

The Sentinel

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

28 February 2015

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

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

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*The Sentinel is also available as a pdf document linked from this page:
<http://ge2p2-center.net/>*

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:: Week in Review

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

United Nations Security Council – Open Briefing on the Humanitarian Situation in Syria

26 February 2015
UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres
- Written text of speech to the UN Security Council -

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Briefing this Council in 2013, I said the Syrian war not only had unleashed the worst humanitarian crisis of our times but also was posing a terrible threat to regional stability and to global peace and security.

This is the reality we face today.

Iraq has seen the most frightening and complete spill-over of an internal conflict into a neighbouring country in recent history. Lebanon has been on near-permanent security alert, and there have been increasing threats even to Jordan in the past months. As many as 20,000 foreign fighters from over 50 countries have reportedly traveled to Syria and Iraq since 2011, with their number nearly doubling during the course of last year.

Meanwhile, the Syrian refugee crisis has overwhelmed the existing response capacities, with 3.8 million registered refugees in the neighbouring countries.

Lebanon and Jordan have seen their populations grow, in the space of a few years, to a point they were prepared to reach only in several decades. One-third of the Lebanese population today is Palestinian or Syrian. Jordan is facing a similar challenge. And Turkey has now become the biggest refugee-hosting country in the world.

In addition, more than 2 million Iraqis were internally displaced in 2014, and some 220,000 sought refuge in other countries.

The continued growth in displacement is staggering. But at the same time, the nature of the refugee crisis is now changing. As the level of despair rises, and the available protection space shrinks, we are approaching a dangerous turning point.

After years in exile, refugees' resources are long depleted, and their living conditions are drastically deteriorating. I have met middle-class families with children who are barely surviving on the streets and praying to make it through the winter. Well over half of Syrian refugees in Lebanon are living in insecure dwellings – up from a third last year. And a survey of 40,000 Syrian families in Jordan found that two-thirds were living below the absolute poverty line. One father of four compared life as a refugee to being stuck in quicksand – every time you move, you sink down further. With humanitarian appeals systematically underfunded, there just isn't enough assistance to provide for Syrian refugees.

At the same time, host communities are severely overstretched. The refugee influx has heavily impacted economies and societies, mostly in Lebanon, Jordan and Northern Iraq, overwhelming social services, infrastructure and government resources. International support is far from keeping pace with the magnitude of the needs.

As host countries face growing security risks due to the regional spread of the conflict, and do not get the help they need to cope with the refugee influx, Syrians are finding it increasingly difficult to reach safety. UNHCR's monthly registration figures in Lebanon have dropped nearly 80 per cent compared to early 2014, and the number of those entering Jordan has also substantially reduced.

Meanwhile, it is important to underline that refugees continue to cross the border into Turkey in significant numbers. The Turkish Government has already spent around six billion dollars in direct assistance to Syrian refugees. In a landmark decision last year, Turkey's temporary protection decree gave Syrians access to the country's labor market as well as free education and health care.

But in the global context I described, it is no surprise that growing desperation is forcing more and more Syrian refugees to move further afield. The dramatic situation in the Mediterranean illustrates this, with Syrians accounting for one third of the nearly 220,000 boat arrivals last year.

Excellencies,

With the refugee situation growing more protracted and more desperate, almost two million Syrian refugees under 18 risk becoming a lost generation. And many of the over 100,000 refugee children born in exile could face the risk of statelessness. If this is not properly addressed, this crisis-in-the-making could have huge consequences for the future, not only of Syria but also of the region.

As humanitarian resources dwindle, abandoning refugees to hopelessness only exposes them to even greater suffering, exploitation and dangerous abuse. Abandoning their hosts to manage the situation on their own could result in serious regional destabilization, and more security concerns elsewhere in the world.

It should be obvious that in order to prevent this and to preserve the protection space in the region, refugees and host countries need massive international support. The Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (or 3RP) aims to bring together the humanitarian and longer-term efforts of the host governments and over 200 UN and NGO partners. Its programmes are designed to be funded not only from humanitarian, but increasingly from development cooperation budgets.

I hope the upcoming Kuwait III conference will play a determining role in stabilizing the situation in the refugee hosting countries. Beyond the immediate humanitarian priorities, it is crucial that development actors fund the 3RP's resilience pillar and the host governments' plans. Countries like Lebanon and Jordan need much more financial assistance – not only to local refugee hosting communities, but also through government budget support for necessary structural investments in health systems, education, water and electricity supply and other public infrastructure cracking under the huge pressure.

As discussed at length during the Berlin Conference, the Syria situation illustrates the dangerous inadequacy of today's development cooperation policies in a time of multiplying conflicts. To address this, bilateral and multilateral donors, and international financial institutions, should review existing criteria and priorities. It is absurd, for example, that Lebanon or Jordan have no access to World Bank grants because they are considered as middle-income countries.

Excellencies,

As High Commissioner for Refugees, it breaks my heart to see Syrian families fleeing from a horrible war, forced to risk their lives again, on unsafe boats, to find protection in Europe. Since the start of 2015, over 370 people have died trying to cross the Mediterranean – that's one person drowning for every twenty who made it. But Italy's Mare Nostrum operation has ended,

and the EU's Triton initiative is limited both in mandate and in resources. Europe must step up its capacity to save lives, with a robust search and rescue operation in the Central Mediterranean – or thousands more, including many, many Syrians, will perish.

To reduce the number of people getting on boats in the first place, more legal avenues are needed for Syrians to seek protection in third countries. Several States provide resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes, but the needs far exceed available spaces. We believe one-tenth of the Syrian refugees would require resettlement as the adequate solution for their protection situation. Flexible visa policies, expanded family reunification, academic scholarships and private sponsor schemes must complement these measures. Following the example of countries like Germany and Sweden, other States in Europe and the Gulf region should consider offering legal access with more opportunities, so as to alleviate some of the pressure on Syria's neighbours and give more refugees an alternative way of reaching safety.

Without such alternatives, the number of people taking to the seas will continue to grow. And not only are they facing serious human rights violations at the hands of smugglers and traffickers. We now also see armed groups threatening to enter the smuggling business for their own purposes of sowing fear.

This should remind us that protecting refugees also means tackling racism and xenophobia. In today's climate of rising panic, it deeply worries me that refugees are becoming mixed up with security concerns, confronting hostility in places where they thought they were safe. In several public debates they are made scapegoats for any number of problems, from terrorism to economic hardship and perceived as threats to their host communities' way of life. But we need to remember that the primary threat is not from refugees, but to them.

Syrians are now the biggest refugee population under UNHCR's mandate. As their number keeps growing and they become more vulnerable, the serious repercussions this has across the region only highlight the obvious – the urgent need for the international community to bring together all key actors and to put an end to the conflict... There are no winners in this war; everyone is losing. But the highest price is paid by the refugees and the other innocent victims inside the country.

Thank you very much.

WHO: Health crises in Central African Republic, Iraq, South Sudan and Syria need US\$1 billion

24 February, 2015 Geneva – Raging conflict and beleaguered health services are threatening the health of tens of millions of people across the Central African Republic, Iraq, South Sudan and Syria. To respond, the World Health Organization today called on the international community to provide \$US1 billion to support its on-going efforts – and those of partners – to treat, immunize and provide the wide range of life-saving health services needed to populations in need.

- [Read the full news release on WHO's increased funding needed to meet health needs](#)
- [More information on Central African Republic](#)
- [More information on Iraq](#)

- [More information on South Sudan](#)
- [More information on Syrian Arabic Republic](#)

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Amnesty International - [Global response to atrocities by states and armed groups 'shameful and ineffective'](#)

Press Release - 25 February 2015

[Excerpts]

:: Amnesty International releases Annual Report along with forecast of human rights trends for the coming year

:: Says governments must 'stop pretending the protection of civilians is beyond their power'

:: Forecasts more civilians at risk of abuses by armed groups, continued attacks on freedom of expression, and a worsening humanitarian and refugee crisis; unless there is a fundamental change to the global response to conflict

:: Calls for global action including renouncement of veto rights by five permanent members of UN Security Council in situations of mass atrocities

2015/16 forecast

Amnesty International's Annual Report provides a comprehensive overview of human rights in 160 countries during 2014. Unless the world's leaders act immediately to confront the changing nature of conflict and address other shortcomings identified in the report, the human rights outlook for the coming year is bleak:

:: more civilian populations forced to live under the quasi-state control of brutal armed groups, subject to attacks, persecution, and discrimination

:: deepening threats to freedom of expression and other rights, including violations caused by new draconian anti-terror laws and unjustified mass surveillance

:: a worsening humanitarian and refugee crisis with even more people displaced by conflict as governments continue to block borders and the international community fails to provide assistance and protection.

Of particular concern is the rising power of non-state armed groups, including the group which calls itself Islamic State (IS).

Armed groups committed abuses in at least 35 countries in 2014, more than 1 in 5 of the countries that Amnesty International investigated.

"Governments must stop pretending the protection of civilians is beyond their power and help roll back the tide of suffering of millions. Leaders must embrace a fundamental change in the way they respond to crises around the world."

UN Security Council veto

In Syria, Iraq, Gaza, Israel and Ukraine, the UN Security Council (UNSC) has failed to deal with crises and conflict, even in situations where horrific crimes are being committed against civilians by states or by armed groups, based on vested interests or political expediency.

Amnesty International is now calling for the five permanent UNSC members to renounce their veto rights in situations of genocide and other mass atrocities.

"This could be a game changer for the international community and the tools it has at its disposal to help protect civilian lives. By renouncing their veto rights the five permanent members of the Security Council would give the UN more scope to take action to protect

civilians when lives are at grave risk and send a powerful signal to perpetrators that the world will not sit idly by while mass atrocities take place," said Salil Shetty.

Arms trade

The bloody legacy of the flooding of weapons into countries where they are used for grave abuses by states and armed groups claimed tens of thousands of civilian lives in 2014.

Amnesty International is calling for all states—including the US, China, Canada, India, Israel and Russia—to ratify or accede, and adhere, to the Arms Trade Treaty which came into force last year after decades of campaigning by Amnesty International and others.

"Huge arms shipments were delivered to Iraq, Israel, South Sudan and Syria in 2014 despite the very high likelihood that these weapons would be used against civilian populations trapped in conflict. When IS took control of large parts of Iraq, it found large arsenals, ripe for the picking. The irresponsible flow of weapons to human rights abusers must stop now," said Anna Neistat.

Explosive weapons

Amnesty International is calling for world leaders to introduce new restrictions to tackle the use of explosive weapons—such as aircraft bombs, mortars, artillery, rockets and ballistic missiles—in populated areas, which led to countless civilian deaths in 2014.

"Further restrictions on the use of explosive weapons which cannot be precisely targeted or which otherwise have wide-area effect in populated areas could have helped save thousands of lives lost in recent conflicts, including in Israel, Gaza and Ukraine. The international community can and must do more to protect civilians whose homes have become the frontline battle zone of warring parties," said Anna Neistat....

...Refugees

A tragic consequence of the international community's inability to deal with the changing face of conflict is one of the worst refugee crisis the world has seen, as millions of people – including 4 million from Syria alone – continue to flee violence and persecution.

"It is abhorrent to see how wealthy countries' efforts to keep people out take precedence over their efforts to keep people alive. The global refugee crisis is only likely to get worse, unless urgent measures are taken," said Salil Shetty.

"Leaders have it in their power to alleviate the suffering of millions—by committing political and financial resources to assist and protect those fleeing danger, delivering humanitarian aid generously, and resettling the most vulnerable."

Call to action

"The global outlook on the state of human rights is bleak, but there are solutions. World leaders must take immediate and decisive action to avert an impending global crisis and take us one step closer to a safer world in which rights and freedoms are protected," said Salil Shetty.

:: [Human rights in numbers](#)

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Childhood and Migration in Central and North America: Causes, Practices and Challenges

Funded by MacArthur Foundation, Ford Foundation
February 2015 :: 390 pages

:: Karen Musalo, Director; Lisa Frydman, Associate Director, Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, University of California Hastings College of the Law; and Pablo Ceriani Cernadas, Coordinator, Migration & Asylum Program, Justice and Human Rights Center, National University of Lanús, Argentina

Downloads at : <http://cgrs.uchastings.edu/Childhood-Migration-HumanRights>

[Excerpts from Overview and Executive Summary]

Childhood and Migration in Central and North America: Causes, Policies, Practices and Challenges results from a two-year, multi-partner, multi-national and regional investigation into the treatment of Honduran, Salvadoran, Guatemalan, Mexican, and United States citizen and permanent resident children affected by migration. The book illuminates the overall gaps in protection and in guaranteeing rights for children and adolescents affected by migration. It examines the root causes of children and family migration in the region and its recent spike, and explores whether conditions and policies in children's countries of origin, transit countries, and destination countries in the region protect their best interests and ensure their rights.

It also assesses whether host or destination countries effectively integrate children and adolescents affected by migration, and whether existing programs ensure—on a case-by-case basis—safe and sustainable reintegration of repatriated children and adolescents. Interviews with children and adolescents, parents, and key social and political actors in the five countries studied, combined with the experience of experts working with migrant children and adolescents on a range of issues, form the basis of the book's findings and recommendations.

II. General findings [Excerpt]

Children and adolescents affected by migration in Central and North America represent an urgent human rights, human development, refugee, and humanitarian challenge. The crux of the problem lies in the sending countries of Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico where childhood has become synonymous with witnessing or suffering violence; experiencing human rights violations and discrimination on various grounds; suffering from social exclusion; and being deprived of education, employment opportunities, medical services, and even food. These conditions force children and/or their parents to migrate. The challenges continue during transit, especially in Mexico—with governmental actors and criminal syndicates preying on children and families by raping, kidnapping, extorting, or beating them, and with the governmental institutions enforcing migration control policies that are designed to punish and deter migration rather than to protect children and respect their human rights.

The problem endures in the destination countries of Mexico and the United States, where policies focused on migration enforcement take priority over children's best interests and rights, resulting all too often in children and adolescents being repatriated to the very conditions they fled. It also persists in Mexico and the United States for migrant children and children in mixed status families who live in the shadows and on the margins of society, fearing their own or their family members' deportation. Rather than being able to pursue their right to develop, learn, and grow, these children lack access to education, healthcare and other vital services, and they often land in exploitative labor conditions. Children's rights to family and development are violated when undocumented parents cannot obtain residency status based on having children in regular migration status; are not entitled to work or to other basic rights; and can be reported without consideration of a child's best interests. Finally, the violation of rights comes full circle in children's countries of origin following their return, because the key root causes that

forced them to migrate from Central America and Mexico—violence, social exclusion, poverty, and separation from family—remain unchanged.

This complex and multi-faceted human dilemma requires urgent attention and a fundamental paradigm shift. It will only be solved when conditions in children's countries of origin do not force them or their parents to migrate, when increased options exist for children and families to migrate through regular channels, and when policies at the regional, national, and local levels adhere to rights-based principles with the best interests of the child as a core standard and guaranteed access to international protection. Truly resolving this human dilemma may take years, but efforts must begin now....

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ECOWAS MEMBERS ADOPT A DECLARATION ON ERADICATION OF STATELESSNESS IN WEST AFRICA [Economic Community of West African States]

ABIDJAN, CÔTE D'IVOIRE, 25 February 2015

JOINT UNHCR / ECOWAS PRESS RELEASE

Following two days of high level consultations on 23-24 February, Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) adopted today a Declaration on the prevention, reduction and elimination of statelessness in West Africa at a joint UN HCR/ECOWAS Ministerial Conference hosted by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire.

At least 750,000 people are stateless or at risk of statelessness in the region and, as such, are often subject to life in limbo, with limited access to education, healthcare, and employment. They are also vulnerable to discrimination and abuse as they have no legal existence and are not recognized in the eyes of the law.

The Declaration contains 25 commitments and highlights in particular the necessity for States in the ECOWAS region to first obtain concrete information on the causes of statelessness and the number and profile of stateless persons in the region. It also stresses that every child should acquire a nationality at birth and that all foundlings should be considered nationals of the State in which they are found. It also focuses on the need to ensure that men and women have equal rights to acquire, change and retain their nationality and confer nationality to their children.

The text also stresses the importance of protecting stateless persons by restoring their dignity and, in particular, by providing them with a legal identity and documentation. It invites Member States who have not yet done so to accede, as soon as possible, to the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness...

:: Ministerial Conference on Statelessness in the ECOWAS region

Full Meeting Documentation: <http://www.unhcr.org/54ef26126.html>

:: Abidjan declaration of Ministers of ECOWAS Member states on eradication of statelessness: Ministerial Conference on Statelessness in the ECOWAS region

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 25 February 2015 :: 10 pages

<http://www.unhcr.org/54ef26126.html>

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EBOLA/EVD [to 28 February 2015]

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

WHO: Ebola Situation Report - 25 February 2015

[Excerpt; Editor's text bolding]

SUMMARY

:: **A total of 99 new confirmed cases of Ebola virus disease (EVD) were reported in the week to 22 February.** Guinea reported 35 new confirmed cases. Cases continue to arise from unknown chains of transmission. Transmission remains widespread in Sierra Leone, with 63 new confirmed cases. A spike of 20 new confirmed cases in Bombali is linked to the previously reported cluster of cases in the Aberdeen fishing community of the capital, Freetown. There were 14 new confirmed cases in Freetown over the same period, with cases still arising from unknown chains of transmission in Freetown and elsewhere. Transmission continues at very low levels in Liberia, with 1 new confirmed case reported in the 7 days to 22 February: a registered contact associated with a known chain of transmission in the capital, Monrovia.

:: Engaging effectively with communities remains a challenge in several geographical areas. **Nearly one-third of prefectures in Guinea reported at least one security incident in the week to 22 February, often as a result of rumours and misinformation linking response efforts with the spread of EVD.** A total of 16 new confirmed cases were identified in Guinea and Sierra Leone after post-mortem testing of individuals who died in the community, indicating that a significant number of individuals are still either unable or reluctant to seek treatment. Ideally these individuals would have been identified as contacts associated with known chains of transmission, and have been rapidly diagnosed, isolated, and treated after the initial onset of symptoms. In Guinea and Sierra Leone, 19 and 15 unsafe burials were reported, respectively.

:: Most new cases in Guinea were reported from 3 neighbouring western prefectures: Conakry (6 new confirmed cases), Coyah (8 new confirmed cases), and Forecariah (16 confirmed cases). However, the eastern prefecture of Lola, on the border with Côte d'Ivoire, reported 1 new confirmed case. Case incidence has fluctuated in this prefecture. The northern prefecture of Mali, which borders Senegal, also reported 1 new confirmed case.

:: **The steep decline in case incidence nationally in Sierra Leone from December until the end of January has halted. Transmission remains widespread, with 8 districts reporting new confirmed cases. A significant proportion of cases are still arising from unknown chains of transmission.**

:: Of laboratories that report results to the relevant ministry of health, between 84% and 98% of laboratory samples were tested within 1 day of collection in the 22 days to 22 February. At present there are no data on how rapidly results are communicated to patients.

:: In the week to 22 February, 3 new health worker infections were reported (2 from Guinea, 1 from Sierra Leone), bringing the total of health worker infections reported since the start of the outbreak to 837, with 490 deaths.

COUNTRIES WITH WIDESPREAD AND INTENSE TRANSMISSION

:: There have been over **23,500 reported confirmed, probable, and suspected cases cases of EVD in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (table 1), with over 9,500 reported deaths** (outcomes for many cases are unknown). A total of 35 new confirmed cases were reported in Guinea, 1 in Liberia, and 63 in Sierra Leone in the 7 days to 22 February....

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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 28 February 2015]

Selected Press Releases/Meetings Coverage

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

27 February 2015

ECOSOC/6675

[Speakers in Economic and Social Council Welcome 'Mushrooming' Partnerships as Vital for New Development Scheme, But Stress Need for Oversight](#)

Expanding the United Nations' partnerships — with Governments, business, the philanthropic community, civil society and academia — would be central to effectively implement the new development agenda, Martin Sajdik, President of the Economic and Social Council, told the 54-member body today, as delegates evaluated how to harness their potential, including by setting up voluntary review mechanisms to assess results.

UN OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 28 February 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

SRSG/CAAC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict [to 28 February 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

SRSG/SVC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict [to 28 February 2015]
<http://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/media/press-releases/>
No new digest content identified.

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [to 28 February 2015]
<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/search?page=&comid=4a0950336&cid=49aea93a7d&scid=49aea93a40>
[We generally limit coverage to regional and global level initiatives and analysis, recognizing that a number of country-level announcements are added each week]
[UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres - Written text of speech to the UN Security Council - 26 February 2015](#)

[ECOWAS members adopt a Declaration on eradication of Statelessness in West Africa](#)
26 February 2015

UNOCHA [to 28 February 2015]
<http://www.unocha.org/media-resources/press-releases>
26 Feb 2015
[Syrian Arab Republic: Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Kyung-Wha Kang: Security Council Briefing on Syria - New York, 26 February 2015](#)

26 Feb 2015
[occupied Palestinian territory: Humanitarian Coordinator calls for children's safe access to education in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem](#)
26 Feb 2015

[Mali: \\$377 million sought for humanitarian aid in Mali](#)
26 Feb 2015

[occupied Palestinian territory: Joint Statement by 30 International Aid Agencies: "We must not fail in Gaza." \[EN/AR/HE\]](#)
24 Feb 2015

[Central African Republic: Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Kyung-Wha Kang: Press Briefing on Central African Republic and Cameroon](#)
24 Feb 2015

[World: Under-Secretary-General Valerie Amos: Lecture at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia -"The Future of Humanitarian Action"](#)

24 Feb 2015
[Ukraine: Humanitarian Response Plan 2015 for Ukraine: USD 316 million requested to assist 3.2 million vulnerable people \[EN/UK\]](#)

UNISDR UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 28 February 2015]

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

24 Feb 2015

[Japan's private sector puts focus on resilience and risk-sensitivity as World Conference looms](#)

More than 250 representatives from Japan's business community have held an information-packed session to prepare for next month's World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which will see the adoption of a new global framework to guide risk reduction over the next decade.

UNICEF [to 28 February 2015]

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

[Children seized from South Sudan school not released yet](#)

JUBA, South Sudan/NAIROBI, Kenya, 28 February 2015 – Scores of children seized by armed men from a village in northern South Sudan two weeks ago remain forcibly recruited as child soldiers, despite intensive efforts to locate and free them.

[Cholera outbreak in Malawi raises concerns of a large-scale spread: UNICEF](#)

LILONGWE /GENEVA - 27 February 2015 – UNICEF Malawi is on high alert following a cholera outbreak in the southern border areas, where highly-populated camps for people displaced by the floods are located.

[UNICEF statement on plight of child migrants in the Mediterranean](#)

BRUSSELS, 26 February 2015 – "Since the beginning of the year, not a single week has gone by without reports of people, mostly from conflict-torn countries, crossing the Mediterranean on unsafe boats in search of sanctuary in Europe.

"Children are increasingly part of this exodus. Behind these journeys are individual stories of immense tragedy; the perils every child endures before, during and after these dangerous crossings are unfathomable. Many of these children are travelling without the protection of a parent or caretaker, and are vulnerable to risks of abuse and exploitation.

"UNICEF welcomes the European Commission's announcement that it will be increasing its aid to Italy to help ensure that these children receive the protection, support, care and assistance they are entitled to.

"UNICEF believes that more must be done to address the root causes of these boat tragedies – including armed conflict, poverty and fear of persecution – as a means of preventing them from happening."

UN Women [to 28 February 2015]

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

["For women's leadership to thrive, and for change to happen, all of us need greater courage and decisiveness" – UN Women Executive Director](#)

Date : February 27, 2015

In her opening address at the "High-level Event on Women in Power and Decision-making", held on 27 February, in Santiago, Chile, UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka urged bolder action to fulfil the commitments made at the World Conference on Women

in Beijing in 1995 to increase women's representation in leadership positions in all important sectors of society.

[During Brazil's Carnival, parade-goers promote respect for women](#)

Date : February 26, 2015

Using an explosion of colour and audacious costumes to tell the story of brave women everywhere, the traditional samba school of Mangueira paid tribute to the women who fight every day to overcome gender inequalities in their parade. It is one of several national events for UN Women's global Beijing+20 "Empowering Women - Empowering Humanity: Picture It!" campaign.

[The potential that technology has to open up the world for women and girls – Executive Director](#)

Date : February 25, 2015

Opening address by UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka at Mobile Learning Week 2015: "Leveraging technology to empower women and girls", 24 February, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France

[Fund for Gender Equality issues call for proposals](#)

Date : February 23, 2015

Innovative civil society initiatives seeking to spur women's economic and/or political empowerment are invited to apply for funding.

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues [to 28 February 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

WHO & Regionals [to 28 February 2015]

[WHO/Europe calls for scaled-up vaccination against measles](#)

Over 22 000 cases reported in Europe in 2014–2015

Copenhagen, 25 February 2015

The WHO Regional Office for Europe calls on policy-makers, health care workers and parents immediately to step up vaccination against measles across age groups at risk. This will help to put an end to the outbreaks occurring in countries in the WHO European Region and to prevent similar outbreaks in the future.

Seven countries in the Region have reported 22 567 cases of measles in 2014 and thus far in 2015. This threatens the Region's goal of eliminating the disease by the end of 2015. Even though measles cases fell by 50% from 2013 to 2014, large outbreaks continue.

"When we consider that over the past two decades we have seen a reduction of 96% in the number of measles cases in the European Region, and that we are just a step away from eliminating the disease, we are taken aback by these numbers. We must collectively respond, without further delay, to close immunization gaps," says Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Director for Europe. "It is unacceptable that, after the last 50 years' efforts to make safe and effective vaccines available, measles continues to cost lives, money and time."...

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

- [26 February 2015 Human infection with avian influenza A\(H7N9\) virus – China](#)
- [26 February 2015 Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus \(MERS-CoV\) – Saudi Arabia](#)

:: WHO Regional Offices

WHO African Region AFRO

- :: [WHO identifying innovative ways to strengthen immunization services in Central Africa - 26 February 2015](#)

- :: [Kenya hosts commemoration to accelerate comprehensive implementation of WHO FCTC in the African Region - 25 February 2015](#)

WHO Region of the Americas PAHO

- :: [Tobacco: 10 years fighting a top killer in the Americas](#) (02/26/2015)

- :: [PAHO/WHO supports CDC-led effort to eliminate malaria on Hispaniola by 2020](#) (02/25/2015)

WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO

No new digest content identified.

WHO European Region EURO

- :: [WHO/Europe calls for scaled-up vaccination against measles](#) 25-02-2015

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO

- :: [WHO supports tax increase on cigarettes in Egypt](#) 26 February 2015

- :: [Save lives: Recommit to implementing WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control](#) 26 February 2015

- :: [More progress needed to control the Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus \(MERS-COV\) in Saudi Arabia](#)

23 February 2015

WHO Western Pacific Region

No new digest content identified.

UNAIDS [to 28 February 2015]

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

[Zero Discrimination Day to be celebrated around the world](#)

26 February 2015 | [PDF](#)

[UNAIDS welcomes further evidence of the efficacy of antiretroviral medicines in preventing new HIV infections](#)

24 February 2015 | [PDF](#)

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund [to 28 February 2015]

<http://www.unfpa.org/public/>
No new digest content identified.

UNDP United Nations Development Programme [to 28 February 2015]

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

27 Feb 2015

[Ukraine: 80,000 internally displaced people get humanitarian aid](#)

Kyiv - The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has distributed vital humanitarian aid to over 80,000 of the most vulnerable people affected by the ongoing conflict in Eastern Ukraine.

27 Feb 2015

[Magdy Martínez-Solimán: From vision to transformation: Debate on the implementation of the new Global Goals for Sustainable Development, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland](#)

27 Feb 2015

[Helen Clark: Opening Remarks at Session Two of the High Level Event on "Women in power and decision-making: Building a different world"](#)

Santiago, Chile

26 Feb 2015

[Strengthened Capacities, Effective Institutions critical for successful implementation of post-2015 development agenda](#)

UNDP and the UN Development Group (UNDG) have been facilitating an unprecedented global conversation through which people can help shape the future development agenda that will build on the Millennium Development Goals after 2015.

25 Feb 2015

[A Cuban model for a resilient Caribbean](#)

Risk Reduction Management Centers, a successful initiative in hurricane-prone Cuba, are being scaled up across partnering Caribbean states.

24 Feb 2015

[Indonesia kicks off scheme for palm oil farmers to meet new sustainability standards](#)

24 Feb 2015

[Sierra Leone: People with disabilities look to an Ebola-free future](#)

Freetown, Sierra Leone - A group of young wheelchair-bound men barrel down a busy street hustling cars for a few leones. The money they collect is meagre - and gets less and less as the Ebola crisis pushes them further towards the fringes of society.

UN Division for Sustainable Development [to 28 February 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme [to 28 February 2015]

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

[United Nations Reports Its 2013 Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#)

Efforts to reduce emissions continued, as evidenced by case studies on the Greening the Blue website

26-2-2015

[Modernizing District Energy Systems Could Reduce Heating and Cooling Primary Energy Consumption by up to 50% finds New Report](#)

Reducing Cities' Heating and Cooling Energy Consumption Key to Keeping Global Temperature Rise to 2°C

26-2-2015

[First International Forum on Sustainable Lifestyles Seeks to Accelerate Transition to Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns](#)

The forum also looks to find ways around barriers to change by sharing knowledge and experiences, and showcasing initiatives across many areas.

25-2-2015

[IPCC Agrees on Acting Chair after R.K. Pachauri Steps Down](#)

The actions taken today will ensure that the IPCC's mission to assess climate change continues without interruption

24-2-2015

NAIROBI, Feb 24 - The Bureau of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) agreed on Tuesday, in accordance with its procedures, to designate Vice-Chair Ismail El Gizouli as Acting IPCC Chair. The designation of El Gizouli follows the decision by Rajendra K Pachauri, PhD, to step down as Chairman of the IPCC effective today...

DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 28 February 2015]

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

[Member States and stakeholders discuss vision for post-2015](#)

25 February 2015, New York

The post 2015 negotiating session held from 17-20 February at UN Headquarters in New York focused on the Declaration component of the new development agenda. The Declaration "will be an important part of the future framework and indeed of the outcome document" of the post 2015 agenda, said Co-Facilitator David Donoghue, Permanent Representative of Ireland. Co-Facilitator Macharia Kama, Permanent Representative of Kenya, stressed that the Declaration should be visionary and "speak to the future".

[Participants join from across globe to chat on world economy](#)

24 February 2015, New York

More than 250 people joined UN DESA's Facebook chat on 12 February to ask their questions on the world economy. Oil prices and their impact on consumption, GDP growth and fiscal balances, wages and income inequalities were some of the topics addressed by the online community as they tuned in from all corners of the world.

[New \\$US 1 million UN Grant for leadership and innovation in sustainable energy](#)

24 February 2015, New York

A new programme that will offer \$US 1 million to institutions or individuals that have demonstrated leadership and innovation in energy for sustainable development was launched in the beginning of February by UN DESA, with funding support from the China Energy Fund Committee (CEFC), a Hong Kong-based NGO.

[Top officials: UN development system must adapt to challenges posed by post-2015 agenda](#)

23 February 2015, New York

Top United Nations officials today underlined the importance of ongoing review and reform of the Organization's development system as Member States met to begin the UN Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) Operational Activities Segment.

[Valuing the environment – from sustained to sustainable growth](#)

18 February 2015, New York

Growth has, for a long time, been seen as a crucial enabler in fighting poverty and the social injustices that come with it. In order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the desired growth pattern was set to be sustained, inclusive and equitable. However, when looking at the post-2015 era and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Mr. Pingfan Hong, Director of UN DESA's Development Policy and Analysis Division, saw the need for a new kind of growth pattern where sustained growth has to be replaced by sustainable growth, whereby the value of the environment is fully considered.

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 28 February 2015]

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

27/02/2015 - [Longest-held hostages in Somalia's history released](#)

26/02/2015 - [Crime prevention & criminal justice enables development, says UNODC Chief at General Assembly debate](#)

UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme [to 28 February 2015]

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

[UN-Habitat launches call for Urban Youth Fund applications](#)

Nairobi 26 February 2015- UN-Habitat on Thursday launched call for applications for the Urban Youth Fund.

In its seventh year, the Fund provides grants to projects led by young people aged 15-32 years who are piloting innovative approaches to employment, good urban governance, shelter, secure tenure and risk rehabilitation.

The Fund aims to assist youth-led organizations in designing and implementing projects that will contribute to sustainable urbanization in the developing world. Furthermore, the Fund seeks to gain insight from successful grassroots youth projects and create greater awareness of the need for youth mainstreaming in development policies and strategies.

This year's call for proposals strongly encourages applicants to ensure their projects include the following criteria:

1. A strategy to work with cities and or local authorities in order to maximize their ability at making an impact at the policy level. One of the key objectives of UN-Habitat's youth

programme is to enhance the capacity of local authorities to mainstream youth issues into their programmes and services.

2. The inclusion of the Human Rights Based Approach during projects' implementation. The Human Rights Based Approach will be presented as a cross cutting issue toward the various UN- Habitat thematic areas in the projects' goals. This is with the aim to empowering people to know and claim their rights. This also serves to increase the ability and accountability of individuals and institutions that are responsible for respecting, protecting and fulfilling these rights. For more information on Human Rights Based Approach please visit:
<http://unhabitat.org/urban-themes/human-rights/>

UN-Habitat invites young people based in cities or towns from the developing world to apply for grants from the fund. The application is open from February 15 to April 15 2015. To apply please visit: <http://www.unhabitattyouthfund.org>

FAO Food & Agriculture Organization [to 28 February 2015]

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

[Agriculture key to Caribbean food security and coping with climate change](#)

FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva told Caribbean Community (CARICOM) heads of government how efforts to combat hunger and malnutrition in the Caribbean have made substantial progress over the past two decades. Barbados, Guyana, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname have met the Millennium Development Goal hunger target of halving the proportion of hungry people by 2015, he noted.

26-02-2015

[Ending hunger and malnutrition a top priority for Caribbean region](#)

Over the last two decades efforts to combat hunger and malnutrition in the Caribbean have made substantial progress, but these need to be further strengthened, Director-General José Graziano da Silva has told agriculture ministers from the region.

25-02-2015

[FAO's strong leadership instills a result-oriented culture, says new MOPAN report](#)

A newly released report highlights the depth and breadth of the transformational changes taking place across the Organization.

25-02-2015

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 28 February 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

ILO International Labour Organization [to 28 February 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization [to 28 February 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

IMO International Maritime Organization [to 28 February 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

WMO World Meteorological Organization [to 28 February 2015]

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

[IPCC takes decisions on future work](#)

27 February 2015

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has taken a series of decisions to make its reports more accessible and involve developing countries more closely in its work.

The decisions, following a review of the future work of the IPCC over the past year and a half, pave the way for the IPCC to prepare its next cycle of reports, which will be initiated by elections for a new Bureau and Chair in October 2015.

[Boost for Cooperation on Tropical Cyclones](#)

25 February 2015

Regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region is to be increased to build greater resilience to tropical cyclones and related hazards, which wreak a heavy economic and human toll.

At a meeting hosted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok, Thailand, 9-13 February, representatives from 17 Member countries/territories from two separate – and active – tropical cyclone basins agreed to a series of new initiatives.

[IPCC agrees on Acting Chair after R.K. Pachauri steps down](#)

24 February 2015

The Bureau of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) agreed on Tuesday, in accordance with its procedures, to designate Vice-Chair Ismail El Gizouli as Acting IPCC Chair. The designation of Gizouli follows the decision by Rajendra K Pachauri, PhD, to step down as Chairman of the IPCC effective today.

The decision to name Gizouli was taken at a Session of the Bureau ahead of the 41st Session of the IPCC, which is being held on 24-27 February 2015.

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 28 February 2015]

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

[HEINEKEN and UNIDO announce partnership to support sustainability in developing markets](#)

Friday, 27 February 2015

AMSTERDAM/VIENNA, 27 February 2015 – The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and HEINEKEN the international brewer, today announced plans to work together in a range of sustainability issues...

[UNIDO's inclusive and sustainable industrial development approach gets strong support at New York event](#)

Thursday, 26 February 2015

NEW YORK, 26 February 2015 – Representatives of some 30 countries who have been supporting and promoting the issue of inclusive and sustainable industrialization as part of efforts to define a set of Sustainable Development Goals...

[High-level event stresses importance of extractive industries to sustainable growth in Africa](#)

Tuesday, 24 February 2015

NEW YORK, 24 February 2015 – The United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) held a meeting at Headquarters in New York today on the role of the extractive industry in Africa. The High-Level Expert Group Meeting was organized by Special Advisor Maged Abdelaziz in conjunction with the African Union Commission (AUC), as well as the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Department of Public Information (DPI).

The event, which looked to the post-2015 development agenda and the African Union 'Agenda 2063,' explored how to enhance management of Africa's extractive industries in order to fully harness their potential as important drivers for sustainable development, structural economic transformation and inclusive growth.

According to the OSAA, Africa has an abundant natural resource endowment, boasting 12 per cent of the world's oil reserves, 40 per cent of its gold and around 60 per cent of its uncultivated arable land....

UNWTO World Tourism Organization [to 28 February 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

ITU International Telecommunications Union [to 28 February 2015]

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

27.02.2015

[Broadband the key to bringing 'education to all', says UN Broadband Commission](#)

Mobile broadband devices could be the solution to bringing 'first world' educational opportunities to planet's poorest communities..

Paris, 27 February 2015 – Mobile phones, tablets and e-readers with broadband connectivity could prove the long-sought panacea in the global effort to bring quality, ubiquitous multidisciplinary educational opportunities to people everywhere, especially the world's poorest or most isolated communities, according to the UN Broadband Commission for Digital Development, which held its [11th meeting at UNESCO headquarters](#) in Paris today...

26.02.2015

[Sanofi joins Be He@lthy, Be Mobile initiative](#)

Partnership harnessing power of ICTs to deliver health-care solutions

Geneva, 26 February 2015 – Multinational pharmaceutical firm [Sanofi](#) has joined the International Telecommunication Union's Be He@lthy, Be Mobile initiative, which ITU leads in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO)...

26.02.2015

[Countries gear up for transition to digital broadcasting](#)

17 June 2015 deadline signals new era for TV and mobile services ...

UNESCO [to 28 February 2015]

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

28 February 2015

[UNESCO Director-General welcomes the reopening of the Baghdad Museum](#)

[Director-General welcomes UN Security Council statement on destruction of artifacts at Mosul Museum](#)

27 February 2015

[UNESCO calls for mobilization to stop "cultural cleansing" in Iraq](#)

[President Kagame, Carlos Slim and ITU Secretary-General Houlin Zhao receive UNESCO 70th Anniversary Medal](#)

[Mobile technology the key to bringing 'education to all', says UN Broadband Commission](#)

25 February 2015

[Mobile technology: An enabler of women empowerment](#)

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization [to 28 February 2015]

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

[WIPO Re:Search Gains Momentum in the Fight Against Neglected Tropical Diseases, Malaria and Tuberculosis](#)

WIPO Re:Search signed on more than a dozen new members in 2014, including two leading pharmaceutical firms, and nearly doubled the number of research agreements using shared intellectual property to promote the fight against neglected tropical diseases, tuberculosis and malaria.

Feb 26, 2015 [PR/2015/773](#)

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity [to 28 February 2015]

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

2015-02-23

[Statement by Mr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, CBD Executive Secretary, at the opening of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative \(SOI\) Capacity-Building Workshop for South America, Lima, Peru, 23 February 2015](#)

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USAID [to 28 February 2015]

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

[USAID Announces Education Crisis Response Program in Liberia](#)

February 25, 2015

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced the \$18.7 million Education Crisis Response program today to assist the Government of Liberia in restoring basic

education in the Ebola-affected country and help return children to school safely. The program was announced today while Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf visited with staff from USAID.

[U.S. Government Launches President's Malaria Initiative Next Six-Year Strategy for 2015-2020](#)

February 25, 2015

The U.S. President's Malaria Initiative, led by the U.S. Agency for International Development and implemented together with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), launched its next six-year strategy to further reduce malaria deaths and substantially decrease malaria illness, toward the long-term goal of elimination at the White House today.

DFID [to 28 February 2015]

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

[Greening: Britain's Ebola response has saved thousands of lives but mission not over yet](#)

Published 27 February 2015 Press release DFID and MOD

[Restoring hope in Gaza](#)

Published 26 February 2015 Case study DFID

[Justine Greening: Global Law Summit](#)

Published 26 February 2015 Speech DFID

[UK support to Ethiopia](#)

Published 26 February 2015 News story DFID

[Why corruption matters: understanding causes, effects and how to address them](#)

Published 25 February 2015 Research and analysis DFID

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

Updated 24 February 2015 Statistics DFID

[Launch of National Forum for Social Protection](#)

Published 24 February 2015 Speech DFID

[£15m British boost for humanitarian efforts in Ukraine](#)

Published 23 February 2015 Press release DFID and Number 10

[Minister praises University of Cambridge's global poverty research](#)

Published 23 February 2015 Press release DFID

ECHO [to 28 February 2015]

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

[Ukraine: Unhindered humanitarian access must be ensured](#)

25/02/2015

Despite a ceasefire agreement that came into force on 15 February 2015, the volatile security situation in Eastern Ukraine hampers access of humanitarian organisations to people in need of food, health, basic household items, clean water...

African Union [to 28 February 2015]

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

Feb.24.2015

[African Unions Welcomes Back the First Group of its Heroines and Heroes in the Fight Against Ebola](#)

Addis Ababa, 24 February 2014- 17 ASEOWA (African Union Support to the Ebola Outbreak in West Africa) health workers, who were the first to be deployed to fight Ebola, returned from Liberia on 22nd February, upon completion of their tour of duty and were welcomed back by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma.

Attending the meeting were the AUC Commissioner for Social Affairs Dr Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko, the Director of Social Affairs Dr Olawale Maiyegun, ambassadors from the health workers' member states and a representative from Liberia. It was a unique event- the first time ever that the AU had welcomed back heroines and heroes in the fight against Ebola, and, without any infections among the health workers.

Dr Dlamini Zuma thanked the health workers for their pioneering role and assured them that the AU's is determined to defeat Ebola: "You personified Pan Africanism and solidarity. The African Union will stay the course until the affected countries are declared Ebola free. We are very happy that you undertook this mission", she told them.

All returnees were awarded certificates of service in recognition of their contribution to the fight against Ebola and their selfless dedication. The returnees were from Nigeria, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Among them were doctors, hygienists and communications experts. One of them was a trainer of other medical personnel in the treatment of Ebola patients....

The African Development Bank Group [to 28 February 2015]

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

[African Development Bank now supports 27 African countries to advance climate-smart initiatives, report says](#)

26/02/2015 - In its 2014 Annual Report Financing Change: AfDB and CIF for a Climate-Smart Africa released Thursday, February 26, the African Development Bank (AfDB) shows that its support to Africa through the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) increased exponentially in 2014 to include one regional and 25 national Investment Plans, with an additional nine poor countries being funded for renewable energy solutions. It also shows an additional \$500 million from AfDB and CIF for a total of \$2.1 billion going to 16 projects already underway in 11 African nations.

ASEAN [to 28 February 2015]

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

[Press Release of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children \(ACWC\)](#)

28 February 2015.

The Tenth Meeting of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) was convened on 25-27 February 2015 at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia. The review of the implementation of the ACWC Work Plan 2012-2016 was followed by the discussion of the development of the Work Plan for 2016-2020.

Since the Ninth ACWC Meeting in October 2014, two activities have been completed. The ASEAN Regional Conference of Senior Officials on Strengthening the Protection and Empowerment of Women Migrant Workers was convened by the Philippines on 13-14 November 2014 in Manila. The Conference was a joint undertaking of ACWC and ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) with the support of the International Labour Organization (ILO). In the same month, the ASEAN Consultation on Cultural and Religious Practices Impacting the Rights of Children was hosted by Indonesia with the support of UNICEF on 18-20 November 2014 in Jakarta. Religious leaders, cultural leaders and government officials from ASEAN Member States were engaged in the Consultation.

The Meeting adopted the Gender Sensitive Guideline for Handling Women Victims of Trafficking in Persons which aims to support the improvement and enhancement of practices in handling women and girl victims of trafficking by law enforcement agencies, social workers, health officers, service providers, and other frontline agencies and NGOs that are dealing with human trafficking cases. The Guideline had been reviewed and enriched by the inputs of the ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and other relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies...

UNCTAD [to 28 February 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

World Trade Organisation [to 28 February 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]

24 and 25 February 2015

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: FORMAL MEETING

Poorest states seek more time on medical patents, and members discuss women and innovation

The least developed countries proposed extending their deadline for protecting and enforcing pharmaceutical patents and clinical data, and delegates exchanged information on their policies for boosting the role of women in innovation, when WTO members met as the intellectual property council on 24-25 February 2015.

The new deadline would exempt them from having to protect and enforce pharmaceutical patents and clinical data submitted to obtain marketing approval until they graduate from "least-developed" status. The proposal is being made now because a 2002 decision is due to expire at the end of 2015.

Least developed countries also benefit from a general extension of the deadline to protect intellectual property and implement other WTO intellectual property obligations, including for pharmaceuticals. This is now 1 July 2021 under a 2013 decision covering all intellectual property. Because the newly-tabled proposal was not on the meeting's agenda, but was

mentioned under "other business" the discussion was brief, with a more substantial debate likely at the next meeting in June (details [below](#))...

OECD [to 28 February 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]

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

9 February 2015

Determined and systemic action to implement a comprehensive reform agenda across a wide range of policy areas offers governments the best chance to boost weak demand, restore healthy economic growth, create jobs and ensure that the gains are broadly shared across society, according to the OECD's latest Going for Growth report.

IMF [to 28 February 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 28 February 2015]

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

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

[World Bank Group and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Forge Partnership to Improve Delivery of Services to People in Poverty](#)

THIMPHU, BHUTAN, February 27, 2015—The World Bank Group (WBG) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Development Fund (SDF) announced that they have forged a multi-year partnership to design and implement SDF's Social Enterprise Development Program (SEDP) in eight SAARC countries. The partnership aims to improve the quality and delivery of basic services to the poorest and underserved populations across South Asia by combining finance, global knowledge, and capacity development support for 100 social enterprises that will receive grants of USD 100,000 to 250,000 per enterprise. Thereafter, SDF will provide finance to these enterprises to enable them to scale their impact....

Date: February 27, 2015

[World Bank Group Forum Convenes Partners to Explore Implications of Latest Research on Microcredit](#)

"Digital channels reduce the cost of delivering financial services to remote areas, and make it possible for financial service providers to offer a variety of services adapted to customers' needs," said Camille Busette, Lead Financial Sector Specialist at CGAP. "Taking a one-size-fits-all approach to microfinance and financial inclusion is no longer an option. Product design, technology, and delivery channels can all be optimized to achieve impact for the consumer and efficiency for providers. "The research presented at the event is in an important contribution to the field of financial inclusion, and will help determine the path forward. "Evidence from these

studies helps us to take stock of what microcredit can do, as well as its limitations as a development tool," said economist Esther Duflo of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a co-founder and co-director of J-PAL, and co-author of the India and Morocco studies.

Date: February 27, 2015

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:: NGO/Collaborations/Initiatives Watch

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

Amref Health Africa [to 28 February 2015]

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

[Maternal health – it's a couples issue](#)

Published: 26 February 2015 Marie Kinyanjui

In 2012 two thirds of births in Kenya's Makueni county were delivered without skilled supervision. In a recent study published by the BMC journal, Amref Health Africa's Anne Gitimu and her team explore...

Aravind Eye Care System [to 28 February 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

BRAC [to 28 February 2015]

[Website unreachable]

[BRAC USA Newsletter: February 2015](#)

CARE International [to 28 February 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Danish Refugee Council [to 28 February 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Casa Alianza [to 28 February 2015]

Covenant House [to 28 February 2015]

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

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

[**Covenant House Testifies Before U.S. Senate About Our Work Protecting Trafficking Victims**](#)

On February 24, our Director of Anti-Human Trafficking Initiatives at Covenant House NY Jayne Bigelsen testified on behalf of Covenant House/Casa Alianza/La Alianza before the United States Senate Judiciary Committee. The invitation grew from the groundbreaking study Jayne and Fordham University undertook documenting our kids' experiences of being exploited and trafficked...

ECPAT [to 28 February 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Fountain House [to 28 February 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Handicap International [to 28 February 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Heifer International [to 28 February 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

HelpAge International [to 28 February 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

International Rescue Committee [to 28 February 2015]

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

[**Ebola Crisis: Latest updates from the front lines**](#)

Posted by The IRC on February 27, 2015

The IRC has been at the forefront of the fight to combat the spread of the deadly Ebola virus since the first cases were diagnosed in Liberia and Sierra Leone in March 2014. Get Ebola crisis updates and commentary from IRC aid workers and others.

[**David Miliband on Ebola, Syria and other humanitarian crises \[VIDEO\]**](#)

Posted by The IRC on February 25, 2015

As part of the Talks@GS speaker series, IRC president David Miliband recently discussed the Ebola and Syria crises, and the IRC's mission to provide relief and development operations in more than 40 countries around the world.

ICRC - International Committee of the Red Cross [to 28 February 2015]

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

[Philippines: Supporting displaced families in central Mindanao](#)

News release

27 February 2015

Manila (ICRC) – Around 4,000 families displaced by the recent fighting between armed groups in central Mindanao are being assisted by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Philippine Red Cross (PRC)...

[Ukraine / Russia: Leaders agree that aid must reach eastern Ukraine](#)

News release

27 February 2015

Geneva / Kiev / Moscow (ICRC) – ICRC President Peter Maurer today completed high-level talks in Moscow and Kiev, in which he focused on the severe humanitarian crisis in eastern Ukraine and urged the governments of both countries to ensure that vital aid reaches people in need. During a four-day visit to the region, he met with President Vladimir Putin and President Petro Poroshenko, and senior officials of both countries...

[Niger: Displaced persons in Diffa region utterly destitute](#)

News release

25 February 2015

Niamey (ICRC) – The conflict which broke out several months ago in north-eastern Nigeria has spilled over the border into neighbouring Niger. Since 6 February several areas in the Diffa region in the south-eastern corner of Niger have been the scene of fighting and violence which has caused many deaths and injuries and displaced thousands of people.

"The humanitarian situation is extremely worrying," says Loukas Petridis, head of the ICRC delegation in Niger. "People have been killed and wounded in what are sometimes indiscriminate attacks and we are very anxious about the plight of thousands of displaced persons." ...

IRCT [to 28 February 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières [to 28 February 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases/Field News

Press release

[MSF Survey Shows High Viral Load in Men and People with CD4 500-75](#)

February 25, 2015

SEATTLE/NEW YORK—Among individuals not receiving antiretroviral treatment, men had twice the level of [HIV](#) virus in their blood as women at the same stage in the disease, according to one of the major findings of a three-country Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) population survey presented at the [Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections \(CROI\)](#) in Seattle Wednesday.

Press release

[Preliminary Results of the JIKI Clinical Trial to test the Efficacy of Favipiravir in Reducing Mortality in Individuals Infected by Ebola Virus in Guinea](#)

February 24, 2015

Initial results of a clinical trial of the experimental drug favipiravir suggest that it can reduce mortality among patients with low levels of the Ebola virus in their blood, but is ineffective for patients with high viral loads who are very sick with the disease.

Field news

[CAR: Ongoing Violence Means Ongoing Health Needs in Bambari Area](#)

February 25, 2015

The volatile security situation in Bambari, in the Ouaka province of [Central African Republic \(CAR\)](#), is disrupting life for the town's residents and impeding aid agencies' efforts to respond to urgent health needs. While the barricades set up in recent days have been dismantled, the atmosphere in the area remains tense, and residents of Bambari live in fear. Violence and the armed robbery of civilians by undisciplined groups are still a daily occurrence.

Field news

[CAR: MSF Begins Vaccination Campaign for 18,000 Displaced by Violence](#)

February 25, 2015

This week, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) began a campaign to vaccinate at least 18,000 children under 15 years old against measles and polio in and around the internally displaced persons (IDP) camp near Batangafo in northern CAR.

Mercy Corps [to 28 February 2015]

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

[Mercy Corps Recognizes US Reps. Granger and Lowey With Humanitarian Hero Award](#)

February 27, 2015

Congresswomen honored for their commitment to solving the world's toughest challenges

Washington, DC – Feb. 27, 2015 – The global humanitarian organization Mercy Corps has recognized Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX), chair of the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, and Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY), ranking member of the House Appropriations Committee, with its highest honor, the Humanitarian Hero Award.

"With an unprecedented number of crises in the world today and the highest number of displaced people since World War II, Representatives Granger and Lowey have been powerful advocates in the halls of Congress for the world's most vulnerable people, protecting global humanitarian assistance and promoting effective and efficient development programs," says Neal Keny-Guyer, Chief Executive Officer of Mercy Corps. "At Mercy Corps, we believe that by working together we can connect people to the resources they need to survive and help their communities thrive."

As leaders of the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, Granger and Lowey have worked hard to preserve funding that provides lifesaving humanitarian assistance to tens of millions of people around the world....

Operation Smile [to 28 February 2015]

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

Upcoming Mission Schedule [Home page]

Mar 3 - 13 | Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
Mar 11 - 14 | Portoviejo, Ecuador
Mar 12 - 20 | Santa Cruz, Bolivia
Mar 14 - 21 | Naypyitaw, Myanmar
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

OXFAM [to 28 February 2015]

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

[Vital building in conflict damaged Gaza to take more than a century at current rate](#)

26 February 2015

At current rates it could take more than 100 years to complete essential building of homes, schools and health facilities in Gaza unless the Israeli blockade is lifted, Oxfam warned today as new figures show the amount of vital construction materials entering Gaza dropped last month...

Partners In Health [to 28 February 2015]

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

[Delivering Interventions, Aid to Family's Door](#)

Posted on February 26, 2015

...Project CASITA, a program that identifies Carabayllo children ages 6 months to 24 months at risk of developmental delays and trains caretakers in activities that encourage age-appropriate behavior. Since launching the program in November 2013, community health workers have enrolled 138 children and mothers, whom they visit at least a dozen times and provide access to social services.

Project CASITA is supported by a \$250,000 Canadian (roughly U.S. \$199,000) grant through Grand Challenges Canada, and is administered in partnership with Peru's Ministry of Health and local government and health centers. Community health workers undergo a comprehensive training and certification process before they begin rounds in [Miraflores in the impoverished Carabayllo district north of Lima, Peru]...

PATH [to 28 February 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Plan International [to 28 February 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Save The Children [to 28 February 2015]

<http://www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLXMGIpI4E/b.6150563/k.D0E9/Newsroom.htm>

[Save The Children Action Network Urges Congress to Prioritize Early Childhood Education in Student Success Act Vote](#)

February 26, 2015

[Save The Children Action Network Sponsors WMUR's 'Conversation With The Candidate' Series](#)

February 25, 2015

Influential New Hampshire TV Series to Interview 2016 Presidential Candidates Starting Feb. 27

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 25, 2015) — Save the Children Action Network today announced that it will sponsor the influential New Hampshire-based WMUR-TV's "Conversation with the Candidate," a series of 30-minute forums featuring one-on-one interviews with prospective 2016 presidential candidates...

[Save the Children and Reach Out and Read Launch Rural Literacy Initiative with U.S.](#)

[Department of Education Innovative Approaches Literacy Grant](#)

WASHINGTON, DC.(Feb. 25, 2015) — Save the Children, in partnership with Reach Out and Read, is launching a major rural literacy initiative with a new \$4.2 million award from the Department of Education's Innovative Approaches to Literacy Program. The "Building Child-Centered Communities in Rural America Project" will help develop communities' capacity to support and foster children's education and wellbeing in some of the United States' most impoverished and isolated regions....

SOS-Kinderdorf International [to 28 February 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Tostan [to 28 February 2015]

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

February 26, 2015

[Long-Time Tostan Board Member to Be Honored for Outstanding Contributions to Population Science](#)

Tostan Board member Cheikh Mbacké has been selected by the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) Council as the 2015 IUSSP Laureate. This prestigious honor recognizes his outstanding contributions to the advancement of population sciences and distinguished service rendered to the IUSSP....

Women for Women International [to 28 February 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

:::::

ChildFund Alliance

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

No new digest content identified.

Disasters Emergency Committee [to 28 February 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

EHLRA/R2HC [to 28 February 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

END Fund [to 28 February 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

GAVI [to 28 February 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Global Fund [to 28 February 2015]

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

24 February 2015

[Ukraine Aims for Better HIV and TB Patient Care](#)

26 February 2015

[Global Health Partners Begin Building a New Approach to Ensure Equitable Access to Medicines](#)

Hilton Prize Laureates Collaborative [to 28 February 2015]

<http://hiltonprizelaureatescollaborative.net/>

No new digest content identified.

ODI [to 28 February 2015]

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

[Delivering humanitarian aid in Somalia: Islamic identity doesn't automatically unlock access to areas controlled by Al-Shabaab – new report](#)

News - 26 February 2015

Being a Muslim humanitarian organisation doesn't instantly open doors when trying to provide aid in conflict zones controlled by Islamic extremist groups such as Al-Shabaab in Somalia, finds leading UK think tank the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in a report launched today.

The report debunks the commonly-held belief that Islamic extremist groups automatically grant access to Muslim humanitarian organisations, and reveals how Islamic and Somali NGOs coordinated by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) gained access into Al-Shabaab held territory during the 2011 famine because they had the necessary existing local networks, rather than due to their Islamic identity or the links with the OIC...

The Sphere Project [to 28 February 2015]

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

Comparing the Core Humanitarian Standard and Sphere Core Standards

24 February 2015 | Sphere Project

The Sphere Project office has published a short comparative analysis of the Sphere Handbook's Core Standards and the recently released Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability.

On November 2014, the Sphere Project Board endorsed the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS). The intention of the Board is to fully integrate the CHS into the Sphere Handbook, substituting it for the Handbook's Core Standards once the CHS key indicators and guidance notes are developed and tested.

In the interim period, The Core Humanitarian Standard and the Sphere Core Standards: Analysis and Comparison aims to help Sphere practitioners understand how the CHS will fit within the structure of the Sphere Handbook. It also aims to help Sphere trainers begin to integrate the CHS into their presentations....

Start Network [Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies] [to 28 February 2015]

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

Spotlight on the Start Fund: Malawi Flood Response – Uniting to Secure People's Rights

February 26, 2015

Posted by Tegan Rogers in Blog.

...Using 88,129GBP secured from the Start Fund, ActionAid Malawi and local partners launched a 45 day humanitarian response in January 2015. The response has supported approximately 45,000 people living in 15 camps to date, including approximately 1,000 lactating mothers, 300 pregnant women, and 5,000 children under five with food items (maize flour, beans, oil, salt, corn soya), and household and sanitary items (mosquito nets, bedding mats, blankets, water guard, soap, kitchen utensils and washing basins). Twelve camp monitors were also recruited and deployed to camps to work with committees to regulate the camps, monitor the distribution of supplies and raise any protection issues. ActionAid Malawi was assigned nine camps to manage....

Vacancy: Start Network urgently seeks new Transitional Chair

February 22, 2015

Posted by Tegan Rogers in News.

The Start Network is undergoing a transitional phase of rapid change and development. This is part of our strategy to move from our launch in 2014 toward becoming a global network that connects people in crisis to the best possible response. We anticipate the next phase of our

development taking approximately 18 months and are looking for a visionary independent person who can work with us to make our ambition a reality.

We are urgently looking for a Transitional Chair to steer this process, lead our Board of Trustees and provide support to the Start Network Director.

The Transitional Chair will be one of a number of independent representatives who will sit on the Board of Trustees alongside member agency representatives, to ensure governance excellence while maintaining the Network's humanitarian vision....

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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)

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

No new digest content identified.

Clinton Foundation

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

Press Release

[President Bill Clinton, Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, and Chelsea Clinton to Convene More Than 1,000 Student Leaders for 2015 Meeting of Clinton Global Initiative University, March 6-8 at the University of Miami](#)

February 23, 2015

Ford Foundation

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

No new digest content identified.

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

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

No new digest content identified.

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

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

No new digest content identified.

Kellogg Foundation

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

No new digest content identified.

MacArthur Foundation

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

Publication

Assessing Violations of Migrant Rights

Published February 24, 2015

A two-year investigation examines the root causes of the forced migration of children and families in the Northern Central America–Mexico–United States corridor. The MacArthur-supported report by the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies at the University of California Hastings College of the Law evaluates the policies, practices, and underlying conditions of countries of origin, transit, and destination; and examines their effects on children throughout the region. The report also offers specific recommendations for governments, rooted in human rights.

David and Lucile Packard Foundation

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

No new digest content identified.

Rockefeller Foundation

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

Rockefeller Foundation Africa Managing Director Mamadou Biteye appointed an Officer of the British Empire.

Feb 25, 2015

Biteye received the prestigious award for his work done when he served as Regional Director, West Africa for Oxfam Great Britain, where he worked immediately prior to joining The Rockefeller Foundation.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

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

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Statement on the Five-Year Anniversary of Let's Move!

February 23, 2015 | News Release

RWJF applauds Let's Move! for its remarkable accomplishments that have improved the health and well-being of millions of Americans.

Skoll Foundation

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

Skoll World Forum Plenary Tickets Available Today

February 23, 2015 by Skoll Foundation

JOIN US for the **Skoll World Forum** Plenary Sessions on April 15, 16 and 17. Tickets are now on sale for \$25 per event, and all are held at New Theatre in Oxford, England. Share, learn, and be inspired by the best and brightest thinkers and practitioners from academia, media, corporate, government, philanthropy and funding communities.

Featured 2015 speakers include Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, Mrs. Graça Machel, Zak Ebrahim, Ophelia Dahl, Ken Brecher, Darren Walker, and many more luminaries advancing game-changing solutions to the world's most pressing problems.

Wellcome Trust

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

No new digest content identified.

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:: Journal Watch

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

American Journal of Disaster Medicine

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>

[New issue; No relevant content]

American Journal of Preventive Medicine

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

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

[New issue; No relevant content]

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

February

2015; 92 (2)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

BMC Health Services Research

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

(Accessed 28 February 2015)

[No new relevant content]

BMC Infectious Diseases

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

(Accessed 28 February 2015)

[No new relevant content]

BMC Medical Ethics

(Accessed 28 February 2015)

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

Debate

[Innovations in research ethics governance in humanitarian settings](#)

Doris Schopper^{12*}, Angus Dawson³, Ross Upshur⁴, Aasim Ahmad⁵⁶, Amar Jesani⁷, Raffaella Ravinetto⁸⁹, Michael J Segelid¹⁰, Sunita Sheel¹¹ and Jerome Singh¹²

Author Affiliations

BMC Medical Ethics 2015, 16:10 doi:10.1186/s12910-015-0002-3

Published: 26 February 2015

Abstract (provisional)

Background

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is one of the world's leading humanitarian medical organizations. The increased emphasis in MSF on research led to the creation of an ethics review board (ERB) in 2001. The ERB has encouraged innovation in the review of proposals and the interaction between the ERB and the organization. This has led to some of the advances in ethics governance described in this paper.

Findings

We first update our previous work from 2009 describing ERB performance and then highlight five innovative practices:

- A new framework to guide ethics review
- The introduction of a policy exempting a posteriori analysis of routinely collected data
- The preapproval of "emergency" protocols
- General ethical approval of "routine surveys"
- Evaluating the impact of approved studies

The new framework encourages a conversation about ethical issues, rather than imposing quasi-legalistic rules, is more engaged with the specific MSF research context and gives greater prominence to certain values and principles. Some of the innovations implemented by the ERB, such as review exemption or approval of generic protocols, may run counter to many standard operating procedures. We argue that much standard practice in research ethics review ought to be open to challenge and revision. Continued interaction between MSF researchers and independent ERB members has allowed for progressive innovations based on a trustful and respectful partnership between the ERB and the researchers. In the future, three areas merit particular attention.

First, the impact of the new framework should be assessed. Second, the impact of research needs to be defined more precisely as a first step towards being meaningfully assessed, including changes of impact over time. Finally, the dialogue between the MSF ERB and the ethics committees in the study countries should be enhanced.

Conclusions

We hope that the innovations in research ethics governance described may be relevant for other organisations carrying out research in fragile contexts and for ethics committees reviewing such research.

BMC Public Health

(Accessed 28 February 2015)

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

Research article

Diarrhea and health inequity among Indigenous children in Brazil: results from the First National Survey of Indigenous People's Health and Nutrition

Ana Lúcia Escobar¹, Carlos EA Coimbra^{2*}, James R Welch², Bernardo L Horta³, Ricardo Ventura Santos²⁴ and Andrey M Cardoso²

Author Affiliations

BMC Public Health 2015, 15:191 doi:10.1186/s12889-015-1534-7

Published: 27 February 2015

Abstract (provisional)

Background

Globally, diarrhea is the second leading cause of death among children under five. In Brazil, mortality due to diarrhea underwent a significant reduction in recent decades principally due to expansion of the primary healthcare network, use of oral rehydration therapy, reduced child undernutrition, and improved access to safe drinking water. The First National Survey of Indigenous People's Health and Nutrition in Brazil, conducted in 2008–2009, was the first survey based on a nationwide representative sample to study the prevalence of diarrhea and associated factors among Indigenous children in the country.

Methods

The survey assessed the health and nutritional status of Indigenous children < 5 years of age based on a representative sample of major Brazilian geopolitical regions. A stratified probabilistic sampling was carried out for Indigenous villages. Within villages, children < 5 years of age in sampled households were included in the study. Interviews were based on a seven day recall period. Prevalence rates of acute diarrhea were calculated for independent variables and hierarchical multivariable analyses were conducted to assess associations.

Results

Information on diarrhea was obtained for 5,828 children (95.1% of the total sample). The overall prevalence of diarrhea was 23.5%. Regional differences were observed, with the highest rate being in the North (38.1%). Higher risk of diarrhea was observed among younger children and those who had less maternal schooling, lower household socioeconomic status, undernutrition (weight-for-age deficit), presence of another child with diarrhea in the household, and occurrence of upper respiratory infection.

Conclusions

According to results of the First National Survey of Indigenous People's Health and Nutrition, almost a quarter of Indigenous children throughout the country had diarrhea during the previous week. This prevalence is substantially higher than that documented in 2006 for Brazilian children < 5 years generally (9.4%). Due to its exceedingly multicausal nature, the set of associated variables that remained associated with child diarrhea in the final multivariable model provide an excellent reflection of the diverse social and health inequities faced by Indigenous peoples in contemporary Brazil.

Research article

Child survival and BCG vaccination: a community based prospective cohort study in Uganda

Victoria Nankabirwa^{12*}, James K Tumwine³, Proscovia M Mugaba³, Thorkild Tylleskär⁴, Halvor Sommerfelt²⁵ and for the PROMISE- EBF Study Group

Author Affiliations

BMC Public Health 2015, 15:175 doi:10.1186/s12889-015-1497-8

Published: 22 February 2015

Abstract

Background

Data on non-specific effects of BCG vaccination in well described, general population African cohorts is scanty. We report the effects of BCG vaccination on post-neonatal infant and post-infancy mortality in a cohort of children in Mbale, Eastern Uganda.

Methods

A community-based prospective cohort study was conducted between January 2006 and February 2014. A total of 819 eligible pregnant women were followed up for pregnancy outcomes and survival of their children up to 5 years of age. Data on the children's BCG vaccination status was collected from child health cards at multiple visits between 3 weeks and 7 years of age. Data was also collected on mothers' residence, age, parity, household income, self-reported HIV status as well as place of birth. Multivariable Cox proportional hazards regression models taking into account potential confounders were used to estimate the association between BCG vaccination and child survival.

Results

The neonatal mortality risk was 22 (95% CI: 13, 35), post-neonatal infant mortality 21 (12, 34) per 1,000 live births and the mortality risk among children between 1 and 5 years of age (post-infancy) was 63 (47, 82) per 1,000 live births. The median age at BCG vaccination was 4 days. Out of 819 children, 647 (79%) had received the BCG vaccine by 24 weeks of age. In the adjusted analysis, the rate of post-neonatal death among infants vaccinated with BCG tended to be nearly half of that among those who had not received the vaccine (adjusted HR: 0.47; 95% CI: 0.14, 1.53). BCG vaccination was associated with a lower rate of death among children between 1 and 5 years of age (adjusted HR: 0.26; 95% CI: 0.14, 0.48).

Conclusion

The risk of early childhood death in Mbale, Uganda is unacceptably high. BCG vaccination was associated with an increased likelihood of child survival.

BMC Research Notes

(Accessed 28 February 2015)

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

[No new relevant content]

British Medical Journal

28 February 2015(vol 350, issue 7997)

<http://www.bmjjournals.org/content/350/7997>

Clinical Review

Multidrug resistant tuberculosis

James Millard, clinical lecturer in global health¹,

Cesar Ugarte-Gil, epidemiologist²,
David A J Moore, professor of infectious diseases & tropical medicine³
BMJ 2015; 350 doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.h882> (Published 26 February 2015) Cite this as: BMJ 2015;350:h882

The bottom line

- Multidrug resistant tuberculosis refers to tuberculosis with resistance to at least rifampicin and isoniazid
- Multidrug resistant tuberculosis is increasingly common; however, there is a large shortfall between the estimated total number of cases and the numbers diagnosed and treated
- Diagnosis is hampered by lack of access to quality assured diagnostics, although newer, rapid molecular and phenotypic methods may go some way to improving this situation
- Compared with drug susceptible tuberculosis, treatment for multidrug resistant tuberculosis requires the use of drug regimens that are prolonged (18-24 months), less efficacious, and noticeably more toxic; new drugs and regimens are becoming available for the first time in decades and ongoing trials should define how best they should be used
- Worldwide, treatment success is only around 50%; however, several settings, including some low income countries, have proved that higher success rates are achievable

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/>

Research

[Assessing the potential for improvement of primary care in 34 countries: a cross-sectional survey](#)

Willemijn LA Schäfer, Wienke GW Boerma, Anna M Murante, Herman JM Sixma, François G Schellevis & Peter P Groenewegen

Abstract

Objective

To investigate patients' perceptions of improvement potential in primary care in 34 countries.

Methods

We did a cross-sectional survey of 69 201 patients who had just visited general practitioners at primary-care facilities. Patients rated five features of person-focused primary care – accessibility/availability, continuity, comprehensiveness, patient involvement and doctor–patient communication. One tenth of the patients ranked the importance of each feature on a scale of one to four, and nine tenths of patients scored their experiences of care received. We calculated the potential for improvement by multiplying the proportion of negative patient experiences with the mean importance score in each country. Scores were divided into low, medium and high improvement potential. Pair-wise correlations were made between improvement scores and three dimensions of the structure of primary care – governance, economic conditions and workforce development.

Findings

In 26 countries, one or more features of primary care had medium or high improvement potentials. Comprehensiveness of care had medium to high improvement potential in 23 of 34 countries. In all countries, doctor–patient communication had low improvement potential. An overall stronger structure of primary care was correlated with a lower potential for improvement of continuity and comprehensiveness of care. In countries with stronger primary care governance patients perceived less potential to improve the continuity of care. Countries with better economic conditions for primary care had less potential for improvement of all features of person-focused care.

Conclusion

In countries with a stronger primary care structure, patients perceived that primary care had less potential for improvement.

Systematic Review

The burden of child maltreatment in China: a systematic review

Xiangming Fang, Deborah A Fry, Kai Ji, David Finkelhor, Jingqi Chen, Patricia Lannen & Michael P Dunne

Abstract

Objective

To estimate the health and economic burdens of child maltreatment in China.

Methods

We did a systematic review for studies on child maltreatment in China using PubMed, Embase, PsycInfo, CINAHL-EBSCO, ERIC and the Chinese National Knowledge Infrastructure databases. We did meta-analyses of studies that met inclusion criteria to estimate the prevalence of child neglect and child physical, emotional and sexual abuse. We used data from the 2010 global burden of disease estimates to calculate disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs) lost as a result of child maltreatment.

Findings

From 68 studies we estimated that 26.6% of children under 18 years of age have suffered physical abuse, 19.6% emotional abuse, 8.7% sexual abuse and 26.0% neglect. We estimate that emotional abuse in childhood accounts for 26.3% of the DALYs lost because of mental disorders and 18.0% of those lost because of self-harm. Physical abuse in childhood accounts for 12.2% of DALYs lost because of depression, 17.0% of those lost to anxiety, 20.7% of those lost to problem drinking, 18.8% of those lost to illicit drug use and 18.3% of those lost to self-harm. The consequences of physical abuse of children costs China an estimated 0.84% of its gross domestic product – i.e. 50 billion United States dollars – in 2010. The corresponding losses attributable to emotional and sexual abuse in childhood were 0.47% and 0.39% of the gross domestic product, respectively.

Conclusion

In China, child maltreatment is common and associated with large economic losses because many maltreated children suffer substantial psychological distress and might adopt behaviours that increase their risk of chronic disease.

Systematic Review

Participants' understanding of informed consent in clinical trials over three decades: systematic review and meta-analysis

Nguyen Thanh Tam, Nguyen Tien Huy, Le Thi Bich Thoa, Nguyen Phuoc Long, Nguyen Thi Huyen Trang, Kenji Hirayama & Juntra Karbwang

Abstract

Objective

To estimate the proportion of participants in clinical trials who understand different components of informed consent.

Methods

Relevant studies were identified by a systematic review of PubMed, Scopus and Google Scholar and by manually reviewing reference lists for publications up to October 2013. A meta-analysis of study results was performed using a random-effects model to take account of heterogeneity.

Findings

The analysis included 103 studies evaluating 135 cohorts of participants. The pooled proportion of participants who understood components of informed consent was 75.8% for freedom to withdraw at any time, 74.7% for the nature of study, 74.7% for the voluntary nature of participation, 74.0% for potential benefits, 69.6% for the study's purpose, 67.0% for potential risks and side-effects, 66.2% for confidentiality, 64.1% for the availability of alternative treatment if withdrawn, 62.9% for knowing that treatments were being compared, 53.3% for placebo and 52.1% for randomization. Most participants, 62.4%, had no therapeutic misconceptions and 54.9% could name at least one risk. Subgroup and meta-regression analyses identified covariates, such as age, educational level, critical illness, the study phase and location, that significantly affected understanding and indicated that the proportion of participants who understood informed consent had not increased over 30 years.

Conclusion

The proportion of participants in clinical trials who understood different components of informed consent varied from 52.1% to 75.8%. Investigators could do more to help participants achieve a complete understanding.

Policy & Practice

Big data in global health: improving health in low- and middle-income countries

Rosemary Wyber, Samuel Vaillancourt, William Perry, Priya Mannava, Temitope Folaranmi & Leo Anthony Celi

Abstract

Over the last decade, a massive increase in data collection and analysis has occurred in many fields. In the health sector, however, there has been relatively little progress in data analysis and application despite a rapid rise in data production. Given adequate governance, improvements in the quality, quantity, storage and analysis of health data could lead to substantial improvements in many health outcomes. In low- and middle-income countries in particular, the creation of an information feedback mechanism can move health-care delivery towards results-based practice and improve the effective use of scarce resources. We review the evolving definition of big data and the possible advantages of – and problems in – using such data to improve health-care delivery in low- and middle-income countries. The collection of big data as mobile-phone based services improve may mean that development phases required elsewhere can be skipped. However, poor infrastructure may prevent interoperability and the safe use of patient data. An appropriate governance framework must be developed and enforced to protect individuals and ensure that health-care delivery is tailored to the characteristics and values of the target communities.

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 28 February 2015]

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

[No new relevant content]

Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation

(Accessed 28 February 2015)

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

[No new relevant content]

Developing World Bioethics

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Development in Practice

Volume 25, Issue 1, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology

Volume 10, Number 2 (March 2015)

<http://informahealthcare.com/toc/idd/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness

Volume 8 - Issue 06 - December 2014

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Disaster Prevention and Management

Volume 24 Issue 1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Disasters

January 2015 Volume 39, Issue 1 Pages 1–184

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Emergency Medicine Journal

March 2015, Volume 32, Issue 3

<http://emj.bmjjournals.org/content/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Epidemics

Volume 11, In Progress (June 2015)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/17554365>

Optimal prophylactic vaccination in segregated populations: When can we improve on the equalising strategy?

Original Research Article

Pages 7-13

Matt J. Keeling, J.V. Ross

Abstract**Highlights**

- Allocating prophylactic vaccination in a segregated population is a key issue.
- The equalising strategy (ES) has been proposed as an optimal means of vaccination.
- However, the ES only holds for density-dependent transmission,
- We consider more realistic types of transmission and show the ES can be improved.
- This highlights the possibility of more targeted vaccination strategies

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 51, In Progress (February 2015)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/03069192>

[Reviewed earlier]

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

Global Health: Science and Practice (GHSP)

December 2014 | Volume 2 | Issue 4

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Global Health Governance

[Accessed 28 February 2015]

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

[No new relevant content]

Global Public Health

Volume 10, Issue 2, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rgph20/10/2#.VM2Niy5nBhU>

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Globalization and Health

[Accessed 28 February 2015]

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

Debate

Why language matters: insights and challenges in applying a social determination of health approach in a North-South collaborative research program

Spiegel JM, Breilh J and Yassi A Globalization and Health 2015, 11:9 (27 February 2015)

Debate

Preparing for Ebola Virus Disease in West African countries not yet affected: perspectives from Ghanaian health professionals

Nyarko Y, Goldfrank L, Ogedegbe G, Soghoian S, de-Graft Aikins A and NYU-UG-KBTH Ghana Ebola Working Group Globalization and Health 2015, 11:7 (26 February 2015)

Health Affairs

February 2015; Volume 34, Issue 2
<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/current>
Biomedical Innovation
[Reviewed earlier]

Health and Human Rights

Volume 16, Issue 2 December 2014
<http://www.hhrjournal.org/volume-16-issue-2/>
Papers in Press: Special Issue on Health Rights Litigation
[Reviewed earlier]

Health Economics, Policy and Law

Volume 10 - Special Issue 01 January 2015
<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayIssue?jid=HEP&tab=currentissue>
SPECIAL ISSUE: Global Financial Crisis, Health and Health Care
[Reviewed earlier].

Health Policy and Planning

Volume 30 Issue 1 February 2015
<http://heapol.oxfordjournals.org/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Health Research Policy and Systems

<http://www.health-policy-systems.com/content>
[Accessed 28 February 2015]

Research

Developing and refining the methods for a 'one-stop shop' for research evidence about health systems

John N Lavis, Michael G Wilson, Kaelan A Moat, Amanda C Hammill, Jennifer A Boyko, Jeremy M Grimshaw and Signe Flottorp

Health Research Policy and Systems 2015, 13:10 doi:10.1186/1478-4505-13-10

Published: 25 February 2015

Abstract (provisional)

Background

Policymakers, stakeholders and researchers have not been able to find research evidence about health systems using an easily understood taxonomy of topics, know when they have conducted a comprehensive search of the many types of research evidence relevant to them, or rapidly identify decision-relevant information in their search results.

Methods

To address these gaps, we developed an approach to building a 'one-stop shop' for research evidence about health systems. We developed a taxonomy of health system topics and iteratively refined it by drawing on existing categorization schemes and by using it to categorize

progressively larger bundles of research evidence. We identified systematic reviews, systematic review protocols, and review-derived products through searches of Medline, hand searches of several databases indexing systematic reviews, hand searches of journals, and continuous scanning of LISTSERVs and websites. We developed an approach to providing 'added value' to existing content (e.g., coding systematic reviews according to the countries in which included studies were conducted) and to expanding the types of evidence eligible for inclusion (e.g., economic evaluations and health system descriptions). Lastly, we developed an approach to continuously updating the online one-stop shop in seven supported languages.

Results

The taxonomy is organized by governance, financial, and delivery arrangements and by implementation strategies. The 'one-stop shop', called Health Systems Evidence, contains a comprehensive inventory of evidence briefs, overviews of systematic reviews, systematic reviews, systematic review protocols, registered systematic review titles, economic evaluations and costing studies, health reform descriptions and health system descriptions, and many types of added-value coding. It is continuously updated and new content is regularly translated into Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

Conclusions

Policymakers and stakeholders can now easily access and use a wide variety of types of research evidence about health systems to inform decision-making and advocacy. Researchers and research funding agencies can use Health Systems Evidence to identify gaps in the current stock of research evidence and domains that could benefit from primary research, systematic reviews, and review overviews.

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 28 February 2015]

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

[No new relevant content]

International Health

Volume 109 Issue 2 February 2015

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Epidemiology

Volume 44 Issue 1 February 2015

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

Data Resource Profile: The sentinel panel of districts: Tanzania's national platform for health impact evaluation

Gregory S Kabadi^{1,3,*}, Eveline Geubbels¹, Isaac Lyatuu¹, Paul Smithson¹, Richard Amaro¹, Sylvia Meku², Joanna A Schellenberg³ and Honorati Masanja¹

Abstract

The Sentinel Panel of Districts (SPD) consists of 23 districts selected to provide nationally representative data on demographic and health indicators in Tanzania. The SPD has two arms: SAVVY and FBIS. SAVVY (SAmple Vital registration with Verbal autopsY) is a demographic surveillance system that provides nationally representative estimates of mortalities based on age, sex, residence and zone. SAVVY covers over 805 000 persons, or about 2% of the Tanzania mainland population, and uses repeat household census every 4–5 years, with ongoing reporting of births, deaths and causes of deaths. The FBIS (Facility-Based Information System) collects routine national health management information system data. These health service use data are collected monthly at all public and private health facilities in SPD districts, i.e. about 35% of all facilities in Mainland Tanzania. Both SAVVY and FBIS systems are capable of generating supplementary information from nested periodic surveys. Additional information about the design of the SPD is available online: access to some of SPD's aggregate data can be requested by sending an e-mail to hmasanja@ihi.or.tz.

Infant birthweight and risk of childhood cancer: international population-based case control studies of 40 000 cases

Kate A O'Neill^{1,4,*}, Michael FG Murphy^{2,4}, Kathryn J Bunch^{3,4}, Susan E Puumala⁵, Susan E Carozza⁶, Eric J Chow⁷, Beth A Mueller⁷, Colleen C McLaughlin⁸, Peggy Reynolds⁹, Tim J Vincent⁴, Julie Von Behren⁹ and Logan G Spector¹⁰

Author Affiliations

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9Cancer Prevention Institute of California, Berkeley, CA, USA and 10Department of Pediatrics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, USA

Accepted December 15, 2014.

Abstract

Background: High birthweight is an established risk factor for childhood leukaemia. Its association with other childhood cancers is less clear, with studies hampered by low case numbers.

Methods: We used two large independent datasets to explore risk associations between birthweight and all subtypes of childhood cancer. Data for 16 554 cases and 53 716 controls were obtained by linkage of birth to cancer registration records across five US states, and 23 772 cases and 33 206 controls were obtained from the UK National Registry of Childhood Tumours. US, but not UK, data were adjusted for gestational age, birth order, plurality, and maternal age and race/ethnicity.

Results: Risk associations were found between birthweight and several childhood cancers, with strikingly similar results between datasets. Total cancer risk increased linearly with each 0.5 kg increase in birthweight in both the US [odds ratio 1.06 (95% confidence interval 1.04, 1.08)] and UK [1.06 (1.05, 1.08)] datasets. Risk was strongest for leukaemia [USA: 1.10 (1.06, 1.13), UK: 1.07 (1.04, 1.10)], tumours of the central nervous system [USA: 1.05 (1.01, 1.08), UK: 1.07 (1.04, 1.10)], renal tumours [USA: 1.17 (1.10, 1.24), UK: 1.12 (1.06, 1.19)] and soft tissue sarcomas [USA: 1.12 (1.05, 1.20), UK: 1.07 (1.00, 1.13)]. In contrast, increasing birthweight decreased the risk of hepatic tumours [USA: 0.77 (0.69, 0.85), UK: 0.79 (0.71, 0.89) per 0.5 kg increase]. Associations were also observed between high birthweight and risk of neuroblastoma, lymphomas, germ cell tumours and malignant melanomas. For some cancer subtypes, risk associations with birthweight were non-linear. We observed no association between birthweight and risk of retinoblastoma or bone tumours.

Conclusions: Approximately half of all childhood cancers exhibit associations with birthweight. The apparent independence from other factors indicates the importance of intrauterine growth regulation in the aetiology of these diseases.

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#.VIORRsILDg2>

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

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

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

Special Section: Rehabilitation processes of former child soldiers

[Reviewed earlier]

JAMA

February 24, 2015, Vol 313, No. 8

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

[New issue; No relevant content]

JAMA Pediatrics

February 2015, Vol 169, No. 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Community Health

Volume 40, Issue 1, February 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Development Economics

Volume 114, In Progress (May 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health

February 2015, Volume 69, Issue 2

<http://jech.bmjjournals.org/content/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Global Ethics

Volume 10, Issue 3, 2014

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjge20/U2V-Elf4L01#.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

Building Surgical Capacity in Developing Countries: Lessons from Haiti and Honduras

Daniel G. Hottinger, Bhavesh M. Patel, Richard L. Frechette, Wynn Walent, Marc E. Augustin, Peter J. Daly

pp. 278-286 | 10.1353/hpu.2015.0011

Abstract**Summary:**

The unmet burden of surgical disease in developing countries is large and growing. We successfully initiated two surgical field hospitals in austere environments. Similar problems were encountered in the areas of facility development, operations, and social considerations. A literature review was performed to contextualize our experience and compare it with that of others.

Conclusion

The unmet burden of surgical disease in the developing world is increasingly recognized as an important and justifiable public health priority, but there is a great deal of work to be done. We still do not know the precise burden of surgical disease in low and middle- income countries around the world. Countries must collect better data quantifying not only the current amount of surgical care being performed, but that details the numbers and types of surgical problems that go untreated. Only then can the global humanitarian community fully understand the problem and be engaged to bring the necessary resources to bear in a coordinated fashion. In addition to understanding local facility infrastructure and operational needs, building sustainable surgical capacity requires an understanding and engagement of the community being served.

Journal of Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Management

Volume 4 Issue 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health

Volume 17, Issue 1, February 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies

Volume 12, Issue 4, 2014

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wimm20/current#.VFWeF8I4WF9>*Special Issue: New Forms of Intolerance in European Political Life*

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Infectious Diseases

Volume 211 Issue 5 March 1, 2015

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

[New issue; No new relevant content]

Journal of International Development

January 2015 Volume 27, Issue 1 Pages 1–154

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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.bmjjournals.org/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 February 2015; volume 12, issue 103

<http://rsif.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/current>

[New issue; No relevant content]

Knowledge Management for Development Journal

Vol 10, No 2 (2014)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

The Lancet

Feb 28, 2015 Volume 385 Number 9970 p745-828 e12-e15

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

[New issue; No relevant content]

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

Feb 2015 Volume 15 Number 2 p131-248

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Maternal and Child Health Journal

Volume 19, Issue 2, February 2015

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

Special Issue : MCH Leadership

[19 articles focused around MCH leadership themes]

[Reviewed earlier]

The Milbank Quarterly

A Multidisciplinary Journal of Population Health and Health Policy
December 2014 Volume 92, Issue 4 Pages 633–840
[http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1468-0009/currentissue](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1468-0009/currentissue)
[Reviewed earlier]

Nature

Volume 518 Number 7540 pp456-568 26 February 2015
http://www.nature.com/nature/current_issue.html

Nature / Comment

[Data sharing: Make outbreak research open access](#)

Nathan L. Yozwiak, Stephen F. Schaffner& Pardis C. Sabeti

25 February 2015

Establish principles for rapid and responsible data sharing in epidemics

Last April, five months into the largest Ebola outbreak in history, an international group of researchers sequenced three viral genomes, sampled from patients in Guinea¹. The data were made public that same month. Two months later, our group at the Broad Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts, sequenced 99 more Ebola genomes, from patients at the Kenema Government Hospital in Sierra Leone.

We immediately uploaded the data to the public database GenBank (see go.nature.com/aotpbk). Our priority was to help curb the outbreak. Colleagues who had worked with us for a decade were at the front lines and in immediate danger; some later died. We were amazed by the surge of collaboration that followed. Numerous experts from diverse disciplines, including drug and vaccine developers, contacted us. We also formed unexpected alliances — for instance, with a leading evolutionary virologist, who helped us to investigate when the strain of virus causing the current outbreak arose....

...In an increasingly connected world, rapid sequencing, combined with new ways to collect clinical and epidemiological data, could transform our response to outbreaks. But the power of these potentially massive data sets to combat epidemics will be realized only if the data are shared as widely and as quickly as possible. Currently, no good guidelines exist to ensure that this happens....

...The Kenema way

As a first step, we call on health agencies such as the World Health Organization, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Médecins Sans Frontières, as well as genome-sequencing centres and other research institutions, to convene a meeting this year — similar to that held in Bermuda in 1996. Attendees must include scientists, funders, ethicists, biosecurity experts, social scientists and journal editors.

We urge researchers working on outbreaks to embrace a culture of openness. For our part, we have released all our sequence data as soon as it has been generated, including that from several hundred more Ebola samples we recently received from Kenema. We have listed the research questions that we are pursuing at virological.org and through GenBank, and we plan to present our results at virological.org as we generate them, for others to weigh in on. We invite people either to join our publication, or to prepare their own while openly laying out their intentions online. We have also made clinical data for 100 patients publicly available and have incorporated these into a user-friendly data-visualization tool, Mirador, to allow others to explore the data and uncover new insights.

Kenema means 'translucent, clear like a river stream' or 'open to the public gaze'⁹. To honour the memory of our colleagues who died at the forefront of the Ebola outbreak, and to ensure that no future epidemic is as devastating, let's work openly in outbreaks.

New England Journal of Medicine

February 26, 2015 Vol. 372 No. 9

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

Review Article

Enduring and Emerging Challenges of Informed Consent

Christine Grady, Ph.D.

N Engl J Med 2015; 372:855-862 February 26, 2015 DOI: 10.1056/NEJMra1411250

The author summarizes emerging standards for informed consent as the underpinning of ethical research in humans.

Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly

February 2015; 44 (1)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration

Volume 4, No. 2 December 2014

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Pediatrics

February 2015, VOLUME 135 / ISSUE 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

PLOS Currents: Disasters

[Accessed 28 February 2015]

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

Performance Assessment of Communicable Disease Surveillance in Disasters: A Systematic Review

February 24, 2015 · Research article

Background: This study aimed to identify the indices and frameworks that have been used to assess the performance of communicable disease surveillance (CDS) in response to disasters and other emergencies, including infectious disease outbreaks.

Method: In this systematic review, PubMed, Google Scholar, Scopus, ScienceDirect, ProQuest databases and grey literature were searched until the end of 2013. All retrieved titles were examined in accordance with inclusion criteria. Abstracts of the relevant titles were reviewed and eligible abstracts were included in a list for data abstraction. Finally, the study variables were extracted.

Results: Sixteen articles and one book were found relevant to our study objectives. In these articles, 31 criteria and 35 indicators were used or suggested for the assessment/evaluation of the performance of surveillance systems in disasters. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) updated guidelines for the evaluation of public health surveillance systems were the most widely used.

Conclusion: Despite the importance of performance assessment in improving CDS in response to disasters, there is a lack of clear and accepted frameworks. There is also no agreement on the use of existing criteria and indices. The only relevant framework is the CDC guideline, which is a common framework for assessing public health surveillance systems as a whole. There is an urgent need to develop appropriate frameworks, criteria, and indices for specifically assessing the performance of CDS in response to disasters and other emergencies, including infectious diseases outbreaks.

PLoS Currents: Outbreaks

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

(Accessed 28 February 2015)

[No new relevant content]

PLoS Medicine

(Accessed 28 February 2015)

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

Humanitarian Access to Unapproved Interventions in Public Health Emergencies of International Concern

Jerome Amir Singh

Essay | published 24 Feb 2015 | PLOS Medicine 10.1371/journal.pmed.1001793

Summary Points

- Time-sensitive access to unapproved experimental interventions should be permitted on humanitarian grounds when patients or communities are facing death or irreversible disease progression and no other efficacious diagnostic, preventive, or therapeutic alternative exists.
- Regulatory deficits could stymie time-sensitive efforts to contain public health threats when no efficacious curative, therapeutic, or preventive interventions exist to counter the threat in question.
- United States regulatory mechanisms may provide useful guidance from a regulatory perspective to policy makers grappling with how to adequately prepare for, or respond to, potential or emerging public health emergencies.
- Access to unapproved experimental interventions should be underpinned by a robust monitoring and evaluation component that will inform product development and licensure.
- A global-level rapid-response governance framework for the employment of unapproved interventions in humanitarian contexts should be established as a matter of urgency.

The Movement of Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis across Borders in East Africa Needs a Regional and Global Solution

Kevin P. Cain, Nina Marano, Maureen Kamene, Joseph Sitienei, Subroto Mukherjee, Aleksandar Galev, John Burton, Orkhan Nasibov, Jackson Kioko, Kevin M. De Cock

Policy Forum | published 24 Feb 2015 | PLOS Medicine 10.1371/journal.pmed.1001791

Summary Points

- Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR TB) and other deadly infectious diseases commonly occur in states suffering from political turmoil and armed conflict.
- The same conditions that promote MDR TB and other diseases often diminish the capacity of the public health system to address these needs, leading patients to seek care in other countries.
- In East Africa, a large number of patients from Somalia with MDR TB crossed the border to Kenya seeking treatment. While diagnostic capacity for MDR TB exists in Somalia, treatment capacity does not.
- Identification and management of such diseases need to be a priority for countries in the region both for humanitarian purposes and for the protection of their own residents. Often diseases will need to be diagnosed and treated outside of the country in which they are occurring.
- The solutions must be regional and global. Control of an infectious disease, such as MDR TB, must be focused at its source to be successful. Its control cannot depend on the existing capacity of the country in which it happens to occur.

PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases

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

(Accessed 28 February 2015)

[No new relevant content]

PLoS One

[Accessed 28 February 2015]

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

Care Seeking Behaviour for Children with Suspected Pneumonia in Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa with High Pneumonia Mortality

Aaltje Camielle Noordam, Liliana Carvajal-Velez, Alyssa B. Sharkey, Mark Young, Jochen W. L. Cals

Research Article | published 23 Feb 2015 | PLOS ONE 10.1371/journal.pone.0117919

Abstract

Pneumonia is the leading cause of childhood mortality in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). Because effective antibiotic treatment exists, timely recognition of pneumonia and subsequent care seeking for treatment can prevent deaths. For six high pneumonia mortality countries in SSA we examined if children with suspected pneumonia were taken for care, and if so, from which type of care providers, using national survey data of 76530 children. We also assessed factors independently associated with care seeking from health providers, also known as 'appropriate' providers. We report important differences in care seeking patterns across these countries. In Tanzania 85% of children with suspected pneumonia were taken for care, whereas this was only 30% in Ethiopia. Most of the children living in these six countries were taken to a primary health care facility; 86, 68 and 59% in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Burkina Faso respectively. In Uganda, hospital care was sought for 60% of children. 16–18% of children were taken to a private pharmacy in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Tanzania and Nigeria. In Tanzania, children from the richest households were 9.5 times (CI 2.3–39.3) more likely to be brought for care than children from the poorest households, after controlling for the child's age, sex, caregiver's education and urban-rural residence. The influence of the age of a child, when controlling for sex, urban-rural residence, education and wealth, shows that the youngest

children (<2 years) were more likely to be brought to a care provider in Nigeria, Ethiopia and DRC. Urban-rural residence was not significantly associated with care seeking, after controlling for the age and sex of the child, caregivers education and wealth. The study suggests that it is crucial to understand country-specific care seeking patterns for children with suspected pneumonia and related determinants using available data prior to planning programmatic

PLoS Pathogens

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

(Accessed 28 February 2015)

[No new relevant content]

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

(Accessed 28 February 2015)

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

[No new relevant content]

Prehospital & Disaster Medicine

Volume 30 - Issue 01 - February 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Public Health Ethics

Volume 7 Issue 3 November 2014

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Qualitative Health Research

February 2015; 25 (2)

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

Special Issue: Responses to Treatment

[Reviewed earlier]

Refugee Survey Quarterly

Volume 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

[Introduction: The Role of International Organizations and Human Rights Monitoring Bodies in Refugee Protection](#)

Maria-Teresa Gil-Bazo*

PhD in International Law; Senior Lecturer in Law (Newcastle Law School, Newcastle University); Research Associate (Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford).

Abstract

Developments in international law in the field of asylum, including the development of regional legal and institutional frameworks, have resulted in an increasing complexity and fragmentation that deserves revisiting. In this view, this Special Issue of the Refugee Survey Quarterly enquires into the role of international organizations and international human rights monitoring bodies in the protection of refugees. Despite the lack of an explicit mandate to receive communications from individuals regarding their immigration status, these monitoring bodies have developed a sound body of case-law on the rights of non-nationals in relation to the entry and stay, as well as non-removal from their countries of asylum. Their work in fact suggests that we may be witnessing a change in paradigm as international human rights law evolves beyond the prohibition of refoulement into the positive obligations of States. This has the potential for opening new ways for studying refugee protection under international law in a holistic manner.

Refugee Protection under International Human Rights Law: From Non-Refoulement to Residence and Citizenship

María-Teresa Gil-Bazo Refugee Survey Quarterly (2015) 34 (1): 11-42 doi:10.1093/rsq/hdu021

Abstract

[Full Text \(HTML\)](#)

Time for Reform? Refugees, Asylum-seekers, and Protection Under International Human Rights Law

Colin Harvey

Refugee Survey Quarterly (2015) 34 (1): 43-60 doi:10.1093/rsq/hdu018

Abstract

[Full Text \(HTML\)](#)

Recent Jurisprudence of the United Nations Committee against Torture and the International Protection of Refugees

Fernando M. Mariño Menéndez

Refugee Survey Quarterly (2015) 34 (1): 61-78 doi:10.1093/rsq/hdu019

Abstract

[Full Text \(HTML\)](#)

Reframing Relationships: Revisiting the Procedural Standards for Refugee Status Determination in Light of Recent Human Rights Treaty Body Jurisprudence

David James Cantor

Refugee Survey Quarterly (2015) 34 (1): 79-106 doi:10.1093/rsq/hdu017

Abstract

[Full Text \(HTML\)](#)

International Protection in Court: The Asylum Jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the EU and UNHCR

Madeline Garlick

Refugee Survey Quarterly (2015) 34 (1): 107-130 doi:10.1093/rsq/hdu020

Abstract

[Full Text \(HTML\)](#)

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

ARTÍCULOS DE INVESTIGACIÓN ORIGINAL / ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLES

 [**Agendas de investigación priorizadas: un recurso estratégico para la salud en América Latina**](#) [Priority research agendas: a strategic resource for health in Latin America]

Francisco Becerra-Posada, Nelly Salgado de Snyder, Luis Gabriel Cuervo y Gabriela Montorzi
SPECIAL SECTION / SECCIÓN ESPECIAL

 [**Preparación de los adultos mayores en los Estados Unidos para hacer frente a los desastres naturales: encuesta a escala nacional**](#) [Preparedness for natural disasters

among older US adults: a nationwide survey]

Tala M. Al-rousan, Linda M. Rubenstein y Robert B. Wallace

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

27 February 2015 vol 347, issue 6225, pages 921-1040

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

Review

[**Systems integration for global sustainability**](#)

Jianguo Liu^{1,*}, Harold Mooney², Vanessa Hull¹, Steven J. Davis³, Joanne Gaskell⁴, Thomas Hertel⁵, Jane Lubchenco⁶, Karen C. Seto⁷, Peter Gleick⁸, Claire Kremen⁹, Shuxin Li¹

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Abstract

Structured Abstract

Editor's Summary

BACKGROUND

Many key global sustainability challenges are closely intertwined (examples are provided in the figure). These challenges include air pollution, biodiversity loss, climate change, energy and food security, disease spread, species invasion, and water shortages and pollution. They are interconnected across three dimensions (organizational levels, space, and time) but are often separately studied and managed. Systems integration—holistic approaches to integrating various components of coupled human and natural systems (for example, social-ecological systems and human-environment systems) across all dimensions—is necessary to address complex interconnections and identify effective solutions to sustainability challenges.

ADVANCES

One major advance has been recognizing Earth as a large, coupled human and natural system consisting of many smaller coupled systems linked through flows of information, matter, and energy and evolving through time as a set of interconnected complex adaptive systems. A number of influential integrated frameworks (such as ecosystem services, environmental footprints, human-nature nexus, planetary boundaries, and telecoupling) and tools for systems integration have been developed and tested through interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary inquiries. Systems integration has led to fundamental discoveries and sustainability actions that are not possible by using conventional disciplinary, reductionist, and compartmentalized approaches. These include findings on emergent properties and complexity; interconnections among multiple key issues (such as air, climate, energy, food, land, and water); assessment of multiple, often conflicting, objectives; and synergistic interactions in which, for example, economic efficiency can be enhanced while environmental impacts are mitigated. In addition, systems integration allows for clarification and reassignment of environmental responsibilities (for example, among producers, consumers, and traders); mediation of trade-offs and enhancement of synergies; reduction of conflicts; and design of harmonious conservation and development policies and practices.

OUTLOOK

Although some studies have recognized spillover effects (effects spilling over from interactions among other systems) or spatial externalities, there is a need to simultaneously consider socioeconomic and environmental effects rather than considering them separately.

Furthermore, identifying causes, agents, and flows behind the spillover effects can help us to understand better and hence manage the effects across multiple systems and scales.

Integrating spillover systems with sending and receiving systems through network analysis and other advanced analytical methods can uncover hidden interrelationships and lead to important insights. Human-nature feedbacks, including spatial feedbacks (such as those among sending, receiving, and spillover systems), are the core elements of coupled systems and thus are likely to play important roles in global sustainability. Systems integration for global sustainability is poised for more rapid development, and transformative changes aimed at connecting disciplinary silos are needed to sustain an increasingly telecoupled world.

Among Brazil, China, the Caribbean, and the Sahara Desert in Africa, there are complex human-nature interactions across space, time, and organizational levels. Deforestation in Brazil due to soybean production provides food for people and livestock in China. Food trade between Brazil and China also contributes to changes in the global food market, which affects other areas around the world, including the Caribbean and Africa, that also engage in trade with China and Brazil. Dust particles from the Sahara Desert in Africa—aggravated by agricultural practices—travel via the air to the Caribbean, where they contribute to the decline in coral reefs and soil fertility and increase asthma rates. These in turn affect China and Brazil, which have

both invested heavily in Caribbean tourism, infrastructure, and transportation. Nutrient-rich dust from Africa also reaches Brazil, where it improves forest productivity.

Social Science & Medicine

Volume 126, In Progress (February 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Stability: International Journal of Security & Development

[accessed 28 February 2015]

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

Community Stabilization and Violence Reduction: Lessons from Darfur

Zurab Elzarov

Abstract

Ravaged by years of conflict and environmental decline, Darfur's economy has been unable to create sufficient opportunities for youth, creating a link between social instability and high concentration of youth without productive employment. In 2011, the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) designed a community stabilization and violence reduction programme to bridge a critical gap between the increasing 'youth bulge' and the government's capacity to deliver youth empowerment and job creation solutions to youth in Darfur, leading to militarization of youth. The programme offers vocational skills training and temporary employment of youth through implementation of community-based labour intensive projects (CLIPs). Youth are targeted in particular, since they are an essential part of the solution to resolving the conflict in Darfur. Youth tend to be directly involved in hostilities and are seen to be most likely to return to the battlefield. At the same time, youth are often the community members most open to engaging in post-conflict recovery and peacebuilding activities. Since the conception of the programme in 2011, a total of 58 projects were implemented in 45 communities, and directly targeted over 9,000 youth. In a situation where the peace agreement is non-inclusive and the level of violence against unarmed civilians is high, CLIPs have played an important role in community stabilization and violence reduction in Darfur, building trust, contributing to a secure environment and helping build the foundation for longer term peace and development. As recognition of its contribution to peace and stability in Darfur, in October 2014, UNAMID's CLIPs programme received the UN 21 Award for Outstanding Vision.

Sustainability

Volume 7, Issue 2 (February 2015), Pages 1099-2273

<http://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/7/2>

[Reviewed earlier]

TORTURE Journal

Volume 24, Nr. 1, 2014

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Tropical Medicine and Health

Vol. 43(2015) No. 1

https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/tmh/43/0/_contents

Original Papers

Treatment-seeking Paths in the Management of Severe Malaria in Children under 15 Years of Age Treated in Reference Hospitals of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo

Félicien Ilunga-Ilunga, Alain Levêque, Léon Okenge Ngongo, Samia Laokri, Michèle Dramaix

Released: February 04, 2015

Abstract

Background: In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), few studies have focused on treatment-seeking paths selected by caretakers for the management of severe childhood malaria in an urban environment. The present study aims at describing the treatment-seeking paths according to the characteristics of households, as well as the subsequent impact on pre-hospitalisation delay and malarial fatality and on the main syndromes associated with severe childhood malaria. **Methods:** This descriptive study included data collected at nine hospitals in Kinshasa between January and November 2011. A total of 1,350 children, under 15 years of age and hospitalised for severe malaria, were included in the study. **Results:** Regarding the management of malaria, 31.5% of households went directly to the health centre or hospital while 68.5% opted for self-medication, church and/or traditional healing therapy. The most frequent first-line option was self-medication, adopted by more than 61.5% of households. Nevertheless, rational self-medication using antimalarial drugs recommended by the WHO (artemisinin-based combinations) was reported for only 5.5% of children. Only 12.5% of households combined 2 or 3 traditional options. The following criteria influenced the choice of a modern vs. traditional path: household socioeconomic level, residential environment, maternal education level and religious beliefs. When caretakers opted for traditional healing therapy, the pre-hospitalisation delay was longer and the occurrence of respiratory distress, severe anaemia and mortality was higher. **Conclusion:** The implementation of a malaria action plan in the Democratic Republic of Congo should take into account the diversity and pluralistic character of treatment-seeking behaviours in order to promote the most appropriate options (hospital and rational self-medication) and to avoid detrimental outcomes.

Tropical Medicine & International Health

March 2015 Volume 20, Issue 3 Pages 251–406

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

[Reviewed earlier]

UN Chronicle

Vol. LI No. 3 2014 December 2014

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies

An International Interdisciplinary Journal for Research, Policy and Care

Volume 10, Issue 1, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

World Heritage Review

n°74 - January 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Yale Human Rights & Development Law Journal

Volume XIV, Issue 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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