March 2015]
<http://unhabitat.org/media-centre/press-releases/>

No new digest content identified.

FAO Food & Agriculture Organization [to 14 March 2015]

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

[New report touts agrocorridors as economic driver](#)

Economic "agrocorridors" can be a strategic tool to draw private capital and large-scale investment to projects that benefit smallholder farmers and boost food security in lower-income countries, according to "Making economic corridors work for the agricultural sector," a new FAO report by agribusiness economist Eva Gálvez Nogales.

11-03-2015

[Public procurement in Africa benefitting family farmers and schools](#)

PAA Africa is implemented by Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger and Senegal with technical leadership and expertise from FAO and the World Food Programme (WFP). Now entering its third year, the programme is yielding promising results as detailed in a recently released report.

10-03-2015

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 14 March 2015]

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

11 March 2015: Agricultural development gives renewed hope for peace and sustainable development in Côte d'Ivoire

[English](#) | [French](#)

ILO International Labour Organization [to 14 March 2015]

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

Cooperatives

[Global survey shows rising women's participation in cooperatives](#)

An ILO-ICA joint survey reflects gains for women in cooperatives while pointing to the need for better recognition by governments

09 March 2015 GENEVA (ILO News) – An online survey conducted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Co-operative Alliance shows 75 per cent of survey respondents feel that women's participation in co-operatives has increased over the past 20 years.

The findings come ahead of a panel and debate to be held 10 March at the United Nations in New York, called "[Cooperatives: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment](#)." The panel is being organized as a side event to the [59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women](#), which takes place from 9 to 20 March.

Regarding the survey findings, president of the International Co-operative Alliance, Dame Pauline Green said, "The Alliance and ILO joint survey highlights the unique effectiveness of the cooperative model in providing women with a dignified way out of poverty, often away from violence and abuse."...

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization [to 14 March 2015]

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

[Dr. Fang Liu of China Becomes First-Ever Woman Appointed Secretary General of ICAO](#)

MONTREAL, 11 March 2015 – The Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has appointed Dr. Fang Liu of China as the new Secretary General of the Organization for a three-year term, beginning 1 August 2015.

Dr. Liu succeeds Raymond Benjamin of France, who has held the position for two consecutive terms since 2009. She becomes the first woman ever to be appointed to the prestigious global position heading the United Nations specialized agency for civil aviation, and only the second ICAO Secretary General from an Asia Pacific State...

IMO International Maritime Organization [to 14 March 2015]

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

[UN agencies to deliver as one on mixed migration by sea](#)

Briefing: March 9, 2015

Several United Nations agencies have agreed to establish a mechanism to enhance existing inter-agency communication with respect to the maritime aspects of mixed migration by sea.

Agencies concerned about the loss of life, injury, trauma and serious human rights violations affecting migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees traveling by sea met in London last week (4-5 March) at the headquarters of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Building on the 'Joint Statement on Protection at Sea in the Twenty-First Century', that was agreed during the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' Dialogue on Protection Challenges, held in Geneva on 10 December 2014, it was agreed to establish an interim, informal mechanism for enhancing inter-agency communication on the subject.

The intention is that the mechanism would facilitate operational-level communication between relevant agencies bilaterally and multilaterally and provide a conduit for better informing the Global Migration Group (GMG) on maritime issues.

Although precise details of the mechanism are yet to be finalised...

(View [presentations and video here](#))

WMO World Meteorological Organization [to 14 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 14 March 2015]

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

[UNIDO, GEF and IIASA partner to develop integrated solutions for energy, water, food, and ecosystem security](#)

VIENNA, 11 March 2015 – The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) will work closely...

[UNIDO and Norway launch project on sustainable management of Sudan's Red Sea State fishery](#)

KHARTOUM, 11 March 2015 – A new project on "Building institutional capacities for the sustainable management of the marine fishery in the Red Sea State" was launched today in Khartoum, Sudan.

[Companies' sustainable water management, focus of a new report by UNIDO and DNV GL](#)

VIENNA, 11 March 2015 – The importance of water management and the ways companies deal with it, as well as the main drivers and obstacles to sustainable water management, are the focus of a new study presented online today....

[UNIDO backs the creation of renewable energy-based mini-grid industries for rural electrification in Guinea Bissau and the rest of West Africa](#)

BISSAU, 9 March 2015 - A workshop on renewable energy mini-grid systems for rural electrification in West Africa, was co-organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy...

UNWTO World Tourism Organization [to 14 March 2015]

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

8 March 2015

[International Women's Day: Tourism sector can do more to step it up on gender equality](#)

On the occasion of International Women's Day, UNWTO Secretary-General, Taleb Rifai, calls upon the tourism sector to step up policies and business practices that promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

ITU International Telecommunications Union [to 14 March 2015]

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

[ITU symposium addresses regulatory requirements for small satellite communication systems](#)

Aim to ensure sustainable deployment of new generation of small satellites in outer space

Geneva, 12 March 2015 – An ITU Symposium and Workshop on small satellite regulation and communication systems was held in Prague, Czech Republic, 2-4 March 2015. The three-day symposium and workshop focused on the regulatory aspects of the use of the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits for small satellite communication systems, in particular on the application of the provisions of the ITU Radio Regulations. The symposium was organized by ITU in cooperation with ITU Academia Member, the Czech Technical University's Faculty of Electrical Engineering (CTU FEE).

More than 160 participants from around 40 countries attended the symposium, considered an important step in preparing for the forthcoming World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15), which will take place in Geneva, 2-27 November 2015...

UNESCO [to 14 March 2015]

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/for-the-press/press-releases/>

11.03.2015 - UNESCOPRESS

[Closing gender gap in education](#)

Empowering adolescent girls and young women through education is the aim - and the name - of a programme launched in New York today by UNESCO, UN Women, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Bank.

...The joint programme will be rolled out gradually in 20 countries where the education gender gap is most critical, starting with Mali, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, South Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania. It will concentrate on four areas: improving quality and relevance of education; raising awareness at all levels to create a favourable environment for gender

equality; strengthening links between the health and education sectors; and improving the data base of statistics on gender and education. It will also harness the potential of information and communication technologies to improve education delivery and content and encourage their further application for income generation, lifelong learning and exercising citizenship.

The new programme falls under the framework of the Global Partnership for Girls and Women's Education, launched by UNESCO in 2011, and is guided by the conviction that educating girls and women can break the cycle of poverty and foster greater social justice, economic development and sustainable peace.

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization [to 14 March 2015]

<http://www.wipo.int/pressroom/en/>

No new digest content identified.

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity [to 14 March 2015]

<http://www.cbd.int/press-releases/>

[Denmark's ratification edges the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress closer to entry into force](#)

Montreal, 9 March 2015 – With Denmark's ratification on 25 February, the Nagoya–Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety has received 75% of the necessary ratifications, with only 11 more ratifications needed for it to enter into force.

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USAID [to 14 March 2015]

<http://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases>

[Securing Water for Food: A Grand Challenge for Development Announces Third Call for Innovations](#)

March 9, 2015

Competition seeks innovations to improve water and food security, gender equality to receive up to \$3 million in funding and acceleration support

Today at the Global Forum for Innovations in Agriculture, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (MFA-NL) announced the third call for groundbreaking innovations under "Securing Water for Food: A Grand Challenge for Development." This \$12.5 million global call for proposals has an increased focus on cutting-edge, advanced technologies and business models, as well as innovations that prioritize the engagement of women. As part of USAID's new Middle East Water Security Initiative, an additional \$2.5 million will be available for innovations implemented in the MENA region.

DFID [to 14 March 2015]

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

[UK provides emergency assistance in wake of Cyclone Pam](#)

Published 14 March 2015 Press release DFID

[Fourth anniversary of Syria crisis](#)

Published 14 March 2015 News story DFID

[Ebola outbreak: An update on the UK's response in West Africa](#)

Published 12 March 2015 Statement to Parliament DFID, DH, MOD and PHE

[Factsheet: The UK's humanitarian aid response to the Syria crisis](#)

Updated 10 March 2015 Statistics DFID

ECHO [to 14 March 2015]

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

[Vanuatu: EU releases funds to assist victims of cyclone Pam](#)

14/03/2015

In its immediate response to the devastation caused by the tropical cyclone Pam in Vanuatu, the European Commission is making available an initial €1 million to help in the emergency relief efforts. The European Commission is also deploying two...

[#Road2Sendai: Making the world safer from natural hazards](#)

13/03/2015

Over the past decade, the frequency and intensity of disasters have increased significantly. Natural disasters have cost the EU alone around €100 billion. From 14 to 18 March, the international community is coming together in Sendai, Japan, to...

[Ebola: EU assists with the evacuation of health workers](#)

13/03/2015

Over recent days, the EU has facilitated the evacuation of six international health workers from Ebola-hit West Africa to equipped European hospitals. "We pay tribute to the tremendous courage of the healthcare workers who are risking their lives..."

[Four years of Syria crisis: "We must guarantee access to people in need", says Commissioner Stylianides](#)

13/03/2015

Marking four years since the start of the Syria crisis, EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides called for unimpeded humanitarian access in Syria, so that humanitarian workers can deliver aid to populations...

[Four years of exile: Syrian refugees look to the future](#)

11/03/2015

Four years ago, conflict broke out in Syria. The crisis has had a devastating impact on the lives of millions. Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed, schools and homes have been destroyed, and 7.6 million people are displaced within...

[EU first donor in UN Iraq aid appeal](#)

10/03/2015

Responding to the urgent humanitarian needs outlined in the UN's 'fast-track' appeal for Iraq, the EU is the first donor to contribute an initial €5 million, with more funding to follow. The appeal aims to respond to the most urgent, lifesaving...

[#Road2Sendai: EU provides disaster preparedness support to Albania in aftermath of flooding](#)
09/03/2015

Following the severe floods in southern Albania in the beginning of February, Albania has requested assistance from donors for post-flood reconstruction and recovery efforts. The EU, along with the World Bank and the UN, have agreed to support a...

[EU and Oxfam launch "EUsaveLIVES-You save lives"](#)

09/03/2015

Every 4 seconds a person in the world is forced to flee their home. Today, 51.2 million people are deprived of a home, a family and a job, due to the intensification of conflicts. It is the highest number of refugees and displaced people since...

[International Women's Day: women as agents of change against Ebola](#)

08/03/2015

Humanitarian crises have a different impact on women and men because of the different gender roles they play in their societies. To mark International Women's Day, we want to highlight the enormous strength that women have shown in one of the most...

.....

African Union [to 14 March 2015]

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

Mar.13.2015 [Chinese Ambassador present Credentials to AUC Chairperson](#)

Mar.12.2015 [9th Annual Joint Consultative meeting between the AU Peace and Security Council \(AUPSC\) and the UN Security Council \(UNSC\)](#)

Mar.10.2015 [High-Level Side Event on the theme: "Ensuring the Emerging Leadership of Africa's Young Women & Girls Towards Agenda 2063"](#)

The African Development Bank Group [to 14 March 2015]

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

[AfDB helps build regional capacity on Value for Money in Social Service Delivery for SADC officials](#)

12/03/2015 - Although African economies have performed better in the past 10 years, the continent is yet to achieve meaningful progress in critical areas such as the health-related Millennium Development Goals. Africa still struggles with a high burden of disease, in addition to rising income inequality and social exclusion. This means that economic growth has not always resulted in increased access to healthcare by poor and disadvantaged populations.

[AfDB approves US \\$50 million to ABC Holdings Ltd. in Botswana, Mozambique and Zimbabwe](#)

12/03/2015 - The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) through its private sector window approved on March 11, 2015 a US \$50 million multi-currency line of

credit (LoC) with a seven-year tenor to ABC Holdings Ltd. and its subsidiaries in Botswana, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

[AfDB Board approves The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Trust Fund](#)

11/03/2015 - The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank Group on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 in Abidjan approved the establishment of the Bill and Melinda Gates Trust Fund to be hosted by the Bank.

[Heads of Multilateral Development Banks and IMF commit to promote Gender Equality](#)

09/03/2015 - Heads of Multilateral Development Banks and the International Monetary Fund have called on all international development and financial institutions to join the effort to promote gender equality across the world.

ASEAN [to 14 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNCTAD [to 14 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

World Trade Organisation [to 14 March 2015]

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

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

11 March 2015

MARKET ACCESS FOR GOODS

[Everything you ever wanted to know about quantitative restrictions](#)

The WTO has created a new webpage dedicated to the issue of quantitative restrictions, measures imposed by governments limiting the quantity or value of goods that can be traded. Such measures may take different forms (quotas, prohibitions, voluntary export restraints, etc.) and must be notified to the WTO under a new procedure.

OECD [to 14 March 2015]

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

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

[Better dementia care and a future cure require action today, says OECD](#)

13-March-2015

The current policy approach to tackling dementia is socially and economically unsustainable, according to a new OECD report. Countries need to take action now to improve the lives of people living with dementia and their carers, prioritise public research on dementia, and improve the incentives for private investment in dementia innovation.

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

IMF [to 14 March 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

World Bank [to 14 March 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]

[Building a New Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#)

New resources for disaster risk reduction

With a growing disaster risk management portfolio, totaling \$5.3 billion in fiscal year 2014, the World Bank Group sees resilience and risk reduction as central to its goals of alleviating poverty and boosting shared prosperity. The World Bank Group and GFDRR will contribute to sessions in Sendai, including ministerial round-tables, multi-stakeholder working sessions, and public forum sessions. These will focus on critical disaster risk management issues, include building back better after disasters, enhancing resilience of small island states, and, through a special edition of the Resilience Dialogue, advancing post-2015 resilience goals. The conference will also feature the launch of a Challenge Fund to support disaster risk identification projects, supported by GFDRR and the UK Department for International Development.

Date: March 12, 2015

[World Bank Group to Seek Key Certification on Workplace Equality](#)

WASHINGTON, March 11, 2015—The World Bank Group has committed to achieving EDGE certification—a key global standard for workplace gender equality, President Jim Yong Kim announced Monday. “We cannot go out and talk about gender equality if we’re not serious about it here,” Dr. Kim told staff gathered to mark International Women’s Day. “Women and men deserve the same opportunities to succeed here. And study after study shows that diversity has a positive impact on productivity. These are the reasons each of the entities that make up the World Bank Group and the organization as a whole have targets for reaching gender equity in our middle and management ranks.” “We track our performance in meeting these targets in the corporate scorecard and have regularly raised them to ensure they are ambitious. While we’ve made progress in meeting these targets, there is more to be done—in some areas, much more.”

Date: March 11, 2015

[World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim's statement on the Fourth Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami](#)

TOKYO, March 11, 2015 — The following is a statement by the World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim:

"On the occasion of the Fourth anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami, the World Bank Group remembers the thousands of people and families affected by the disaster. We would like to pay tribute to the determination and resilience of the people of Tohoku, which is a source of inspiration around the world. The Third UN World Conference on

Disaster Risk Reduction, hosted by the Government of Japan in Sendai, alongside related events in Aomori, Iwate, Fukushima and Yamagata prefectures, offers an historic occasion for global leaders to renew their commitment to curb rising losses stemming from disasters and protect the poor and vulnerable from the threat of future disasters. The World Bank Group reaffirms its commitment to work with its partners towards creating a safer world, by building on the knowledge and experience of the people of Japan.”

Date: March 11, 2015

[Breaking the Cycle of Chronic Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)

New analysis highlights need for better coordination and a focus on behavioral barriers alongside effective social and economic policies.

LIMA, Peru, March 9, 2015 – One out of every five Latin Americans or around 130 million people have never known anything but poverty, subsisting on less than US\$4-a-day throughout their lives. These are the region’s chronically poor, who have remained so despite unprecedented inroads against poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean since the turn of the century. Their situation is becoming more precarious as the economic boom that significantly contributed to reduce poverty dwindles. Regional GDP growth has slowed, from about six percent in 2010 to an estimated 0.8 percent in 2014. This contraction will likely take away one of the biggest drivers behind the strong reduction in poverty: an improved job market. A new World Bank report, *Left Behind, Chronic Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean*, takes a closer look at the region’s entrenched poor...

Date: March 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 announcement, programs or appeals.

Amref Health Africa [to 14 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Aravind Eye Care System [to 14 March 2015]

<http://www.aravind.org/currentnews1/CurrentNews.aspx>

No new digest content identified.

BRAC [to 14 March 2015]

<http://www.brac.net/content/stay-informed-news#.VPstwC5nBhV>

No new digest content identified.

CARE International [to 14 March 2015]

<http://www.care-international.org/news/press-releases.aspx>

No new digest content identified.

Danish Refugee Council [to 14 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Casa Alianza [to 14 March 2015]

Covenant House [to 14 March 2015]

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

<https://www.covenanthouse.org/>

No new digest content identified.

ECPAT [to 14 March 2015]

<http://www.ecpat.net/news>

[ECPAT e-bulletin - 12 March 2015](#)

In this issue: [News](#) [Youth Corner](#) [Info Corner](#) [New Publications](#)

Fountain House [to 14 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Handicap International [to 14 March 2015]

http://www.handicap-international.us/press_releases

March 12, 2015

[Syria: The Worst Year Yet; One Million Injured](#)

On the fourth anniversary of the Syrian conflict, which began March 15, 2011, Handicap International calls on the international community to guarantee people with injuries and illnesses access to care. This task has become incredibly difficult since the closing of certain borders, with local teams reporting fewer Syrians crossing the borders, but more severe injuries among those who do.

Heifer International [to 14 March 2015]

<http://www.heifer.org/about-heifer/press/press-releases.html>

No new digest content identified.

HelpAge International [to 14 March 2015]

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

[Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction Sendai, Japan 14 – 18 March 2015, launch of the first Disaster Risk and Age Index](#)

This week, HelpAge International is launching the first Disaster Risk and Age Index, ranking 190 countries across the world on the disaster risk faced by older people, at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai.

Posted: 11 March 2015

[83% of Syria's lights extinguished after four years of crisis](#)

83% of all the lights in Syria have gone out since the start of the conflict there, a global coalition of humanitarian and human rights organisations has revealed ahead of the fourth anniversary on March 15.

Posted: 11 March 2015

International Rescue Committee [to 14 March 2015]

<http://www.rescue.org/press-release-index>

12 Mar 2015

[Zain Group joins REFUNITE, the International Rescue Committee and Ericsson to Use Mobile Technology to Reconnect Separated Families in South Sudan](#)

:: The Family Reconnection Project aims to connect thousands of displaced people with missing family members separated due to the conflict in South Sudan

:: Partnership to demonstrate the power of technology and frontline response

Zain Group announces that it has joined Refugees United (REFUNITE), the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Ericsson (NASDAQ: ERIC) in launching a pilot project in South Sudan, which empowers separated families to search for their missing loved ones through a mobile phone. The Family Reconnection Project leverages simple mobile technology in support of the 1.4 million people who are internally displaced in South Sudan.

Ongoing internal conflict, coupled with lack of access to the internet and a breakdown of media infrastructure, has made it nearly impossible for separated families to reconnect within and across borders. The Family Reconnection Project enables separated families to search for missing friends and relatives. A series of mobile services will be rolled out during the coming weeks; all with the goal of making it easier for families to search, connect and communicate.

Following the announcement between Zain Group, Ericsson and IRC in November, to use technology to transform humanitarian response, the IRC is initially supporting the pilot in South Sudan by helping to connect those displaced by conflict, often without direct mobile phone or internet access, to an online platform that allows them to more easily contact family members, helping to close the digital divide among those who might otherwise fail to gain access.

The partners will aim to replicate the program in South Sudan across five other camps in Africa and the Middle East during 2015. In South Sudan alone, the pilot is expected to generate 10,000 registrations during 2015...

12 Mar 2015

[Report: "Failing Syria": Aid agencies give UN Security Council a 'fail grade' on Syria](#)

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

11 Mar 2015

[Eighty-Three Percent of Syria's Lights Extinguished After Four Years of Crisis](#)

ICRC - International Committee of the Red Cross [to 14 March 2015]

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

[Colombia: 230,000 people receive aid while awaiting peace](#)

News release

11 March 2015

Geneva / Bogotá (ICRC) – Colombians are still suffering the consequences of the conflict and other major violence on a daily basis. That was the message from the ICRC's delegation in Colombia during a presentation of its 2014 report on humanitarian activities in the country. Last year, the ICRC recorded 875 suspected breaches of international humanitarian law and other attacks on the civilian population. Armed violence remained a pressing issue in urban areas in 2014, most notably in Buenaventura, Tumaco and Medellín.

[Papua New Guinea: ICRC to fund a community health post](#)

News release

11 March 2015

Port Moresby (ICRC) – The Southern Highlands Provincial Government, the Provincial Health Authority and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) signed a memorandum of understanding today for the construction of a community health post in the Southern Highlands.

[Lake Chad: Striving to meet growing needs](#)

News release

10 March 2015

Violence in Nigeria is not only claiming lives and forcing hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes in the country itself; it is spilling over into neighbouring Chad, Niger and Cameroon, where the humanitarian situation is also deteriorating. Across the Lake Chad region, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is providing displaced people with food and household essentials and helping medical facilities to cope with the influx of casualties.

[Mali: Fighting deprives population of essentials](#)

News release

10 March 2015

Bamako / Geneva (ICRC) – Tensions remain acute in northern Mali, where attacks occurred in Kidal once again this past weekend. There was violence in the capital Bamako as well. The northeastern town of Tabankort was rocked by fighting in late January and early February and many families from the area were forced to flee their homes to safer places. Others were trapped in their homes for days on end. Many are now encountering great difficulty supplying their families with food. "This remains an alarming situation," said Jean Pierre Nereyabagabo, who is in charge of economic security work in Mali by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). "Economic life is still paralysed and many people are totally without access to drinking water and medicines."

IRCT [to 14 March 2015]

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

Statements & declarations

[Peru continues to breach international obligations to prevent torture](#)

11-03-2015

The International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) and the National Coordinator for Human Rights (CNDDHH) express

concern at the decision of the Government of Peru to halt the enactment of the law designating the Ombudsman as the National Preventive Mechanism for Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Punishment.

With this setback, the Peruvian government fails to meet its international obligation to prevent torture. The three organisations would like to reiterate that the appointment of a NPM in the country was a commitment made voluntarily by Peru in 2006, following the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT). This, therefore, represents a delay of eight years in fulfilling the commitment assumed with the international community.

[Read the full statement in Spanish.](#)

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières [to 14 March 2015]

<http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/news-stories/press/press-releases>

Selected Press Releases/Field News

[Syria: Medical Aid Paralyzed by Four Years of Conflict](#)

March 11, 2015

AMMAN/NEW YORK—As the war in [Syria](#) enters its fifth year, desperately needed aid is failing to reach millions of people trapped by the conflict, the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said today.

The health system in Syria has been devastated by the ongoing conflict, and accessing essential medical treatment is almost impossible, either due to the lack of supplies and qualified medical staff, or because of attacks against medical structures. A large-scale international humanitarian effort is desperately needed in Syria, MSF said.

"Four years since the start of the Syrian conflict, the war continues to be characterized by acts of brutal violence that neither distinguish between civilians and combatants nor respect the protected status of health personnel and facilities," said Dr. Joanne Liu, MSF's international president. "It is unacceptable that humanitarian assistance is so limited when the death toll and the suffering of civilians has reached unbearable levels."

[Read the Op-Ed](#)

Mercy Corps [to 14 March 2015]

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

[Humanitarian Agencies Join Forces with Private Sector to Improve Electronic Cash Transfers in Aid Response](#)

March 11, 2015

Mercy Corps to lead network that will share knowledge and best practices for e-transfer implementation

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

Operation Smile [to 14 March 2015]

http://www.operationssmile.org/news_events/media-room/

Upcoming Mission Schedule [Home page]

Mar 15 - 20 | Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Mar 16 - 27 | Jimma, Ethiopia

Mar 16 - 20 | Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Mar 18 - 21 | Cusco, Peru

Mar 20 - 21 | Caracas, Venezuela
Mar 21 - 29 | Lubumbashi, DRC
Mar 23 - 27 | Hanoi, Vietnam
Mar 27 - Apr 4 | Dakhla, Morocco
Apr 5 - 11 | Taganrog, Russia
Apr 6 - 10 | Hanoi, Vietnam
Apr 8 - 18 | Cape Coast, Ghana

[Operation Smile's 14 Global Standards of Care](#)

Revised as of March 12, 2015

Introduction

Operation Smile's Global Standards of Care were initially developed and agreed on by the global medical leadership in 2006. Subsequent meetings have been held to review and refine these standards, which establish minimum and absolute requirements for any Operation Smile surgical program. These standards are supported by medical policies and procedures which are developed, reviewed, refined and approved by the Operation Smile Medical Oversight team and which are referenced in each standard as appropriate. Underlying all standards and policies is the Operation Smile Charter of Patient Rights and Responsibilities.

The 2014 Operation Smile Global Standards of Care reflect the work at the Global Standards Summit convened in May 2014, and review processes which preceded and followed that meeting and are posted here: http://www.operationsmile.org/our_work/global-standards-of-care/14-global-standards-of-care.html

March 3, 2015

[The Invisalign® Brand Celebrates Major Milestone with Treatment of 3 Millionth Patient](#)

Align Technology marks milestone with pledge to donate up to \$1 million to Operation Smile; Hopes to inspire others to give smiles to children in need.

OXFAM [to 14 March 2015]

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

[Stories of devastation from Vanuatu in the aftermath of Cyclone Pam](#)

14 March 2015

Stories of complete devastation are beginning to come out of Vanuatu in the aftermath of the severe tropical cyclone Pam.

[Aid agencies give UN Security Council a 'fail grade' on Syria](#)

12 March 2015

21 humanitarian and human rights organizations say warring parties and powerful states have failed to implement UNSC resolutions leading to "worst year" of crisis for civilians in Syria

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

Partners In Health [to 14 March 2015]

<http://www.pih.org/blog>

Mar 12, 2015

[Partners In Health Clinician Admitted for Ebola Treatment](#)

Mar 12, 2015

[The Tiniest Ebola Patients](#)

Children younger than 5 are at high risk of death when they become sick with Ebola. Malnutrition and other diseases play a role, as does the difficulty of treatment. PIH clinicians are building protocols to try to help the little ones survive.

Mar 10, 2015

[Nurse Cheedy Jaja: Why I Serve in Sierra Leone](#)

"I know that I would not forgive myself if I don't go," says Nurse Cheedy Jaja, an associate professor of nursing at the University of Cincinnati College of Nursing, in this audio reflection.

Mar 08, 2015

[Protecting Moms and Babies in Malawi \(Infographic\)](#)

PATH [to 14 March 2015]

<http://www.path.org/news/index.php>

Announcement | March 09, 2015

[New vaccine against rotavirus launched in India](#)

ROTAVAC® has the potential to significantly reduce the incidence of severe diarrhea due to rotavirus among children in India.

Plan International [to 14 March 2015]

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

09/03/2015:

[Youths call for governments to prioritise adolescent girls at UN talks](#)

09/03/2015:

[Children must come first in post-2015 disaster framework](#)

Save The Children [to 14 March 2015]

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

[Save the Children Warns 50,000 Children Are at Risk and Communities Are Ill Prepared as Cyclone Pam Readies to Lash Vanuatu](#)

March 13, 2015

[Aid Agencies Give UN Security Council a "Fail" Grade on Syria](#)

March 11, 2015

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

[Eighty-Three Percent of Syria's Lights Extinguished after Four Years of Crisis](#)

March 11, 2015

SOS-Kinderdorf International [to 14 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Tostan [to 14 March 2015]

<http://www.tostan.org/latest-news>

March 13, 2015

[Religious leaders come together to advocate for positive early childhood development practices and non-violent education](#)

For the past year and a half, Tostan has been actively partnering with religious leaders in Senegal to discuss improving the well-being and development of children. As religious leaders play a key role in their communities, Tostan seeks to work with them to engage others around new information and traditions...

Women for Women International [to 14 March 2015]

<http://www.womenforwomen.org/press-releases>

No new digest content identified.

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ChildFund Alliance [to 14 March 2015]

<http://childfundalliance.org/>

No new digest content identified.

Disasters Emergency Committee [to 14 March 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 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

END Fund [to 14 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

GAVI [to 14 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Global Fund [to 14 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Hilton Prize Laureates Collaborative [to 14 March 2015]

<http://hiltonprizelaureatescollaborative.net/>

No new digest content identified.

ODI [to 14 March 2015]

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

[Syrian community provides aid where UN struggles to reach - new report](#)

13th March, 2015

Syrian community provides aid where UN struggles to reach - new report

As the Syria conflict enters its fifth year, the growth of 600-700 diaspora and local aid groups has 'filled the gap' left by the limited presence of struggling international aid agencies, providing both assistance and protection to Syrians says a new report launched today by UK-based think tank the Overseas Development Institute (ODI)...

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

The Sphere Project [to 14 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Start Network [to 14 March 2015]

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

[Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies]

[Power & Politics: second instalment of Start Network story with PBA now online](#)

March 9, 2015

Posted by [Tegan Rogers](#)

'Power & Politics: The Consortium-building Story continues', a case study charting the successes and challenges of brokering the Start Network since July 2013, is now available online. This case study has been written collaboratively with the Partnership Brokers Association, who have played an on-going advisory role to the Start Network's central Team.

This is the second instalment, following 'Dealing with Paradox: Stories and Lessons from the First Three Years of Consortium-Building', published in 2013. The first case study was well received and has since provided a vital resource to partnership brokers worldwide working in non-traditional and complex collaborations. This document is available to download from our [resources page](#).

We warmly welcome feedback on the second instalment, which is [available for download here](#) and on the [Partnership Brokers Association website](#).

Blog

[Is collaboration the key to more effective surge?](#)

March 13, 2015

Posted by Tegan Rogers

A key tenet of the Start Network's vision is that humanitarian agencies can achieve more through collaboration than by working alone. This is an idea that has been fundamental in the design of our Start Build portfolio – a collection of projects aimed at strengthening the capacity of civil society. Last week, the Transforming Surge Capacity project, part of the DFID Disasters and Emergencies Preparedness Programme (DEPP), held its inception workshop in Bangkok, to plan how this collaboration will work in practice

Muslim Charities Forum [to 14 March 2015]

<https://www.muslimcharitiesforum.org.uk/media/news>

[An umbrella organisation for Muslim-led international NGOs based in the UK. It was set up in 2007 and works to support its members through advocacy, training and research, by bringing charities together. Our members have a collective income of £150,000,000 and work in 71 countries.]

No new digest content identified.

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Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) [to 14 March 2015]

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

[Exploring Coordination in Humanitarian Clusters](#)

Discussion Starter

1 March 2015 4pp

Full report

Clusters are voluntary coordination bodies bringing together agencies in a humanitarian response. Each cluster concentrates on a technical sector such as nutrition or protection. Although they follow the same broad terms of reference, they differ markedly in the activities they conduct and the degree of coordination they attempt.

This discussion starter summarises the main points from the ALNAP study on this subject.

Humanitarian Practice Network (HPN) [to 14 March 2015]

<http://www.odihpn.org/the-humanitarian-space/news/announcements>

[Situation and Response Analysis Framework - website launch](#)

Tuesday, 10 March 2015

by Oxfam GB, Save the Children UK, Concern Worldwide

Oxfam GB, Save the Children UK and Concern Worldwide would like to share the newly-launched <http://www.sraf-guidelines.org>, housing the Situation and Response Analysis Framework (SRAF) and its component tools.

The SRAF was developed as part of the ECHO-ERC project 'Reinforcing Institutional Capacity For Timely Food Security Emergency Response To Slow Onset Crises At Scale,' the aim of which is to improve timely, relevant response to slow-onset or predictable crises at scale. The SRAF framework uses livelihood and market analysis and relevant forecast information to predict the impact of a crisis on affected populations - before a crisis happens. The SRAF uses contingency

planning as a vehicle for improved response analysis, using scenarios and modelling to develop a needs-based rationale for early preparation and response.

This can help communities, governments, NGOs and donors ensure that both funding and programmes are in place when they are needed. Using the SRAF approach can not only allow for the design and implementation of more timely and appropriate responses in slow-onset food security crises, but can also broaden response options and support the design of programmes that protect livelihoods and build food security and resilience in vulnerable populations.

The website provides guidance and tools for the SRAF and walks through the response analysis process. The website also houses resources on the tools used for conducting baseline analysis- the Household Economy Approach (HEA) and Pre-Crisis Market Mapping and Analysis (PCMMA)- as well as case studies, news and events relevant to the project.

People In Aid [to 14 March 2015]

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

Consultation of the draft CHS monitoring and verification framework launched

(13 March 2015)

The CHS (Core Humanitarian Standard) describes the essential elements of principled, accountable and high-quality humanitarian action. The draft CHS Monitoring and Verification Framework is a coherent and systematic approach to measuring how the CHS is used, and with what results. As such, it is an important quality assurance tool to ensure organisations are consistently assessing and reporting against the Standard using the same criteria, and generating comparable data.

Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP) [to 14 March 2015]

<https://phap.org/>

No new digest content identified.

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:: Foundation/Major Donor Watch

We will primarily 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) [to 14 March 2015]

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

AfDB Board approves The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Trust Fund

11/03/2015 - The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank Group on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 in Abidjan approved the establishment of the Bill and Melinda Gates Trust Fund to be hosted by the Bank.

Clinton Foundation [to 14 March 2015]

<https://www.clintonfoundation.org/press-releases-and-statements>

Press Release

[Donna Shalala Named President and Chief Executive Officer of the Clinton Foundation](#)

March 11, 2015

New York, NY – Today, the Clinton Foundation announced that Donna E. Shalala, President of the University of Miami and former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), will join the Foundation as President and Chief Executive Officer.

Press Release

[The No Ceilings Initiative Releases its Full Participation Report and Data on the Status of Women and Girls through NoCeilings.org](#)

March 9, 2015

20 years of global data compiled by No Ceilings show that while progress is possible, more must be done to achieve 'full and equal participation' for women and girls worldwide

Press Release

[Clinton Foundation's No Ceilings Initiative Unveils "NOT THERE": An Unprecedented Collaboration to Raise Awareness and Inspire Action for Gender Equality](#)

March 8, 2015

Leading publications, celebrities, consumer and fashion brands, artists, NGO partners, and social community join together to remove images of women and replace with NOT-THERE.org

Ford Foundation [to 14 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation [to 14 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation [to 14 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Kellogg Foundation [to 14 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

MacArthur Foundation [to 14 March 2015]

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

Press release

[Julia Stasch Chosen to Lead MacArthur, Accelerate Change and Deepen Impact](#)

Published March 11, 2015

Julia M. Stasch, who has served as interim president for the past eight months, has been chosen as the next President of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Her leadership has already led to a greater sense of urgency, more focus, and enhanced impact in the Foundation's grantmaking and its creative efforts to help address some of the world's most challenging social problems...

Publication

[Assessing Abortion in India](#)

Published March 12, 2015

Over the past decade, key policy developments have contributed to improved availability, accessibility, and safety of induced abortion services in India, according to a report from the Guttmacher Institute. The MacArthur-supported report reviews and synthesizes literature on abortion in India, with the intent of filling a major gap in the evidence base on maternal and reproductive health in the country. The report discusses the barriers to safe and legal abortion services that women in India face, as well as the programmatic and policy implication of the findings.

Open Society Foundation [to 14 March 2015]

[http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/termsearch/8175/listing?f\[0\]=type%3Anews](http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/termsearch/8175/listing?f[0]=type%3Anews)

[NGOs Respond to Belgian Proposals on European Rights System](#)

March 3, 2015News

Ten European and international civil society groups have responded to proposals from Belgium that could lead to speedier and more effective execution of judgments made by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR).

David and Lucile Packard Foundation [to 14 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Rockefeller Foundation [to 14 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [to 14 March 2015]

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

[Most Parents Believe Some Sugary Drinks Are Healthy Choices for Kids](#)

Vast majority provided sugary drinks in past month; many cited on-package claims as reason for selection.

March 12, 2015

Hartford, Conn.—Despite public health messages about the importance of reducing consumption of sugary drinks, many parents believe that some drinks with high amounts of added sugar—especially fruit drinks, sports drinks and flavored water—are healthy options for children, according to a [new study](#) from the Rudd Center for Food Policy & Obesity at the University of Connecticut, published in [Public Health Nutrition](#).

"Although most parents know that soda is not good for children, many still believe that other sugary drinks are healthy options. The labeling and marketing for these products imply that they are nutritious, and these misperceptions may explain why so many parents buy them," said Jennifer Harris, PhD, a study author and Director of Marketing Initiatives at the Rudd Center...

...The study, called "Parents' beliefs about the healthfulness of sugary drink options: opportunities to address misperceptions," surveyed an ethnically diverse, national sample of 982 parents, each with at least one 2- to 17-year-old child, in 2011...

...The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) funded the study. RWJF recently committed \$500 million over the next 10 years to ensure that all children in the United States can grow up at a healthy weight, no matter who they are or where they live. One of the Foundation's five strategic priorities is to eliminate the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages among children 5 years old and younger.

Skoll Foundation [to 14 March 2015]

<http://www.skollfoundation.org/latest-news/>

No new digest content identified.

Wellcome Trust [to 14 March 2015]

<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/News/2015/index.htm>

[Wellcome Trust encourages urgent review of medical innovation in the NHS](#)

The Wellcome Trust is working with the Government Office of Life Sciences to take forward a review that aims to help new medicines and technologies be more quickly and efficiently adopted by the NHS to benefit patients.

11 March 2015

[New trial of TKM-Ebola treatment to start in Sierra Leone](#)

A clinical trial of a potential Ebola therapy called TKM-Ebola-Guinea will start today in Sierra Leone.

11 March 2015

[Eliza Manningham-Buller to be next Chair of the Wellcome Trust](#)

The Wellcome Trust is pleased to announce the appointment today of Eliza Manningham-Buller as the Trust's Chair-elect.

10 March 2015

[African leaders and global funders endorse new science funding platform for Africa](#)

The Wellcome Trust is pleased to support the African Union's recent call to establish the Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa (AESAs), to be led by the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

9 March 2015

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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

Vol. 9, No. 3–Summer 2014

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Infection Control

March 2015 Volume 43, Issue 3, p199-312

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Preventive Medicine

March 2015 Volume 48, Issue 3, p241-364, e1-e4

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Public Health

Volume 105, Issue 3 (March 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

March 2015; 92 (3)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

BMC Health Services Research

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

(Accessed 14 March 2015)

[No new relevant content]

BMC Infectious Diseases

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

(Accessed 14 March 2015)

Research article

Spatial clustering of measles cases during endemic (1998–2002) and epidemic (2010) periods in Lusaka, Zambia

Jessie Pinchoff¹, James Chipeta^{2*}, Gibson Chitundu Banda², Samuel Miti², Timothy Shields³, Frank Curriero³ and William John Moss^{1,3}

Author Affiliations

BMC Infectious Diseases 2015, 15:121 doi:10.1186/s12879-015-0842-y

Published: 10 March 2015

Abstract (provisional)

Background

Measles cases may cluster in densely populated urban centers in sub-Saharan Africa as susceptible individuals share spatially dependent risk factors and may cluster among human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-infected children despite high vaccination coverage.

Methods

Children hospitalized with measles at the University Teaching Hospital (UTH) in Lusaka, Zambia were enrolled in the study. The township of residence was recorded on the questionnaire and mapped; SaTScan software was used for cluster detection. A spatial-temporal scan statistic was used to investigate clustering of measles in children hospitalized during an endemic period (1998 to 2002) and during the 2010 measles outbreak in Lusaka, Zambia.

Results

Three sequential and spatially contiguous clusters of measles cases were identified during the 2010 outbreak but no clustering among HIV-infected children was identified. In contrast, a space-time cluster among HIV-infected children was identified during the endemic period. This cluster occurred prior to the introduction of intensive measles control efforts and during a period between seasonal peaks in measles incidence.

Conclusions

Prediction and early identification of spatial clusters of measles will be critical to achieving measles elimination. HIV infection may contribute to spatial clustering of measles cases in some epidemiological settings.

BMC Medical Ethics

(Accessed 14 March 2015)

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

[No new relevant content]

BMC Public Health

(Accessed 14 March 2015)

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

Research article

Association between gender inequality index and child mortality rates: a cross-national study of 138 countries

Ethel Mary Brinda¹, Anto P Rajkumar^{2,3*} and Ulrika Enemark¹

Author Affiliations

BMC Public Health 2015, 15:97 doi:10.1186/s12889-015-1449-3

Published: 9 March 2015

Abstract

Background

Gender inequality weakens maternal health and harms children through many direct and indirect pathways. Allied biological disadvantage and psychosocial adversities challenge the survival of children of both genders. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has recently developed a Gender Inequality Index to measure the multidimensional nature of gender inequality. The global impact of Gender Inequality Index on the child mortality rates remains uncertain.

Methods

We employed an ecological study to investigate the association between child mortality rates and Gender Inequality Indices of 138 countries for which UNDP has published the Gender Inequality Index. Data on child mortality rates and on potential confounders, such as, per capita gross domestic product and immunization coverage, were obtained from the official World Health Organization and World Bank sources. We employed multivariate non-parametric robust regression models to study the relationship between these variables.

Results

Women in low and middle income countries (LMICs) suffer significantly more gender inequality ($p < 0.001$). Gender Inequality Index (GII) was positively associated with neonatal ($\beta = 53.85$; 95% CI 41.61-64.09), infant ($\beta = 70.28$; 95% CI 51.93-88.64) and under five mortality rates ($\beta = 68.14$; 95% CI 49.71-86.58), after adjusting for the effects of potential confounders ($p < 0.001$).

Conclusions

We have documented statistically significant positive associations between GII and child mortality rates. Our results suggest that the initiatives to curtail child mortality rates should extend beyond medical interventions and should prioritize women's rights and autonomy. We discuss major pathways connecting gender inequality and child mortality. We present the socio-economic problems, which sustain higher gender inequality and child mortality in LMICs. We further discuss the potential solutions pertinent to LMICs. Dissipating gender barriers and focusing on social well-being of women may augment the survival of children of both genders.

BMC Research Notes

(Accessed 14 March 2015)

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

Research article

[Understanding whose births get registered: a cross sectional study in Bauchi and Cross River states, Nigeria](#)

Atam E Adi¹, Tukur Abdu¹, Amir Khan¹², Musa Haruna Rashid³, Ubi E Ebri⁴, Anne Cockcroft^{5*} and Neil Andersson⁶

Author Affiliations

BMC Research Notes 2015, 8:79 doi:10.1186/s13104-015-1026-y

Published: 13 March 2015

Abstract (provisional)

Background

It is a recognized child right to acquire a name and a nationality, and birth registration may be necessary to allow access to services, but the level of birth registration is low in Nigeria. A household survey about management of childhood illnesses provided an opportunity to examine actionable determinants of birth registration of children in Bauchi and Cross River states of Nigeria.

Methods

Trained field teams visited households in a stratified random cluster sample of 90 enumeration areas in each state. They administered a questionnaire to women 14–49 years old which included questions about birth registration of their children 0–47 months old and about socio-economic and other factors potentially related to birth registration, including education of the parents, poverty (food sufficiency), marital status of the mother, maternal antenatal care and place of delivery of the last pregnancy. Bivariate then multivariate analysis examined associations with birth registration. Facilitators later conducted separate male and female focus group discussions in the same 90 communities in each state, discussing the reasons for the findings about levels of birth registration.

Results

Nearly half (45%) of 8602 children in Cross River State and only a fifth (19%) of 9837 in Bauchi State had birth certificates (seen or unseen). In both states, children whose mothers attended antenatal care and who delivered in a government health facility in their last pregnancy were more likely to have a birth certificate, as were children of more educated parents, from less poor households, and from urban communities. Focus group discussions revealed that many people did not know about birth certificates or where to get them, and parents were discouraged from getting birth certificates because of the unofficial payments involved.

Conclusion

There are low levels of birth registration in Bauchi and Cross River states, particularly among disadvantaged households. As a result of this study, both states have planned interventions to increase birth registration, including closer collaboration between the National Population Commissions and state health services.

British Medical Journal

14 March 2015(vol 350, issue 7999)

<http://www.bmj.com/content/350/7999>

Editorials

[Germany, the G7, and global health](#)

BMJ 2015; 350 doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.h1210> (Published 05 March 2015) Cite this as: BMJ 2015;350:h1210

Gavin Yamey, lead1, Sabine Campe, associate director2, Sara Fewer, policy and programme manager1

Author affiliations

Health systems, new tools, and delivery science should top the agenda

Remember global health? It had a fantastic 10 years from 2002–12—the “golden decade” of rising health aid¹—but is now slipping down the international agenda. Some development experts argue that other sectors, such as agriculture, should “take centre stage.”² This is misguided. Health investment is the largest contributor to sustainable development.³ And a retreat from health would threaten the impressive gains of the past decade in reducing infectious disease, maternal, and child mortality.⁴

Fortunately, there are some promising signs that Germany, this year’s chair of the G7 group of large advanced economies, may spend some of its political capital on pushing health back up the global agenda. It got off to a strong start, hosting a conference in Berlin in January at which donors pledged \$7.5bn (£4.9bn; €6.7bn) to Gavi, the vaccine alliance, an amount that exceeded expectations and that could fund immunisations for an additional 300 million children.⁵ It has identified three global health priorities for the G7 in 2015: neglected tropical

diseases, pandemics, and antimicrobial resistance.⁶ What should we make of these priorities, and does the G7 really have the clout to effect global change?...

Brown Journal of World Affairs

Volume XXI Issue 1 Fall–Winter 2014

<http://brown.edu/initiatives/journal-world-affairs/>

[Reviewed earlier]

Bulletin of the World Health Organization

Volume 93, Number 3, March 2015, 133-208

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/93/3/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 March 2015]

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

[No new relevant content]

Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation

(Accessed 14 March 2015)

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

[No new relevant content]

Developing World Bioethics

April 2015 Volume 15, Issue 1 Pages ii–iii, 1–57

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/dewb.2015.15.issue-1/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

Development in Practice

Volume 25, Issue 2, 2015

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

[Implementing national food policies to promote local family agriculture: Belo Horizonte's story](#)

DOI:10.1080/09614524.2015.1002454

Melody Mendonça* & Cecilia Rocha

pages 160-173

Received: 18 Sep 2013

Accepted: 20 Feb 2014

Published online: 12 Mar 2015

Abstract

Policies in Brazil promoting family agriculture such as the Food Acquisition Programme (PAA) and the 30% minimum procurement law for the National School Meals Programme have had varying success across the country. To understand why these policies work effectively only in some areas, the implementation processes must be clarified. This exploratory, ethnographic study identifies the causal mechanisms involved in implementing PAA and the 30% law in the city of Belo Horizonte. The findings reveal that although beneficial, large supply volumes and transportation costs are challenges faced by farmers in the implementation process.

[Do early cash transfers in a food crisis enhance resilience? Evidence from Niger](#)

DOI:10.1080/09614524.2015.1001320

Emmanuel Tumusiime*

pages 174-187

Received: 20 Jul 2013

Accepted: 23 Apr 2014

Published online: 12 Mar 2015

Abstract

This article examines how households in the Tillabery region, in Niger, responded given early cash intervention, and its impact on household food access and ability to cope and recover from a food crisis. Food-access indicators are linked to the early cash-transfer programme and household social and demographic characteristics, and the relationships examined using descriptive and econometric methods. Although results indicate that the early cash-transfer programme had a positive impact on food access and reducing vulnerability, they also suggest, contrary to expectations, that the intervention was limited in contributing longer lasting impact on households' food security status.

[Identification and analysis of smallholder producers' constraints: applications to Tanzania and Uganda](#)

Open access

DOI:10.1080/09614524.2015.1007924

Derek Baker*, Jo Cadilhon & Washington Ochola

pages 204-220

Received: 29 Jul 2013

Accepted: 7 Mar 2014

Published online: 12 Mar 2015

Abstract

This article puts forward a method for the analysis of constraints faced by developing countries' smallholder producers. It is consistent with theories of constraints, efficient in terms of cost and researchers' time, and accessible to a non-technical audience. A hybrid of workshop discussion and individual data collection, it also draws on data and analyses available in most developing countries. The article presents an application to smallholder livestock systems in Tanzania and Uganda, reporting results and analysis relating constraints to households' characteristics and conditions, and their stated goals. While limitations are identified, it is proposed for application in other development fields.

[Toward purposeful individual capacity strengthening: alternative considerations for Western NGOs](#)

DOI:10.1080/09614524.2015.1006583

Vincent M. Mugisha*

pages 247-258

Received: 1 May 2013

Accepted: 26 Mar 2014

Published online: 12 Mar 2015

Abstract

The international donor community continues to emphasise country-led development strategies designed to equitably engage public and civil society agents in managing development assistance. Similarly donors who fund Western NGOs to implement development programmes on their behalf in recipient countries are increasingly pushing for cost-effective programme implementation that actively engages local actors. This article proposes an alternative theoretically grounded model for individual capacity strengthening to responsive and mission-driven Western NGOs that claim to be committed to ideals of capacity strengthening and indigenisation of programme leadership.

Rethinking dependency and development between international and indigenous non-governmental organisations

DOI:10.1080/09614524.2015.1008999

Shawn Smith*

pages 259-269

Received: 1 Aug 2013

Accepted: 7 Jul 2014

Published online: 12 Mar 2015

Abstract

This article presents a case study detailing how the Netherlands-based international NGO Terre Des Hommes (TDH) works with and impacts the indigenous Tanzanian NGO Umoja wa Maendeleo ya Bukwaya (UMABU) and the Bukwaya region that UMABU serves. The article illustrates how indigenous agency and autonomy are actualised within relationships where indigenous over-reliance and dependency are connected to Western aid organisations. The paper proposes that dependent relationships between Southern and Northern NGO partners can be negotiated by indigenous leaders in order to disseminate resources for development in indigenous communities to a greater extent than previously imagined by Western donor agencies.

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 9 - Issue 01 - February 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Disaster Prevention and Management

Volume 24 Issue 1

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

Disasters

April 2015 Volume 39, Issue 2 Pages 185–405
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/disa.2015.39.issue-2/issuetoc>
[Reviewed earlier]

Emergency Medicine Journal

March 2015, Volume 32, Issue 3
<http://emj.bmj.com/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Epidemics

Volume 11, [In Progress](#) (June 2015)
<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/25/suppl_1
Theme: Unwarranted variations in health care performance across Europe: Lessons from the ECHO Project
[Reviewed earlier]

Food Policy

Volume 52, [In Progress](#) (April 2015)
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/03069192>
[On the political economy of guest worker programs in agriculture](#)

Original Research Article

Pages 1-8

Bradley J. Rickard

Abstract

Guest workers have provided a source of agricultural labor supply in many countries. Recent legislative proposals on immigration reform in the United States have renewed discussions about the role of guest worker programs, and highlighted the arguments for and against such programs. Even within the agricultural sector, there has not been strong broad-based support

for an expansion in the number of guest workers. A model is developed that considers competing interests between commodity groups (horticulture crops and grain crops) to explain this lack of support, and then a series of simulations are conducted to highlight the possible economic effects of an expanded guest worker program. Results suggest that an increase in the labor supply would have much larger economic impacts for horticultural producers and firms in the supporting input markets. Furthermore, under some conditions, simulation outcomes show how an increase in the labor supply may lead to small revenue losses for both producers and input suppliers in grain markets.

Food Security

Volume 7, Issue 1, February 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/12571/7/1/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

Forum for Development Studies

Volume 42, Issue 1, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/sfds20/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Genocide Studies International

Volume 9, Number 1 /2015

<http://utpjournals.metapress.com/content/h3k3l734429m/?p=19a75d15156f4f52825de2a49ee054d1&pi=0>

Issue Focus: The Ottoman Genocides of Armenians, Assyrians, and Greeks

[Reviewed earlier]

Global Health: Science and Practice (GHSP)

March 2015 | Volume 3 | Issue 1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Global Health Governance

[Accessed 14 March 2015]

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

[No new relevant content]

Global Public Health

Volume 10, Issue 4, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rgph20/current#.VPudJy5nBhU>

[Reviewed earlier]

Globalization and Health

[Accessed 14 March 2015]
<http://www.globalizationandhealth.com/>
[No new relevant content]

Health Affairs

March 2015; Volume 34, Issue 3
<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/current>
[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]

Health Economics, Policy and Law

Volume 10 - Issue 02 - April 2015
<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayIssue?jid=HEP&tab=currentissue>
[Reviewed earlier]

Health Policy and Planning

Volume 30 Issue 2 March 2015
<http://heapol.oxfordjournals.org/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Health Research Policy and Systems

<http://www.health-policy-systems.com/content>
[Accessed 14 March 2015]

Review

[A systematic review of implementation frameworks of innovations in healthcare and resulting generic implementation framework](#)

Joanna C Moullin^{1*}, Daniel Sabater-Hernández¹², Fernando Fernandez-Llimos³ and Shalom I Benrimoj¹

Author Affiliations

Health Research Policy and Systems 2015, 13:16 doi:10.1186/s12961-015-0005-z

Published: 14 March 2015

Abstract (provisional)

Background

Implementation science and knowledge translation have developed across multiple disciplines with the common aim of bringing innovations to practice. Numerous implementation frameworks, models, and theories have been developed to target a diverse array of innovations. As such, it is plausible that not all frameworks include the full range of concepts now thought to be involved in implementation. Users face the decision of selecting a single or combining

multiple implementation frameworks. To aid this decision, the aim of this review was to assess the comprehensiveness of existing frameworks.

Methods

A systematic search was undertaken in PubMed to identify implementation frameworks of innovations in healthcare published from 2004 to May 2013. Additionally, titles and abstracts from Implementation Science journal and references from identified papers were reviewed. The orientation, type, and presence of stages and domains, along with the degree of inclusion and depth of analysis of factors, strategies, and evaluations of implementation of included frameworks were analysed.

Results

Frameworks were assessed individually and grouped according to their targeted innovation. Frameworks for particular innovations had similar settings, end-users, and 'type' (descriptive, prescriptive, explanatory, or predictive). On the whole, frameworks were descriptive and explanatory more often than prescriptive and predictive. A small number of the reviewed frameworks covered an implementation concept(s) in detail, however, overall, there was limited degree and depth of analysis of implementation concepts. The core implementation concepts across the frameworks were collated to form a Generic Implementation Framework, which includes the process of implementation (often portrayed as a series of stages and/or steps), the innovation to be implemented, the context in which the implementation is to occur (divided into a range of domains), and influencing factors, strategies, and evaluations.

Conclusions

The selection of implementation framework(s) should be based not solely on the healthcare innovation to be implemented, but include other aspects of the framework's orientation, e.g., the setting and end-user, as well as the degree of inclusion and depth of analysis of the implementation concepts. The resulting generic structure provides researchers, policy-makers, health administrators, and practitioners a base that can be used as guidance for their implementation efforts.

Human Rights Quarterly

Volume 37, Number 1, February 2015

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/human_rights_quarterly/toc/hrq.37.1.html

[Reviewed earlier]

Human Service Organizations Management, Leadership & Governance

Volume 39, Issue 1, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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 March 2015]

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

[No new relevant content]

International Health

Volume 7 Issue 2 March 2015

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

Special issue: Digital methods in epidemiology

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment

Volume 6 Issue 1

<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/toc/ijdrbe/6/1>

[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 2, 2015

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

Special Issue: Sustainable management and protection of ecosystems with high conservation values in Shangri-La County, Yunnan Province, China

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

March 2015 - Volume 13 - Issue 1 pp: 1-102

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

New Frontiers issue of Intervention

[Reviewed earlier]

JAMA

March 10, 2015, Vol 313, No. 10

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

[New issue; No relevant content]

JAMA Pediatrics

March 2015, Vol 169, No. 3

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Community Health

Volume 40, Issue 2, April 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10900/40/2/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

March 2015, Volume 69, Issue 3

<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 26, Number 1, February 2015

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_health_care_for_the_poor_and_underserved/toc/hpu.26.1.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 13, Issue 1, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wimm20/current#.VQS0KOFnBhW>

[Mexican Immigrant Women Searching for a Solution to Intimate Partner Abuse: Common Breaking Points and Type of Help Needed](#)

[Stavroula Kyriakakis](#), [Subadra Panchanadeswaran](#) & [Tonya Edmond](#)

pages 1-18

DOI:10.1080/15562948.2013.855859

Published online: 11 Mar 2015

[Exploring Mental Health Screening Feasibility and Training of Refugee Health Coordinators](#)

[Patricia Shannon](#), [Jennifer McCleary](#), [Elizabeth Wieling](#), [Hyojin Im](#), [Emily Becher](#) & [Ann O'Fallon](#)
pages 80-102

DOI:10.1080/15562948.2014.894170

Published online: 11 Mar 2015

Journal of Infectious Diseases

Volume 211 Issue 5 March 1, 2015

<http://jid.oxfordjournals.org/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of International Development

March 2015 Volume 27, Issue 2 Pages 155–312

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jid.v27.2/issuetoc>
[Reviewed earlier]

The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics

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

March 2015, Volume 41, Issue 3

<http://jme.bmj.com/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (JPIDS)

Volume 4 Issue 1 March 2015

<http://jpids.oxfordjournals.org/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

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 April 2015; volume 12, issue 105

<http://rsif.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/current>
[New issue; No relevant content]

Knowledge Management for Development Journal

Vol 10, No 3 (2014)

<http://journal.km4dev.org/journal/index.php/km4dj/index>

[Learning 3.0: collaborating for impact in large development organizations](#)

Nancy White, Rachel Cardone, Aldo de Moor

Abstract

This discussion paper builds on the body of research and practice about technology stewardship originally explored in Digital Habitats, and on the findings from an initial probe into the experiences of five development agencies using collaboration platform technologies. The probe was conducted from September 2013 through February 2014. We propose a framework for looking at productive practices in selecting, configuring and supporting use of collaboration technologies in international development organizations by focusing on the opportunities that exist in the boundaries between different parts of a development organization and different kinds of interactions that lead to learning and development impact. We suggest that there is a very useful opportunity to expand this initial probe using collaboration pattern language and a complexity lens to develop a useful repertoire of technology stewarding practices for collaboration in international development with the goal of supporting greater impact of development work.

Collaborative learning for fostering change in complex social-ecological systems: a transdisciplinary perspective on food and farming systems

Maria J. Restrepo, Margareta A. Lelea, Anja Christinck, Christian Hülsebusch, Brigitte A. Kaufmann

Abstract

This paper aims to conceptualize collaborative learning methodologies used in transdisciplinary research projects dealing with change in complex situations, such as farming and food systems of developing countries. For this purpose we propose a framework for understanding collaborative learning approaches based on theoretical considerations and 18 selected case studies. The cases were assessed that have a clear focus on collaborative learning in the context of farming and food systems of developing countries. We suggest that a 'collaborative learning' process includes four steps: (A) establishing a cooperation, (B) dialogue, (C) discovery, and (D) application of new knowledge. The necessity of making the process of actor identification more explicit is highlighted. Furthermore, many projects did not fully conceptualize application of knowledge as part of the research. Trust among the participants was a key to promoting knowledge exchange and mature reflection, and results from a carefully designed and facilitated process. If this was the case, participants perceived that they gained something meaningful, such as new relationships, or new knowledge and skills. Awareness of their role in the process of change was strengthened.

Navigating complexity: adaptive management and organizational learning in a development project in Northern Uganda

Amir Allana, Timothy Sparkman

Abstract

Adaptive management is a management paradigm for intervening in complex, unpredictable systems where continual learning and adaptation is vital for success. This management approach requires a fundamentally different set of tools, processes, and most importantly, staff behaviors and organizational culture than 'traditional' management. A facilitative approach to development, where the goal is creating systemic change that spreads in networks of local businesses, government, and civil society organizations, necessitates an adaptive approach. Mercy Corps Uganda's Northern Karamoja Growth, Health, and Governance Program (GHG) has been an ongoing experiment in applying the principles of adaptive management and facilitation. This article details two examples from GHG where adaptation has occurred, and provides an analysis of the tools, processes, and organizational culture that exists. Three salient takeaways for effective facilitation are elaborated on: the importance of staff behaviors and underlying beliefs, particularly with regards to 'failure', flexibility to experiment, dissent & debate, and curiosity with the subject matter of their work; importance of consistent messaging from senior

management with regards to the same; and tools and processes playing a support function to these behaviours, rather than being their source. Lessons and implications are drawn out from the GHG experience for funders and implementing organizations wanting to apply adaptive management in the context of development programming. These include building flexibility into budgeting and contracts, rethinking the structure and content of reports, and utilizing alternative hiring criteria to attract senior managers who are more likely to succeed at adaptive management.

The Lancet

Mar 14, 2015 Volume 385 Number 9972 p915-1044 e21-e22

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

Editorial

The future of health in Nigeria

The Lancet

Summary

In a letter in today's issue, Seye Abimbola and colleagues highlight the health effects of the 6 year Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria. The militant group now controls three states in the northeast of the country. Maternal and child mortality are worse in these states than in the rest of Nigeria, there are fears about undetected polio cases, and more than 980,000 people are internally displaced. Conditions are dire for the internally displaced population who live in informal and formal camps with minimum access to health care and other basic needs, such as food and clean water.

Special Report

Syrian crisis: health experts say more can be done

Sophie Cousins

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)60515-3](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)60515-3)

As the Syrian conflict enters its fifth year this month, doctors and public health experts highlight the major health problems and the actions needed to address them. Sophie Cousins reports.

Global trends and projections for tobacco use, 1990–2025: an analysis of smoking indicators from the WHO Comprehensive Information Systems for Tobacco Control

Ver Bilano, Stuart Gilmour, Trevor Moffiet, Edouard Tursan d'Espaignet, Gretchen A Stevens, Alison Commar, Frank Tuyl, Irene Hudson, Kenji Shibuya

Global surveillance of cancer survival 1995–2009: analysis of individual data for 25,676,887 patients from 279 population-based registries in 67 countries (CONCORD-2)

Claudia Allemani, Hannah K Weir, Helena Carreira, Rhea Harewood, Devon Spika, Xiao-Si Wang, Finian Bannon, Jane V Ahn, Christopher J Johnson, Audrey Bonaventure, Rafael Marcos-Gragera, Charles Stiller, Gulnar Azevedo e Silva, Wan-Qing Chen, Olufemi J Ogunbiyi, Bernard Rachet, Matthew J Soeberg, Hui You, Tomohiro Matsuda, Magdalena Bielska-Lasota, Hans Storm, Thomas C Tucker, Michel P Coleman, the CONCORD Working Group

Open Access

The Lancet Global Health

Volume 3, No. 3, e162–e168, March 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

The Lancet Infectious Diseases

Mar 2015 Volume 15 Number 3 p249-360

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Maternal and Child Health Journal

Volume 19, Issue 3, March 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10995/19/3/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

The Milbank Quarterly

A Multidisciplinary Journal of Population Health and Health Policy

March 2015 Volume 93, Issue 1 Pages 1–222

[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 519 Number 7542 pp129-256 12 March 2015

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

Comment

Global change: Put people at the centre of global risk management

Jan Willem Erisman, Guy Brasseur, Philippe Ciais, Nick van Eekeren & Thomas L. Theis

11 March 2015

An individual focus is needed to assess interconnected threats and build resilience worldwide, urge Jan Willem Erisman and colleagues.

Globalization is changing the nature of risk. Natural and social systems — from climate to energy, food, water and economies — are tightly coupled. Abrupt changes in one have a domino effect on others. Floods in Thailand in 2010, for example, led to a global shortage of computer hard disks as a result of factories closing, as well as more than US\$330 million in damage and around 250 deaths.

The exposure of people and assets to risks is increasing worldwide. From 1980 to 2012, annual economic losses from environmental disasters rose more than sevenfold, from about \$20 billion to \$150 billion a year¹.

Yet most risk assessments ignore networked threats^{2, 3}. The annual Global Risks report of the World Economic Forum considers risks qualitatively, based on the views of experts⁴. But global outlooks remain sectorial and too coarse to guide individuals, organizations, municipalities or nations.

Risk reports also neglect the collective impacts of personal choices³. For example, eating more beef causes deforestation and biodiversity loss in the Amazon. Local dams for hydropower or water storage alter sediment flows to fertile coastal regions. The movement of people from the countryside to cities affects water, food, climatic and energy systems planet-wide.

Understanding networked risks is essential for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which are being defined this year⁵. The 17 proposed goals are interdependent. For example, the stimulation of renewable energies and biofuels to address climate change also affects food production and water resources...

New England Journal of Medicine

March 5, 2015 Vol. 372 No. 10

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

Special Article

[Compliance with Results Reporting at ClinicalTrials.gov](#)

Monique L. Anderson, M.D., Karen Chiswell, Ph.D., Eric D. Peterson, M.D., M.P.H., Asba Tasneem, Ph.D., James Topping, M.S., and Robert M. Califf, M.D.

N Engl J Med 2015; 372:1031-1039 [March 12, 2015](#)

DOI: 10.1056/NEJMsa1409364

Abstract

Background

The Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act (FDAAA) mandates timely reporting of results of applicable clinical trials to ClinicalTrials.gov. We characterized the proportion of applicable clinical trials with publicly available results and determined independent factors associated with the reporting of results.

[Full Text of Background...](#)

Methods

Using an algorithm based on input from the National Library of Medicine, we identified trials that were likely to be subject to FDAAA provisions (highly likely applicable clinical trials, or HLACTs) from 2008 through 2013. We determined the proportion of HLACTs that reported results within the 12-month interval mandated by the FDAAA or at any time during the 5-year study period. We used regression models to examine characteristics associated with reporting at 12 months and throughout the 5-year study period.

[Full Text of Methods...](#)

Results

From all the trials at ClinicalTrials.gov, we identified 13,327 HLACTs that were terminated or completed from January 1, 2008, through August 31, 2012. Of these trials, 77.4% were classified as drug trials. A total of 36.9% of the trials were phase 2 studies, and 23.4% were phase 3 studies; 65.6% were funded by industry. Only 13.4% of trials reported summary results within 12 months after trial completion, whereas 38.3% reported results at any time up to September 27, 2013. Timely reporting was independently associated with factors such as FDA oversight, a later trial phase, and industry funding. A sample review suggested that 45% of industry-funded trials were not required to report results, as compared with 6% of trials funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and 9% of trials that were funded by other government or academic institutions.

[Full Text of Results...](#)

Conclusions

Despite ethical and legal obligations to disclose findings promptly, most HLACTs did not report results to ClinicalTrials.gov in a timely fashion during the study period. Industry-funded trials adhered to legal obligations more often than did trials funded by the NIH or other government or academic institutions. (Funded by the Clinical Trials Transformation Initiative and the NIH.)

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

March 2015, VOLUME 135 / ISSUE 3

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

[Reviewed earlier]

PLOS Currents: Disasters

[Accessed 14 March 2015]

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

[No new relevant content]

PLoS Currents: Outbreaks

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

(Accessed 14 March 2015)

[Modeling the 2014 Ebola Virus Epidemic – Agent-Based Simulations, Temporal Analysis and Future Predictions for Liberia and Sierra Leone](#)

March 9, 2015 · Research

We developed an agent-based model to investigate the epidemic dynamics of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in Liberia and Sierra Leone from May 27 to December 21, 2014. The dynamics of the agent-based simulator evolve on small-world transmission networks of sizes equal to the population of each country, with adjustable densities to account for the effects of public health intervention policies and individual behavioral responses to the evolving epidemic. Based on time series of the official case counts from the World Health Organization (WHO), we provide estimates for key epidemiological variables by employing the so-called Equation-Free approach. The underlying transmission networks were characterized by rather random structures in the two countries with densities decreasing by ~19% from the early (May 27-early August) to the last period (mid October-December 21). Our estimates for the values of key epidemiological variables, such as the mean time to death, recovery and the case fatality rate, are very close to the ones reported by the WHO Ebola response team during the early period of the epidemic (until September 14) that were calculated based on clinical data. Specifically, regarding the effective reproductive number R_e , our analysis suggests that until mid October, R_e was above 2.3 in both countries; from mid October to December 21, R_e dropped well below unity in Liberia, indicating a saturation of the epidemic, while in Sierra Leone it was around 1.9, indicating an ongoing epidemic. Accordingly, a ten-week projection from December 21

estimated that the epidemic will fade out in Liberia in early March; in contrast, our results flashed a note of caution for Sierra Leone since the cumulative number of cases could reach as high as 18,000, and the number of deaths might exceed 5,000, by early March 2015. However, by processing the reported data of the very last period (December 21, 2014-January 18, 2015), we obtained more optimistic estimates indicative of a remission of the epidemic in Sierra Leone, as reflected by the derived R_e (~ 0.82 , 95% CI: 0.81-0.83)

PLoS Medicine

(Accessed 14 March 2015)

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

Policy Forum

A Public Health Approach to Hepatitis C Control in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Amitabh B. Suthar, Anthony D. Harries

Published: March 10, 2015

DOI: 10.1371/journal.pmed.1001795

Summary Points

:: New oral short-duration regimens using direct-acting antiviral medicines for hepatitis C virus (HCV) have the potential to facilitate treatment and improve outcomes.

:: Translating scientific advances into reduced disease burden requires well-designed programmes encompassing prevention, screening, treatment, and strategic information.

:: Engagement from countries, civil society, donors, and policymakers is needed to generate political commitment, mobilise resources, and reduce diagnostic and medicine costs for HCV.

:: Countries should estimate the resources required to implement planned HCV prevention, screening, and treatment strategies and their expected health, societal, and financial benefits to mobilise domestic and international funding.

:: Countries could integrate HCV prevention, screening, treatment, and strategic information into HIV/AIDS programmes for financial, infrastructural, and health workforce efficiencies.

PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases

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

(Accessed 14 March 2015)

Flexibility of Oral Cholera Vaccine Dosing—A Randomized Controlled Trial Measuring Immune Responses Following Alternative Vaccination Schedules in a Cholera Hyper-Endemic Zone

Suman Kanungo, Sachin N. Desai, Ranjan Kumar Nandy, Mihir Kumar Bhattacharya, Deok Ryun Kim, Anuradha Sinha, Tanmay Mahapatra, Jae Seung Yang, Anna Lena Lopez, Byomkesh Manna, Barnali Bannerjee, Mohammad Ali, Mandeep Singh Dhingra, Ananga Mohan Chandra, John D. Clemens, Dipika Sur, Thomas F. Wierzbza Research Article | published 12 Mar 2015 | PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases 10.1371/journal.pntd.0003574

Abstract

Background

A bivalent killed whole cell oral cholera vaccine has been found to be safe and efficacious for five years in the cholera endemic setting of Kolkata, India, when given in a two dose schedule, two weeks apart. A randomized controlled trial revealed that the immune response was not significantly increased following the second dose compared to that after the first dose. We

aimed to evaluate the impact of an extended four week dosing schedule on vibriocidal response.

Methodology/Principal Findings

In this double blind randomized controlled non-inferiority trial, 356 Indian, non-pregnant residents aged 1 year or older were randomized to receive two doses of oral cholera vaccine at 14 and 28 day intervals. We compared vibriocidal immune responses between these schedules. Among adults, no significant differences were noted when comparing the rates of seroconversion for *V. cholerae* O1 Inaba following two dose regimens administered at a 14 day interval (55%) vs the 28 day interval (58%). Similarly, no differences in seroconversion were demonstrated in children comparing the 14 (80%) and 28 day intervals (77%). Following 14 and 28 day dosing intervals, vibriocidal response rates against *V. cholerae* O1 Ogawa were 45% and 49% in adults and 73% and 72% in children respectively. Responses were lower for *V. cholerae* O139, but similar between dosing schedules for adults (20%, 20%) and children (28%, 20%).

Conclusions/Significance

Comparable immune responses and safety profiles between the two dosing schedules support the option for increased flexibility of current OCV dosing. Further operational research using a longer dosing regimen will provide answers to improve implementation and delivery of cholera vaccination in endemic and epidemic outbreak scenarios.

Author Summary

The five year efficacy results of the bivalent, killed whole cell oral cholera vaccine was shown to offer 65% protection in cholera endemic Kolkata. Currently, two oral cholera vaccines (OCV) are prequalified by the World Health Organization: the whole cell recombinant cholera toxin B subunit vaccine (Dukoral), and the bivalent killed whole cell only OCV (Shanchol). Shanchol, which is less expensive and possibly associated with longer protection, is recommended in a two dose schedule to be given at two weeks apart. Large scale cholera outbreaks often affect vulnerable populations with limited access to care. Strict dosing schedules can create further logistical barriers, hindering proper vaccine delivery to affected residents returning for their second OCV dose. In this study, 356 participants aged 1 year or older were randomized to receive two doses of OCV at 14 or 28 day intervals, for which vibriocidal immune responses were compared. Similar immune responses were demonstrated between a two and four week OCV dosing schedule, which can increase flexibility when offered as part of a targeted vaccination program. This can further serve to increase adherence and completion of the recommended dosing regimen, as well as providing a platform to increase coverage of other beneficial non-vaccine interventions.

Viewpoints

[**Good and Bad News about Ebola**](#)

A. Townsend Peterson

Published: March 12, 2015

DOI: 10.1371/journal.pntd.0003509

[Concluding text]

...If the present situation with Ebola is to offer any lessons, they are that the only hope for serious investment in reducing the incidence and impact of such diseases is via spread to developed countries. Once such spread occurs, research and pharmaceutical investment will most likely follow. Ebola is a positive example, and clearly Ebola research will enter a new phase of progress, innovation, funding, production of key pharmaceuticals, and improved care, hopefully for all who might be infected by this virus.

In effect, what Ebola did was to cross the line between being a “neglected tropical disease” and being an “emerging infection.” The former set of diseases collectively exert an enormous burden in the developing world that may be constant or episodic, but are rather ubiquitous in those regions, affecting the affluent only when they venture into those regions [13,14]. The latter, on the other hand, are much less predictable, but garner more immediate attention on the world scene, precisely because they may affect affluent countries. How many other neglected diseases must await this process of spread to affluent regions and infection of affluent people, making the transition from neglected tropical disease to emerging infection, before they also will see investment and innovation?

PLoS One

[Accessed 14 March 2015]

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

A Survey of UK Healthcare Workers’ Attitudes on Volunteering to Help with the Ebola Outbreak in West Africa

Lance Turtle, Fiona McGill, Judy Bettridge, Claire Matata, Rob Christley, Tom Solomon
Research Article | published 11 Mar 2015 | PLOS ONE 10.1371/journal.pone.0120013

1. Abstract

Objective

To understand the barriers and enablers for UK healthcare workers who are considering going to work in the current Ebola outbreak in West Africa, but have not yet volunteered.

Design

After focus group discussions, and a pilot questionnaire, an anonymous survey was conducted using SurveyMonkey to determine whether people had considered going to West Africa, what factors might make them more or less likely to volunteer, and whether any of these were modifiable factors.

Participants

The survey was publicised among doctors, nurses, laboratory staff and allied health professionals. 3109 people answered the survey, of whom 472 (15%) were considering going to work in the epidemic but had not yet volunteered. 1791 (57.6%) had not considered going, 704 (22.6%) had considered going but decided not to, 53 (1.7%) had volunteered to go and 14 (0.45%) had already been and worked in the epidemic.

Results

For those considering going to West Africa, the most important factor preventing them from volunteering was a lack of information to help them decide; fear of getting Ebola and partners’ concerns came next. Uncertainty about their potential role, current work commitments and inability to get agreement from their employer were also important barriers, whereas clarity over training would be an important enabler. In contrast, for those who were not considering going, or who had decided against going, family considerations and partner concerns were the most important factors.

Conclusions

More UK healthcare workers would volunteer to help tackle Ebola in West Africa if there was better information available, including clarity about roles, cover arrangements, and training. This could be achieved with a well-publicised high quality portal of reliable information.

Cost Evaluation of Reproductive and Primary Health Care Mobile Service Delivery for Women in Two Rural Districts in South Africa

Kathryn Schnippel, Naomi Lince-Deroche, Theo van den Handel, Seithati Molefi, Suann Bruce, Cynthia Firnhaber

Research Article | published 09 Mar 2015 | PLOS ONE 10.1371/journal.pone.0119236

Abstract

Background

Cervical cancer screening is a critical health service that is often unavailable to women in under-resourced settings. In order to expand access to this and other reproductive and primary health care services, a South African non-governmental organization established a van-based mobile clinic in two rural districts in South Africa. To inform policy and budgeting, we conducted a cost evaluation of this service delivery model.

Methods

The evaluation was retrospective (October 2012–September 2013 for one district and April–September 2013 for the second district) and conducted from a provider cost perspective. Services evaluated included cervical cancer screening, HIV counselling and testing, syndromic management of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), breast exams, provision of condoms, contraceptives, and general health education. Fixed costs, including vehicle purchase and conversion, equipment, operating costs and mobile clinic staffing, were collected from program records and public sector pricing information. The number of women accessing different services was multiplied by ingredients-based variable costs, reflecting the consumables required. All costs are reported in 2013 USD.

Results

Fixed costs accounted for most of the total annual costs of the mobile clinics (85% and 94% for the two districts); the largest contributor to annual fixed costs was staff salaries. Average costs per patient were driven by the total number of patients seen, at \$46.09 and \$76.03 for the two districts. Variable costs for Pap smears were higher than for other services provided, and some services, such as breast exams and STI and tuberculosis symptoms screening, had no marginal cost.

Conclusions

Staffing costs are the largest component of providing mobile health services to rural communities. Yet, in remote areas where patient volumes do not exceed nursing staff capacity, incorporating multiple services within a cervical cancer screening program is an approach to potentially expand access to health care without added costs.

PLoS Pathogens

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

(Accessed 14 March 2015)

[No new relevant content]

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

(Accessed 14 March 2015)

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

[Human Ebola virus infection results in substantial immune activation](#)

Anita K. McElroya,b, Rama S. Akondy,c,d, Carl W. Davis,c,d, Ali H. Ellebedy,c,d, Aneesh K. Mehtae, Colleen S. Krafte,f, G. Marshall Lyone, Bruce S. Ribnere, Jay Varkeye, John Sidneyg,

Alessandro Setteg, Shelley Campbella, Ute Ströhera, Inger Damona, Stuart T. Nichola, Christina F. Spiropouloua,1, and Rafi Ahmedc,d,1

Author Affiliations

Contributed by Rafi Ahmed, February 7, 2015 (sent for review January 6, 2015; reviewed by Lawrence Corey and Barton F. Haynes)

Significance

In 2014, Ebola virus became a household term. The ongoing outbreak in West Africa is the largest Ebola virus outbreak ever recorded, with over 20,000 cases and over 8,000 deaths to date. Very little is known about the human cellular immune response to Ebola virus infection, and this lack of knowledge has hindered development of effective therapies and vaccines. In this study, we characterize the human immune response to Ebola virus infection in four patients. We define the kinetics of T- and B-cell activation, and determine which viral proteins are targets of the Ebola virus-specific T-cell response in humans.

Abstract

Four Ebola patients received care at Emory University Hospital, presenting a unique opportunity to examine the cellular immune responses during acute Ebola virus infection. We found striking activation of both B and T cells in all four patients. Plasmablast frequencies were 10–50% of B cells, compared with less than 1% in healthy individuals. Many of these proliferating plasmablasts were IgG-positive, and this finding coincided with the presence of Ebola virus-specific IgG in the serum. Activated CD4 T cells ranged from 5 to 30%, compared with 1–2% in healthy controls. The most pronounced responses were seen in CD8 T cells, with over 50% of the CD8 T cells expressing markers of activation and proliferation. Taken together, these results suggest that all four patients developed robust immune responses during the acute phase of Ebola virus infection, a finding that would not have been predicted based on our current assumptions about the highly immunosuppressive nature of Ebola virus. Also, quite surprisingly, we found sustained immune activation after the virus was cleared from the plasma, observed most strikingly in the persistence of activated CD8 T cells, even 1 mo after the patients' discharge from the hospital. These results suggest continued antigen stimulation after resolution of the disease. From these convalescent time points, we identified CD4 and CD8 T-cell responses to several Ebola virus proteins, most notably the viral nucleoprotein. Knowledge of the viral proteins targeted by T cells during natural infection should be useful in designing vaccines against Ebola virus.

[The effects of reputational and social knowledge on cooperation](#)

Edoardo Galloa,b,1,2 and Chang Yanc,1,2

Author Affiliations

Edited by Martin A. Nowak, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, and accepted by the Editorial Board February 5, 2015 (received for review August 18, 2014)

Significance

Cooperation is essential for societies to prosper. Recent experiments show that cooperation emerges in dynamic networks in which subjects can select their connections. However, these studies fixed the amount of reputation information available and did not display the network to subjects. Here, we systematically vary the knowledge available to subjects about reputation and the network to investigate experimentally their roles in determining cooperation in dynamic networks. Common knowledge about everyone's reputation is the main driver of cooperation leading to dense and clustered networks. The addition of common knowledge about the network affects the distribution of cooperative activity: cooperators form a separate community and achieve a higher payoff from within-community interactions than members of the less cooperative community.

Abstract

The emergence and sustenance of cooperative behavior is fundamental for a society to thrive. Recent experimental studies have shown that cooperation increases in dynamic networks in which subjects can choose their partners. However, these studies did not vary reputational knowledge, or what subjects know about other's past actions, which has long been recognized as an important factor in supporting cooperation. They also did not give subjects access to global social knowledge, or information on who is connected to whom in the group. As a result, it remained unknown how reputational and social knowledge foster cooperative behavior in dynamic networks both independently and by complementing each other. In an experimental setting, we show that global reputational knowledge is crucial to sustaining a high level of cooperation and welfare. Cooperation is associated with the emergence of dense and clustered networks with highly cooperative hubs. Global social knowledge has no effect on the aggregate level of cooperation. A community analysis shows that the addition of global social knowledge to global reputational knowledge affects the distribution of cooperative activity: cooperators form a separate community that achieves a higher cooperation level than the community of defectors. Members of the community of cooperators achieve a higher payoff from interactions within the community than members of the less cooperative community.

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

April 2015; 25 (4)

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

Special Issue: Perceptions of Caregivers

[Reviewed earlier]

Refugee Survey Quarterly

Volume 34 Issue 1 March 2015

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

Special Issue: The Role of International Organizations and Human Rights Monitoring Bodies in Refugee Protection

[Reviewed earlier]

Resilience: International Policies, Practices and Discourses

Volume 3, Issue 1, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/resi20/current#.VOkz6y5nBhW>

[Reviewed earlier]

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

December 2014 Vol. 36, No. 6

http://www.paho.org/journal/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=151&Itemid=266&lang=en

[Reviewed earlier]

Risk Analysis

January 2015 Volume 35, Issue 1 Pages 1–177

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/risa.2015.35.issue-1/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

Science

13 March 2015 vol 347, issue 6227, pages 1169-1284

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

In Depth

Infectious Diseases

[As Ebola fades, a new threat](#)

Leslie Roberts

A second, often overlooked, public health crisis is brewing in the countries hardest hit by Ebola, epidemiologists warn. The Ebola epidemic has devastated already weak public health systems and disrupted childhood vaccinations in Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone. As a result, unless action is taken quickly, preventable childhood diseases will likely soar. Measles, in particular, is considered a sentinel of a broken health system, often hitting early and hard in the aftermath of a disaster. In a paper in this week's issue of Science, researchers put some sobering numbers on the size of a potential measles outbreak in the region post-Ebola. In the worst case, they warn, a measles outbreak could kill thousands more people than Ebola has.

Report

[Reduced vaccination and the risk of measles and other childhood infections post-Ebola](#)

Saki Takahashi¹, C. Jessica E. Metcalf^{1,2}, Matthew J. Ferrari³, William J. Moss⁴, Shaun A. Truelove⁴, Andrew J. Tatem^{5,6,7}, Bryan T. Grenfell^{1,6}, Justin Lessler^{4,*}

Author Affiliations

¹Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544, USA.

²Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544, USA.

³Centre for Infectious Disease Dynamics, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA 16801, USA.

⁴Department of Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD 21205, USA.

5Department of Geography and Environment, University of Southampton, Southampton SO17 1BJ, UK.

6Fogarty International Center, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892, USA.

7Flowminder Foundation, 17177 Stockholm, Sweden.

Abstract

The Ebola epidemic in West Africa has caused substantial morbidity and mortality. The outbreak has also disrupted health care services, including childhood vaccinations, creating a second public health crisis. We project that after 6 to 18 months of disruptions, a large connected cluster of children unvaccinated for measles will accumulate across Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. This pool of susceptibility increases the expected size of a regional measles outbreak from 127,000 to 227,000 cases after 18 months, resulting in 2000 to 16,000 additional deaths (comparable to the numbers of Ebola deaths reported thus far). There is a clear path to avoiding outbreaks of childhood vaccine-preventable diseases once the threat of Ebola begins to recede: an aggressive regional vaccination campaign aimed at age groups left unprotected because of health care disruptions.

Review

Modeling infectious disease dynamics in the complex landscape of global health

Hans Heesterbeek^{1,*}, Roy M. Anderson², Viggo Andreasen³, Shweta Bansal⁴, Daniela De Angelis⁵, Chris Dye⁶, Ken T. D. Eames⁷, W. John Edmunds⁷, Simon D. W. Frost⁸, Sebastian Funk⁴, T. Deirdre Hollingsworth^{9,10}, Thomas House¹¹, Valerie Isham¹², Petra Klepac⁸, Justin Lessler¹³, James O. Lloyd-Smith¹⁴, C. Jessica E. Metcalf¹⁵, Denis Mollison¹⁶, Lorenzo Pellis¹¹, Juliet R. C. Pulliam^{17,18}, Mick G. Roberts¹⁹, Cecile Viboud¹⁸, Isaac Newton Institute IDD Collaboration

Author Affiliations

1Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Utrecht, Utrecht, Netherlands.

2School of Public Health, Imperial College, London, UK.

3Roskilde University, Roskilde, Denmark.

4Georgetown University, Washington, DC, USA.

5MRC Biostatistics Unit, Cambridge, UK.

6WHO, Geneva, Switzerland.

7Centre for the Mathematical Modelling of Infectious Diseases, London School of Hygiene Tropical Medicine, London, UK.

8University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.

9School of Life Sciences, University of Warwick, UK.

10School of Tropical Medicine, University of Liverpool, UK.

11Warwick Mathematics Institute, University of Warwick, Coventry, UK.

12Department of Statistical Science, University College London, London, UK.

13Department of Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD, USA.

14Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, USA.

15Department of Zoology, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK, and Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, USA.

16Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, UK.

17Department of Biology–Emerging Pathogens Institute, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA.

18Division of International Epidemiology and Population Studies, Fogarty International Center, NIH, Bethesda, MD, USA.

19Institute of Natural and Mathematical Sciences, Massey University, Auckland, New Zealand.

Abstract

BACKGROUND

Despite many notable successes in prevention and control, infectious diseases remain an enormous threat to human and animal health. The ecological and evolutionary dynamics of pathogens play out on a wide range of interconnected temporal, organizational, and spatial scales that span hours to months, cells to ecosystems, and local to global spread. Some pathogens are directly transmitted between individuals of a single species, whereas others circulate among multiple hosts, need arthropod vectors, or persist in environmental reservoirs. Many factors, including increasing antimicrobial resistance, human connectivity, population growth, urbanization, environmental and land-use change, as well as changing human behavior, present global challenges for prevention and control. Faced with this complexity, mathematical models offer valuable tools for understanding epidemiological patterns and for developing and evaluating evidence for decision-making in global health.

ADVANCES

During the past 50 years, the study of infectious disease dynamics has matured into a rich interdisciplinary field at the intersection of mathematics, epidemiology, ecology, evolutionary biology, immunology, sociology, and public health. The practical challenges range from establishing appropriate data collection to managing increasingly large volumes of information. The theoretical challenges require fundamental study of many-layered, nonlinear systems in which infections evolve and spread and where key events can be governed by unpredictable pathogen biology or human behavior. In this Review, we start with an examination of real-time outbreak response using the West African Ebola epidemic as an example. Here, the challenges range from underreporting of cases and deaths, and missing information on the impact of control measures to understanding human responses. The possibility of future zoonoses tests our ability to detect anomalous outbreaks and to estimate human-to-human transmissibility against a backdrop of ongoing zoonotic spillover while also assessing the risk of more dangerous strains evolving. Increased understanding of the dynamics of infections in food webs and ecosystems where host and nonhost species interact is key. Simultaneous multispecies infections are increasingly recognized as a notable public health burden, yet our understanding of how different species of pathogens interact within hosts is rudimentary. Pathogen genomics has become an essential tool for drawing inferences about evolution and transmission and, here but also in general, heterogeneity is the major challenge. Methods that depart from simplistic assumptions about random mixing are yielding new insights into the dynamics of transmission and control. There is rapid growth in estimation of model parameters from mismatched or incomplete data, and in contrasting model output with real-world observations. New data streams on social connectivity and behavior are being used, and combining data collected from very different sources and scales presents important challenges.

All these mathematical endeavors have the potential to feed into public health policy and, indeed, an increasingly wide range of models is being used to support infectious disease control, elimination, and eradication efforts.

OUTLOOK

Mathematical modeling has the potential to probe the apparently intractable complexity of infectious disease dynamics. Coupled to continuous dialogue between decision-makers and the multidisciplinary infectious disease community, and by drawing on new data streams, mathematical models can lay bare mechanisms of transmission and indicate new approaches to prevention and control that help to shape national and international public health policy.

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