

The Sentinel

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

7 March 2015

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

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

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

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States must uphold human rights principles in struggle against violent extremism

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein

GENEVA (5 March 2015) – UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, in a major speech on Thursday, warned that the world may be "at a turning point in our young and troubled century," and urged States not "to lose their grasp" of the human rights principles underlying their societies in their struggle against violent extremism.

"There is real danger that in their reaction to extremist violence, opinion-leaders and decision-makers will lose their grasp of the deeper principles that underpin the system for global security which States built 70 years ago to ward off the horror of war," the UN Human Rights Chief said.

"The fight against terror is a struggle to uphold the values of democracy and human rights – not undermine them," Zeid added. "Counter-terrorist operations that are non-specific, disproportionate, brutal and inadequately supervised violate the very norms that we seek to defend. They also risk handing the terrorists a propaganda tool – thus making our societies neither free nor safe," he said.

The use of torture, neglect of due process and collective punishment do not make the world any safer, he said, quoting former US President George W. Bush's statement that Guantanamo became "a propaganda tool for our enemies."

The wide-ranging speech to the 47-member UN Human Rights Council spanned numerous major issues affecting countries and individuals all across the world, including many forms of discrimination, as well as racial and religious hatred.

"I am appalled by the rising tide of attacks around the world that target people on account of their religious beliefs," he said. "...We continue to observe horrific acts of racial and religious hatred, including in many countries in Western Europe and North America, as well as evidence of unfair policing, daily insults and exclusion.... It should be obvious that Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and attacks that single out Christians or other groups because of their beliefs are identical manifestations of the same poisonous intolerance."

The High Commissioner also addressed the failure to give enough attention to economic and social rights, as well as related issues such as poverty, migration, climate change, and the root causes of the Ebola epidemic.

The tentacles of the extremist Takfiri movement reach into not just Iraq and Syria, he noted, but also Nigeria, Yemen, Libya, Somalia and beyond. The High Commissioner said he was deeply concerned at measures that restrict freedom of expression and democratic space in numerous countries including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Hungary, Myanmar, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela, and Viet Nam.

"When powerful leaders feel threatened by a tweet, a blog, or a high-school student's speech, this speaks of profound underlying weakness," he said. "And when writers are abducted, jailed, whipped, or put to death; when journalists are assaulted, subjected to sexual violence, tortured and killed; when peaceful protestors are gunned down by thugs; when human rights lawyers, human rights defenders and land activists are arrested and jailed on spurious charges of sedition; when newspapers are attacked or shut down – such cases attack and undermine the foundations of stable governance."

Zeid also expressed regret at the renewed use of the death penalty in Indonesia, Jordan, and Pakistan, and the continuing extensive use of the death penalty in China, Iraq, Iran and the

United States. He also highlighted the human rights situation in the Central African Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mexico, Sri Lanka, South Sudan, Sudan, and Ukraine, as well as Australia's approach to irregular migrants and asylum seekers. The High Commissioner commended Colombia and Tunisia for important advances in human rights.

"It is the people who sustain government, create prosperity, heal and educate others and pay for governmental and other services with their labour. It is their struggles that have created and sustain States. Governments exist to serve the people – not the other way round," Zeid said.

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[Urgent action needed to stop organized crime preying on migrants, says UNODC chief at irregular migration meeting](#)

04/03/2015 - London/Vienna, 04 March 2015 - We must act to stop the horrific treatment of migrants by criminal smugglers said Yury Fedotov, the Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), today at an international meeting on the movement of irregular migrants by sea.

He told his audience that overcrowded boats, makeshift vessels capsizing and sinking; unguided cargo ships abandoned, with migrants left to their fate at sea; women, men and children drowning or dying of hypothermia were part of a global tragedy.

"We cannot allow desperate people, escaping conflict and humanitarian disasters, to fall prey to organized crime. We need urgent and resolute action to save lives and punish the criminals," said Mr. Fedotov.

To help counter criminal networks and safeguard the rights of migrants, Mr. Fedotov said UNODC has developed a new strategy that would contribute to overall international efforts in the Mediterranean. He said the strategy was founded on five essential pillars: research and analysis, strengthening countries' abilities to develop effective criminal justice responses, promoting cooperation, building coordination and protecting migrant rights.

So far, he said, 185 countries have signed the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and 141 have signed its protocol on migrant smuggling, but Mr. Fedotov said that full implementation of these instruments was needed...

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Editor's Note:

We include below some of the more substantial announcements and salutes honoring International Women's Day. Additional statements are presented in the agency and NGO sections below.

[International Women's Day 2015 – Human Rights Council Working Group International Women's Day Statement by the United Nations Human Rights Council's Working Group on the Issue of Discrimination Against Women in Law and in Practice](#)

GENEVA, Thursday, 5 March 2015

Nothing short of full rights – protecting the hard-fought progress and allowing no space for retrogression

8 March marks a day of celebration not only for girls and women of the world, but also for the entire humanity, as it celebrates fundamental values of equality and historical achievements. It is a celebration of women's courage in demanding, more than a hundred years ago, nothing short of equal rights - equal rights as workers and equal rights as citizens.

Each year the International Women's Day presents an opportunity for the world to remember the long journey that women have travelled in the struggle for equality and to celebrate the remarkable progress made over the last one hundred years in all spheres of life – political, economic, social, and cultural. Today not only have women gained the right to vote in every corner of the world, they are becoming parliamentarians, heads of States and Governments. More women participate in the labour market and become business leaders, entrepreneurs and economic decision-makers. More women receive higher education and contribute to the cultural and scientific lives of their communities and their countries.

The last century also witnessed the development of an impressive body of international standards, including for the protection of the human rights of women, from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 1966, and to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in 1979. Women's right to equality has become legally guaranteed. The 1995 World Conference on Women saw a consolidation of these hard-fought progress and achievements, by agreeing on a most comprehensive plan to advance women's right to equality - the Beijing Platform of Action. In 2010, the United Nations Human Rights Council decided to establish the Working Group on the Issue of Discrimination Against Women in Law and in Practice as part of its independent fact-finding and monitoring mechanisms.

Persistent discrimination and risk of retrogression

Despite these progress and achievements over long years of struggle, discrimination against women persists in both public and private spheres, in times of conflict as in times of peace, and in all regions of the world. No country in the world has yet achieved full substantive equality of women. The participation of women in political and public life remains much too low – averaging 20% of parliamentarians and 17% of heads of States or Governments. Women continue to be paid less for work of equal value and are severely underrepresented in top leadership in decision-making bodies in business, finance and trade, including in international institutions such as the IMF and the WTO as well as in cooperatives and trade unions.

We are seeing retrogressive signs, often in the name of culture, religion, and traditions, that threaten the hard-fought progress in achieving women's equality. We have seen attempts to restrict women's place in the domestic sphere. Attention and focus on family value and on protection of the family is important, but it is neither an equivalent nor a replacement of women's equal rights and autonomy. Protection of the family must include protecting the human rights of individual members of the family, especially the right to equality between women and men as well as between girls and boys. The Working Group has expressed concerns about the silence in the Human Rights Council on the right of women to equality in the family when adopting a resolution in June 2014 on protection of the family and the panel discussion that followed. Recognition of women's right to equality in the family constituted a significant departure from the prior social and religious status quo of the patriarchal family. The

advancement of women and girls depends on the recognition in law and practice of their right to equality as members of communities and families.

Violence against women remains pervasive, estimated to affect one in three women globally. We continue to witness, in the name of perceived honour, beauty, purity and tradition, girls and women are subject to "honor" killings, child marriages, and female genital mutilation. Too many women are being deprived of their sexual and reproductive health and rights, fundamental human rights of women. Each year, some 50,000 women die as a result of unsafe abortions and some 5 million women suffer from disabilities due to lack of, or negligent reproductive health services, according to a recent study of the World Health Organisation. Completely avoidable maternal deaths are still very high in many countries. There are still countries that impose a total prohibition of abortion in all circumstances and imprison women accused of abortions for up to 30 years.

At the same time, the lack of access to proper sexual education and family planning information and services for adolescents and the practice of child marriages lead to teenager pregnancies and exclusion of girls from education and employment, hence limits their enjoyment of many other rights.

Pregnancy and child birth for girls is one of the most common causes of death in developing countries, with girls under 15 years of age facing five times the danger. Abortion for pregnant teenagers should be allowed as equality and health measures.

Seize the opportunity

For the 21st century to be "the century of women", in the words of the UN Secretary General, it requires us, men and women of the world, to work systematically to make it a century in which the equal contribution of women is recognised, facilitated and properly rewarded and women are effectively protected from abuses and violence. The Working Group believes that quota systems and temporary special measures are essential to ensure proper representation of women in public, political, and economic decision-making and leadership. The expert Working Group has called for a social protection floor for care which would facilitate the participation of women equally with men in economic and social activities.

2015 is a year of opportunities for the international community. Twenty years after the historic world conference on women and 15 years of the Millennium Development Goals, time has come to review with a critical lens the unfulfilled commitments made to women and take corrective actions. The expert Working Group has welcome that women's equal rights is both a stand-alone goal and is mainstreamed throughout all goals in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

Recalling the legal nature of women's right to equality, it is therefore essential to apply the existing human rights obligations of Member States to interpret and understand the goals, targets, and indicators of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, making sure that there is both awareness of and accountability for elimination of discrimination against women and empowerment of women within this framework. This is incumbent on Member States which have a duty to respect women's human rights and to exercise due diligence to ensure that there be no violation of such rights whether by the State, its agents or private corporations and

individuals. Equality in law and practice, which enables women to participate fully in economic and social life, is also crucial factor for sustainable development to succeed.

It has been a century since women were out on the street demanding equal rights. Women are asking for immediate actions. There is no acceptable justification to wait for 2030 to achieve the target of eliminating discriminatory legislation. It is a long overdue political commitment which must be fulfilled without delay. There is no acceptable justification to deny the human rights of girls and women by allowing practices to continue which are harmful and dangerous to their physical and mental health. Furthermore, the costs in health, education and economic development of these practices is a clear barrier to sustainable development.

Just like the century old foot binding, which caused excruciating pain and irreversible harm to girls, practices such as child marriages, female genital mutilation, and "honor" killings have no place in the 21st century.

International Women's Day 2015 – UN Women

Summary Report: The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action turns 20

UN Women

March 2015 :: 60 pages

View online/download:

http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2015/sq%20report_synthesis-en_web.pdf

The present report is a synthesis of the Secretary-General's report (E/CN.6/2015/3) on the 20-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. The report provides a review of national-level implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as opportunities for strengthening gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda through the integration of a gender perspective, as mandated in the Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/18.

The first section of the report provides an overview of 20 years of implementation of the Platform for Action. The following sections highlight the trends and priorities in the implementation of the 12 critical areas of concern, concluding with an overview of remaining challenges and actions needed to accelerate implementation. The synthesis report concludes with an analysis of the lessons learned and priorities for accelerating the implementation of the Platform for Action and the realization of gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls in the post-2015 context.

UN Women - Press conference: "Collective failure of leadership on progress for women"

As authoritative global review finds pace of advancement unacceptably slow, UN Women Executive Director calls on leaders to Step It Up, launching initiative to record concrete new commitments

06 March 2015

New York—Progress for women in the past 20 years has been unacceptably slow, with areas of stagnation and regression. This is the conclusion of an authoritative global review of progress on gender equality, to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, which UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will present to Members States on Monday.

The survey covers an unprecedented 167 countries, drawing on rich inputs from governments and civil society. Prepared for the 59th Commission on the Status of Women, it shows that despite some progress, world leaders have not done nearly enough to act on commitments made in the visionary Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director briefs members of the press on the upcoming 59th Commission on the Status of Women (9-20 March) and the Secretary-General's summary report to be presented on the opening day of the session. Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

"The Secretary-General's report makes this very clear: The disappointing gap between the norms and implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action points to a collective failure of leadership on progress for women," says Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka. "The leaders entrusted with the power to realize the promises made in Beijing have failed women and girls."

Given the findings of the report, UN Women today launched a new initiative "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality" to galvanize government pledges for action, as part of UN Women's wider Beijing+20 campaign. A dedicated web platform www.unwomen.org/stepitup will draw global attention to all new commitments made by countries around the world.

"Today, we are calling on governments, everywhere in the world, to Step It Up," says Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka. "By 2030 at the latest, we want to live in a world where at least half of all parliamentarians, university students, CEOs, civil society leaders and any other category, are women. Real progress requires 50-50."...

International Women's Day 2015 –UNICEF

[International Women's Day: 10 quick facts on girls](#)

NEW YORK, 7 March 2015 – To mark International Women's Day and the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on women's empowerment, UNICEF presents a statistical snapshot of progress and trends for girls and women.

International Women's Day 2015 – International Labour Organization

[Women and the Future of Work: Beijing + 20 and Beyond](#)

ILO Briefing note | 06 March 2015 :: 4 pages

Pdf: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/briefingnote/wcms_348087.pdf

Despite significant progress since the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, women continue to experience widespread discrimination and inequality in the workplace. Twenty years later, and as we approach the ILO's centenary in 2019, the ILO has launched the Women at Work initiative alongside the Future of Work initiative, to place a spotlight on gender and drill down into some of the most crucial areas. The future of work means more women at work, and this future must deliver on gender equality.

[The motherhood pay gap: A review of the issues, theory and international evidence](#)

ILO Working paper | 06 March 2015 :: 82 pages
Conditions of Work and Employment Series No. 57
Damian Grimshaw and Jill Rubery, University of Manchester

Evidence that mothers suffer a wage penalty over and above the penalty for being a woman raises concerns not only for gender equality but also for the capacity of societies to manage a sustainable balance between their economic aims of active female participation in paid work and the social aims of providing a fair distribution of income to support the reproduction and rearing of children. These concerns underpin ILO Conventions designed to combat inequality in women's position in paid employment, especially associated with motherhood status.

Excerpt from Executive Summary

What is the motherhood pay gap?

The motherhood pay gap measures the pay gap between mothers and non-mothers, the latter defined in most econometric studies as women without dependent children. It also measures the pay gap between mothers and fathers. This is different from the gender pay gap, which measures the pay gap between all women and all men in the workforce.

While there is a considerable international literature on the motherhood gap, differences both in methodologies and in how mothers, non-mothers and fathers are defined using available data create difficulties in comparing estimates. Moreover, in many countries, the data are often unsuitable for analysis, typically because the questions posed in surveys make it difficult to establish the identity of a child's mother or father (particularly in developing countries where the nuclear family is less common).

Nevertheless, many studies draw on international harmonized pay and employment data which provide a useful basis for cross-country comparison, and others provide informative trend analyses for single countries.

Trends in the motherhood pay gap

From the available data it appears that the unadjusted motherhood gap tends to be larger in developing countries than in developed countries. Globally, the motherhood gap increases as the number of children a woman has increases; in many European countries, for example, having one child has only a small negative effect, but women with two and especially three children experience a significant wage penalty. In developing countries, evidence suggests the gender of the child may matter as daughters may be more likely than sons to help with household and caring tasks, thereby reducing the motherhood gap.

Whether the wage penalty associated with motherhood is a one-off event or accumulates over time also varies from one country to the next. For example, mothers who have a strong job attachment are found to experience a wage decrease immediately on return to employment but soon catch up with non-mothers. In contrast, mothers taking longer leave periods experience a longer-lasting wage penalty. In short, while the existence of a motherhood gap seems universal, the magnitude and duration of the effect motherhood has on wages varies from country to country...

"The future of work must also deal with the future of women at work"

Statement by Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General, on the occasion of International Women's Day, 8 March 2015 [Full text]

Two decades ago the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing adopted a visionary and far-reaching Declaration and Platform for Action on gender equality and women's empowerment. What progress there has been since then must be tempered by the reality that it is far less than what we had hoped to see by now.

In the areas of national gender equality policies, and legislation against discrimination based on sex, much has been accomplished. Nevertheless, progress on the ground remains elusive.

Globally, only about half the world's women are in the labour force, compared to nearly 80 per cent of men – a figure basically unchanged in 20 years. A large gender pay gap hasn't narrowed much, with women still earning on average 23 per cent less than men. And new evidence is emerging that mothers suffer a wage penalty, often over and above the gender pay gap.

The percentage of women in top management and in positions of political leadership has improved. But women head up only 5 per cent of Fortune 500 companies, and only one out of 12 governments worldwide. The percentage of women who work as self-employed or unpaid family members has declined. But women remain over-represented in low-wage employment.

We cannot accept that at current rates of change, it may take more than 70 years for women to achieve equal pay status with men. Nor can we accept that one out of every three women today will suffer some form of physical and/or sexual violence that cripples their ability to work.

On this International Women's Day, it's time to ask the hard questions. This anniversary should spur us to act, to rethink and to innovate.

What needs to be done?

- Support maternity protection and work-family policies: despite some progress, globally more than 800 million women workers, or 41 per cent, still don't have adequate maternity protection, and take-up rates among men of parental leave are low. Could we not design maternity protection and work-family policies that are more inclusive, and supportive of gender equality?
- Address the issue of care work: The services and facilities that recognize, value and support such work, either paid or unpaid, are generally lacking. Could we not promote a new ethos of "care for work, and work for care" expressed in policies dealing with issues such as maternity, paternity, childcare and elder care needs?
- Support women's entry into the labour force: many women wish to enter the labour market. Could we not give more attention to active labour market policies and create a supportive workplace culture that breaks down occupational segregation, values equitably the jobs dominated by women, and supports quality jobs for women and men?
- Act early to close the gender gap: the gap begins in childhood and compounds through the life course. Quality education, training and skills development for girls and boys, women and men, needs to be ensured, together with effective strategies for youth employment.
- Equality for women at work benefits everyone. We need to show men why they need to be part of the conversation, and part of the solution. Including men in gender equality strategies will be necessary to accelerate change – gender equality is about all women and men, and benefits individuals, families, workplaces and societies.

Promoting decent jobs for women is imperative, now and for the next generation. The future of work must also deal with the future of women at work. It is a matter of rights and what is right for women and for sustainable development.

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Jihadists May Have Wrecked an Ancient Iraqi Site

By ANNE BARNARD

New York Times

MARCH 7, 2015 [15:03]

BAGHDAD — Iraqi officials said Saturday that they were investigating reports that Islamic State militants had destroyed Hatra, an archaeological site dating to the first century B.C., two days after officials confirmed that the group had bulldozed another nearby site, the ancient Assyrian city of Nimrud.

Officials have been unable to review visual evidence, Qais Hussein Rashid, the deputy minister for tourism and antiquities, said in a telephone interview, because their local contacts have not had Internet access for several days. But, he said, "our local sources confirmed it to us."

Iraqis living nearby and across the country lamented the wholesale destruction of their heritage, with Kurdish and Shiite militias and army troops on the ground, and an international coalition bombing from the air, apparently unable to stop it.

"We are in despair with the government," Ali al-Nashmi, a professor of history at Mustansiriyah University in Baghdad, said in a telephone interview. He was nearly in tears after hearing the reports about Hatra, which he said had been rare in Iraq for its classical ruins. "We are losing the country."...

UNESCO Director General condemns destruction of Nimrud in Iraq

06.03.2015 - UNESCOPRESS

"I condemn in the strongest possible manner the destruction of the archaeological site of Nimrud in Iraq. This is yet another attack against the Iraqi people, reminding us that nothing is safe from the cultural cleansing underway in the country: it targets human lives, minorities, and is marked by the systematic destruction of humanity's ancient heritage," said UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova.

"We cannot remain silent. The deliberate destruction of cultural heritage constitutes a war crime. I call on all political and religious leaders in the region to stand up and remind everyone that there is absolutely no political or religious justification for the destruction of humanity's cultural heritage

"I call on all of those who can, especially youth, in Iraq and elsewhere, to do everything possible to protect this heritage, to claim it as their own, and as the heritage of the whole of humanity.

"I appeal also to all cultural institutions, museums, journalists, professors, and scientists to share and explain the importance of this heritage and the Mesopotamian civilization. We must respond to this criminal chaos that destroys culture with more culture.

"I have alerted the president of the Security Council as well as the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. The entire international community must join its efforts, in solidarity with the government and people of Iraq, to put an end to this catastrophe. Likewise, UNESCO is determined to do whatever is needed to document and protect the heritage of Iraq and lead the fight against the illicit traffic of cultural artefacts, which directly contributes to the financing of terrorism. At stake is the survival of the Iraqi culture and society."

The city of Nimrud (Kalka), was founded more than 3,300 years ago. It was one of the capitals of the Assyrian empire. Its frescos and works are celebrated around the world and

revered in literature and sacred texts. The Iraqi government has confirmed that the site was attacked by armed extremists using bulldozers on the 5th of March.

[Google Maps GPS: 28.550158, 77.260616]

UNWTO strongly condemns the destruction of cultural heritage

PR No.: 15019

Madrid

04 Mar 15

UNWTO is appalled by the systematic destruction of cultural and religious artefacts in Syria and Iraq, the last of which in the Mosul Museum in Iraq. On behalf of the international tourism community, UNWTO joins UNESCO in urging immediate action to safeguard the world's cultural heritage.

"As stated by UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova, the recent systematic destruction of Iraq's unique cultural heritage is intolerable and must come to an end immediately", said UNWTO Secretary-General, Taleb Rifai.

"The world's diverse cultural heritage tells mankind's story; it tells our story. It gives a sense of pride and self-esteem to local communities, and motivates millions of people to travel and discover the world each year. As such, cultural artefacts are a source of understanding, tolerance and respect between peoples and nations. These inexcusable acts of terrorism are attacks on these values and the international community must stand united in condemning them", he added.

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UN Secretary-General: World threatened by dangerous and unacceptable levels of risk from disasters

The 2015 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR15) is launched today by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

04 March 2015, NEW YORK – UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today warned that "growing global inequality, increasing exposure to natural hazards, rapid urbanization and the overconsumption of energy and natural resources threaten to drive risk to dangerous and unpredictable levels with systemic global impacts."

The 2015 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR15), prepared by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and launched today by the Secretary-General, states that economic losses from disasters are now reaching an average of US\$250 billion to US\$300 billion annually.

In connection with the report's findings, the Secretary-General said: "We are playing with fire. There is a very real possibility that disaster risk, fuelled by climate change, will reach a tipping point beyond which the effort and resources necessary to reduce it will exceed the capacity of future generations."...

- [Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 website](#)
- [Download press release in PDF](#)
- [Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction](#)

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World Bank Acknowledges Shortcomings in Resettlement Projects, Announces Action Plan to Fix Problems

PRESS RELEASE

March 4, 2015

WASHINGTON, March 4, 2015 —Acting on internal World Bank reports that identified serious shortcomings in the implementation of its resettlement policies, the World Bank today released a plan that will improve the oversight and management of resettlement practices to ensure better protection of people and businesses affected by Bank-funded projects.

Three reports, which reviewed over two decades of World Bank projects involving possible resettlements, found that oversight of those projects often had poor or no documentation, lacked follow through to ensure that protection measures were implemented, and some projects were not sufficiently identified as high-risk for populations living in the vicinity.

"We took a hard look at ourselves on resettlement and what we found caused me deep concern," said World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim. "We found several major problems. One is that we haven't done a good enough job in overseeing projects involving resettlement; two, we haven't implemented those plans well enough; and three, we haven't put in place strong tracking systems to make sure that our policies were being followed. We must and will do better."

The action plan released Wednesday proposes to strengthen systems, staffing, and policy implementation. The plan focuses on improving preparation, supervision and implementation of resettlement, given the disruptive impact it can have on the lives of the people.

The plan is aligned with the World Bank's ongoing safeguards review process, and is largely based on recommendations from three reports: a 2014 Internal Audit Department (IAD) Advisory Review of the Bank's Environmental and Social Risk Management; and two internal draft working papers – Involuntary Resettlement Portfolio Review Phase I and Phase II.

Since late 2012, the World Bank has been consulting with stakeholders on strengthening its environmental and social safeguard policies, including its policies regarding land acquisition and resettlement. On March 1, the World Bank concluded the second phase of consultations on the proposed Environmental and Social Framework, which would strengthen, update and clarify our existing safeguard policies.

On resettlement, World Bank operational teams are already implementing many of the measures identified in the action plan released today, including a comprehensive review of its current policies, additional staff guidance, a systematic risk management framework, and strengthened accreditation of specialist staff.

The plan also includes the use of a new Tracking Social Performance (TSP) Database, in response to a weakness found in two of the reviews that information on the scale and scope of project impacts is difficult to obtain in World Bank systems. This database was developed to better track resettlement issues for all Bank-funded projects with involuntary resettlement, and enable resettlement reports to be generated in real time. A similar tracking system is also now in place for environmental issues.

"Our policy is that if we resettle someone from their home, we will assist efforts to improve, or at least to restore, their incomes and living standards," Kim said. "Strong policies like ours require strong execution and it requires properly funding reviews and empowering those who work on safeguards. That will change with our action plan."

More information: fact sheet, and n FAQ on the World Bank's Involuntary Resettlement Policy *What is involuntary resettlement?*

Involuntary Resettlement refers to two distinct but related processes. Displacement is a process by which development projects cause people to lose land or other assets, or access to

resources. This may result in physical dislocation, loss of income, or other adverse impacts. Resettlement or rehabilitation is a process by which those adversely affected are assisted in their efforts to improve, or at least to restore, their incomes and living standards.

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Sphere Board unveils strategic plan 2015-2020

09 March 2015 | Sphere Project

Sphere 2020, the Sphere Project strategic plan for the coming six years, has just been published. The plan defines an ambitious agenda for Sphere to continue fulfilling its unique role within the humanitarian sector as a leading standards-setting initiative.

"The new strategy," says Sphere Board Chair Unni Krishnan, "will enable the worldwide community of Sphere practitioners to rise to today's humanitarian challenges through its new focus on network and innovation, as well as its renewed emphasis on learning, advocacy and standards coherence."

Building on nearly two decades of organic growth, Sphere 2020 sets about to transform Sphere into a vigorous, deeply connected network of practitioners and organisations which will act as a global catalyst for humanitarian quality and accountability.

Four strategic priorities will enable this ambitious goal:

:: Priority 1: The establishment of a robust, inclusive network of Sphere practitioners will allow humanitarian actors and first responders to develop greater capacity to put humanitarian principles and standards into practice.

:: Priority 2: The collective ability of the Sphere network to carry out training and advocacy will be strengthened, targeting first responders, traditional and new humanitarian actors, international systems as well as local and national authorities.

:: Priority 3: A revision of the Sphere Handbook will offer the opportunity to sharpen the relevance and usability of Sphere standards by consolidating the evidence base and aligning them with innovative best practice in the sector as well as new technologies.

:: Priority 4: The progressive formalisation of a global standards alliance will improve coordinated action, allowing humanitarian standards to better influence humanitarian response, building greater ownership by individuals, communities and organisations.

In support of its strategic priorities, Sphere 2020 makes a point of developing dynamic communications and fundraising strategies....

Download Sphere 2020 ([English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#)).

.....

President Shalala Tapped to Lead Clinton Foundation

Bill Clinton made the announcement at the opening of the Clinton Global Initiative University event Friday night.

University of Miami News

CORAL GABLES, Fla. (March 06, 2015) — For University of Miami President Donna E. Shalala, her old boss has come knocking again.

In front of an audience of thousands at the opening of the Clinton Global Initiative University on the UM campus Friday night, former President Bill Clinton announced that Shalala is being recruited to head the Clinton Foundation.

"She's a remarkable person," Clinton said of Shalala, who served for eight years in Clinton's cabinet as secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Clinton said Shalala's appointment as president and chief executive officer of the foundation has the full support of him, his wife Hillary, and their daughter Chelsea, but has to be voted on by the board of directors. "I think they'll vote for her," he said. "I think anyone who has the chance would vote for her."

Chelsea Clinton, who is vice chair of the foundation, referred to Shalala as an "extraordinary leader" in her opening remarks at the BankUnited Center.

Shalala announced in September that she is stepping down as president of the University of Miami at the end of this academic year, ending a 14-year tenure.

.....

Financing Investments in Young Children Globally

Summary of a Joint Workshop by the Institute of Medicine, National Research Council, and The Centre for Early Childhood Education and Development, Ambedkar University, Delhi (2015)

March 6, 2015 :: 108 pages ISBN: 978-0-309-31610-1

Pdf download:

https://www.nap.edu/login.php?record_id=18993&page=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nap.edu%2Fdownload.php%3Frecord_id%3D18993

Overview

On August 26–27, 2014, the Forum on Investing in Young Children Globally hosted its second workshop, in New Delhi, India. The forum's first workshop, titled "The Cost of Inaction," was held in Washington, DC, in April 2014 and focused on the science of promoting optimal development through investing in young children and the potential economic consequences of inaction. This second workshop, on financing investments for young children, built on the first workshop and brought together stakeholders from such disciplines as social protection, nutrition, education, health, finance, economics, and law and included practitioners, advocates, researchers, and policy makers.

FORUM ON INVESTING IN YOUNG CHILDREN GLOBALLY - OVERVIEW

In January 2014, the Board on Children, Youth, and Families of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and the National Research Council (NRC), in collaboration with the IOM Board on Global Health, launched the Forum on Investing in Young Children Globally. At this meeting, the participants agreed to focus on creating and sustaining, over 3 years, an evidence-driven community of stakeholders that aims to explore existing, new, and innovative science and research from around the world and translate this evidence into sound and strategic investments in policies and practices that will make a difference in the lives of children and their caregivers.

Forum activities will highlight the science and economics of integrated investments in young children living in low-resourced regions of the world across the areas of health, nutrition, education, and social protection.

As a result, the forum will explore a holistic view of children and caregivers by integrating analyses and disciplines that span from neurons to neighborhoods and discuss the science from the microbiome to culture. Moreover, the forum will support an integrative vision to strengthen human capital. This work will be done through the forum and will engage in a series of stakeholder consultative sessions or public workshops, each focusing on specific aspects of science integration, bridging equity gaps, and implementing and scaling evidence-informed efforts.

A set of forum goals includes supporting the development of integrated science on children's health, nutrition, education, and social protection and working with policy makers, practitioners, and researchers to raise awareness of integrated approaches to improve the lives of children and their caregivers. Forum objectives to meet these goals are as follows:

1. To shape a global vision of healthy child development across cultures and contexts, extending from preconception through at least age eight, and across currently siloed areas of health, nutrition, education, and social protection.
2. To identify opportunities for intersectoral coordination among researchers, policy makers, implementers, practitioners, and advocates to improve quality practices in public and private settings and bring these practices to scale, in the context of the economics of strategic, integrated investing in young children.
3. To inform ongoing conversations and activities of groups working on issues related to young children globally, such as the sustainable development goals and indicators being developed.
4. To identify current models of program and policy financing across health, education, nutrition, and social protection within the framework of reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health that aim to improve children's developmental potential.

This information could be used to illuminate opportunities for new financing structures and forms of investments that may be more effective in improving child outcomes and potentially drive economic development.

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EBOLA/EVD [to 7 March 2015]

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

WHO: Ebola Situation Report - 4 March 2015

Corrigendum as of 6 March 2015

[Excerpt; Editor's text bolding]

COUNTRIES WITH WIDESPREAD AND INTENSE TRANSMISSION

:: There have been over 23,900 reported confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (table 1), with over 9800 reported deaths (outcomes for many cases are unknown). A total of 51 new confirmed cases were reported in Guinea, 0 in Liberia, and 81 in Sierra Leone in the 7 days to 1 March.

Ebola vaccine efficacy trial ready to launch in Guinea

Joint news release WHO/MSF/NIPH

5 March 2015 | GENEVA - Based on promising data from initial clinical trials in late 2014, WHO with the Health Ministry of Guinea, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Epicentre and The Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH), will launch a Phase III trial in Guinea on 7 March to test the VSV-EBOV vaccine for efficacy and effectiveness to prevent Ebola. The vaccine was developed by the Public Health Agency of Canada. A second vaccine will be tested in a sequential study, as supply becomes available.

From emergency to recovery: EU mobilises efforts to end Ebola and alleviate its impact

European Commission - Press release
Brussels, 03 March 2015

The “Ebola: from emergency to recovery” conference was held in Brussels under the organisation and patronage of the European Union. While international efforts have reduced the number of Ebola infections in recent months, it is critical to maintain the momentum to prevent a sharp increase in new cases. The conference today aims to sustain the international mobilisation and to plan the next steps in the fight both against the current outbreak and the Ebola virus in general.

The Ebola conference is co-chaired by the European Union, the Presidents of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the United Nations, the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). It brings together all key international players to prepare the actions needed now to bring the number of Ebola infections down to zero – and the measures to help the affected countries recover from the severe blows that the epidemic has dealt their people and economies...

Risking Repetition: Are We Ignoring Ebola’s Lessons?

New York 02 Mar 2015 -

IRC report outlines significant missteps in the global response to Ebola

Over-focus on treatment, insufficient support for community-led engagement and lack of protection and support for local health workers slowed international response

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) today published a set of recommendations in response to the devastating Ebola outbreak as high-level delegates gather at the European Commission in Brussels to “take stock of the fight against the outbreak, coordinate further action for the total eradication of the disease and discuss the recovery process in the most affected countries.”

“The lesson of this crisis is that if you lose the trust of the community then you can’t run an effective health system. This is the warning we have to take on board to avoid the risk of repetition,” said IRC president and CEO, David Miliband.

The report highlights three key areas that are essential in stopping an outbreak like Ebola in the future:

:: Local Leadership is essential: Quarantines are a salient example of the essential role of local leadership. Enforced quarantines, such as the disastrous closure of the Monrovia neighborhood of West Point, served to fuel the epidemic. In contrast, self-imposed quarantines such as the ones organized in partnership between the IRC and local communities in Lofa County played a significant role in stopping the epidemic. By and large, local leaders and volunteers were the most effective agents of change.

:: Health Care Workers Must be Paid and Properly Resourced: From Lofa County, Liberia, to Bo District in Sierra Leone the IRC heard directly from doctors and nurses who have not received a regular salary in months. When Ebola struck Liberia, health care workers had just been on strike to protest a lack of wages. With donor support, the governments of both countries must commit to paying their employees a regular and reliable salary. The ongoing response and future recovery must ensure that health care workers receive ongoing training, monitoring, mentorship and supervision.

:: Infection prevention and control across the board: Over five hundred health care workers died fighting Ebola. The IRC recognized that health care workers were putting their lives on the

line to fight Ebola and instituted rigorous infection and prevention control trainings across Kenema district. It is imperative that we don't let up. Practices put in place now must be continued and supported. These efforts need to be extended to schools and other public facilities. This is important as a means to restore the public's trust...

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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 7 March 2015]

Selected Press Releases/Meetings Coverage

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

6 March 2015

SG/SM/16570-IK/701

[Calling Attacks 'a War Crime', Secretary-General Strongly Condemns Destruction of Cultural Heritage Sites in Iraq](#)

6 March 2015

SG/SM/16565-GA/11627-WOM/2018

[Rallying Cry for Women Should Be '50-50 by 2030!', Secretary-General Tells General Assembly at High-level Event on Their Empowerment in Post-2015 Agenda](#)

Following are UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's remarks to the General Assembly High-level Debate: Advancing Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls for a Transformative Post-2015 Agenda, in New York .

4 March 2015

SG/SM/16563-ENV/DEV/1491

['Sustainability Starts in Sendai,' Secretary-General Says of Japan Summit on Disaster Risk Reduction, at Launch of Assessment Report](#)

3 March 2015

DSG/SM/851-STAT/453

[Opening Statistical Commission's Session, Deputy Secretary-General Calls Data 'Lifeblood' of Decision-Making in Post-2015 Development Era](#)

Following are UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson's remarks, as delivered, at the opening of the forty-sixth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, in New York.

3 March 2015

SG/SM/16561-OBV/7430-WOM/2017

Secretary-General Says, in Message for International Women's Day, 'Unleash the Power of Women' to Secure Bright Future for All

Following is UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's message for International Women's Day, observed on 8 March.

6 March 2015

GA/11626

Time to End Wrongs Hampering Women, Secretary-General Says at High-level Debate, Describing Injurious Attitudes 'Still Stacked against Them'

Despite gains made since the 1995 adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action for Women, a renewed commitment to eliminating inequality was vital to reaching sustainable development goals, senior Government and United Nations officials said as they opened today's General Assembly thematic debate aimed at inspiring women's advancement in the run-up to agreement on a post-2015 agenda.

6 March 2015

SC/11810

Adopting Resolution 2209 (2015), Security Council Condemns Use of Chlorine Gas as Weapon in Syria

Following the latest findings by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Security Council today condemned in the strongest terms any use of chlorine as a weapon in Syria, signalling it would take "Chapter VII" action if such arms were used again in the nearly four-year-old conflict.

5 March 2015

GA/11625

General Assembly Adopts Resolution Aimed at Promoting Peace, Democracy through Education

The General Assembly today adopted a resolution encouraging relevant stakeholders to strengthen their efforts to promote peace, human rights, democracy, respect for religious and cultural diversity, and justice through education.

UN OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 7 March 2015]

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

A century of progress in women's equality under threat in the name of culture, religion and traditions International Women's Day - Sunday 8 March 2015

Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice

3/6/2015

Nepal: Zeid hails Supreme Court rejection of amnesties for serious human rights violations

3/6/2015

Canada's failure to effectively address murder and disappearance of Aboriginal women 'grave rights violation' - UN experts

3/6/2015

[States must uphold human rights principles in struggle against violent extremism](#)

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein

5 March 2015

SRSG/CAAC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict [to 7 March 2015]

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

03 Mar 2015

[South Sudan: UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict Calls for the Release of Children Recruited by All Parties](#)

New York – The recruitment and use of child soldiers continues to be a major challenge in South Sudan, despite commitments by the Government and the opposition led by Riek Machar to protect children from the impact of conflict, stated Leila Zerrougui, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

"No children have been released from the SPLA (Sudan People's Liberation Army) or Riek Machar's opposition," said Leila Zerrougui. "Instead, we are receiving reports of hundreds of new recruitments of child soldiers by militias and groups aligned with the Government or the SPLA in Opposition."

The UN has gathered evidence that a militia led by Johnson Oloni, a commander integrated into the SPLA, is responsible for the abduction of at least 89 and possibly hundreds of children in Wau Shilluk in mid-February. The SPLA stated they have no control over Oloni's militia.

"The children abducted are reportedly receiving training and could be on their way to the frontlines," said the Special Representative. "I am very concerned and I call on the Government of South Sudan to take action to prevent this from happening."...

SRSG/SVC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict [to 7 March 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 7 March 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

UNOCHA [to 7 March 2015]

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

06 Mar 2015

[Ukraine: Statement by OCHA Operations Director, John Ging, to the Security Council on Ukraine, New York, 6 March 2015](#)

06 Mar 2015

[World: The World Humanitarian Summit Regional Consultation for the Middle East and North Africa concludes with calls for increased protection of civilians and accountability for violations \[EN/AR\]](#)

06 Mar 2015

[Lebanon: UN Humanitarian Chief Pledges Support to Lebanon's Response to Syrian Crisis](#)

05 Mar 2015

[Yemen: US\\$747.5 million needed to deliver humanitarian assistance to 8.2 million Yemenis in 2015](#)

04 Mar 2015

[Iraq: Humanitarian partners rush assistance to Samarra displaced \[EN/AR/KU\]](#)

UNISDR UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 7 March 2015]

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

[Ten-year review finds 87% of disasters climate-related](#)

A week before world leaders and representatives of civil society gather in Sendai, Japan, for the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction said today that climate-related disasters now dominate disaster risk management.

6 Mar 2015

[UN Secretary-General: World threatened by dangerous and unacceptable levels of risk from disasters](#)

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today warned that "growing global inequality, increasing exposure to natural hazards, rapid urbanization and the overconsumption of energy and natural resources threaten to drive risk to dangerous and unpredictable levels with systemic global impacts."

4 Mar 2015

[UN recognizes Hoboken as a role model city](#)

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction has designated the City of Hoboken, New Jersey, USA, as a Role Model City of the Making Cities Resilient campaign for its flood risk management practices. These include plans to retain over a million gallons of stormwater runoff through green infrastructure.

3 Mar 2015

UNICEF [to 7 March 2015]

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

[International Women's Day: 10 quick facts on girls](#)

NEW YORK, 7 March 2015 – To mark International Women's Day and the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on women's empowerment, UNICEF presents a statistical snapshot of progress and trends for girls and women.

UN Women [to 7 March 2015]

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

[Press conference: "Collective failure of leadership on progress for women"](#)

Date : March 6, 2015

Authoritative global review finds pace of advancement unacceptably slow. UN Women Executive Director calls on leaders to Step It Up, launches initiative to record concrete new commitments.

[Urgent action required in five key areas, says Beijing summary report](#)

Date : March 6, 2015

UN Secretary-General's report stresses that progress towards women's rights and empowerment has been unacceptably slow, with stagnation and even regression in some cases.

["Gender equality is a shared vision of social justice and human rights" – Executive Director](#)

Date : March 6, 2015

Statement by UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka at the High-level Thematic Debate on advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, 6 March 2015 at UN Headquarters in New York.

[Message of the Executive Director: We call on countries to "step it up" for gender equality](#)

Date : [March 2, 2015](#)

In her message for International Women's Day 2015, UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka says gender parity must be reached before 2030, so that we avert the sluggish trajectory of progress that condemns a child born today to wait 80 years before they see an equal world. She calls on all countries to "step it up" for gender equality, to reach 'Planet 50:50' before 2030.

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues [to 7 March 2015]

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

[Questionnaire for Indigenous Peoples on the follow-up to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples](#)

March 05, 2015

Indigenous peoples around the world are invited to provide their valuable input on (i) the development of the System-Wide Action Plan to ensure a coherent approach of the UN system to achieve the ends of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and (ii) the preparation of the Secretary-General report stated in paragraph 40 of the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

Deadline for response 6 April 2015 [Please click here to the questionnaire >>>](#)

WHO & Regionals [to 7 March 2015]

:: [Ten top issues for women's health](#)

6 March 2015 -- International Women's Day is a day to celebrate women and their achievements. It's also a day to take stock of how women's rights, especially the right to health, are fulfilled in the world. Women still face many health problems. 8 March is an opportunity to re-commit to addressing issues ranging from cancer to reproductive health, from mental health to HIV. That's why WHO and its partners are developing a new global strategy for women's, children's, and adolescents' health.

[Read about the top 10 health issues for women](#)

:: WHO Regional Offices

WHO African Region AFRO

:: [WHO strives to provide universal access to immunization in the African Region by 2020](#)

Brazzaville, 6 March 2015 – In efforts to prevent vaccine preventable diseases, health experts concluded a four-day meeting from 2 to 5 March that aimed to ensure that every child in the African Region has access to life-saving vaccines. It is estimated that over three million children under five years of age die each year in the Region and a significant number of these deaths could be prevented by vaccines.

One of the recent developments in the field of immunization is the existence of a Regional Strategic Plan for Immunization 2014–2020, endorsed by Member States during the 64th session of the Regional Committee meeting in November 2014, which provides policy and programmatic guidance to Member States for their immunization programmes. This strategic plan addresses the challenges countries in the WHO African Region and their partners need to overcome to provide universal access to immunization for all eligible populations by 2020...

...The two-day meeting, which was well attended, had immunization partners like the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), U.S. Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC), USAID, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Rotary International, Gavi the Vaccine Alliance, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the Network for Education and Support for Immunization (NESI) as well as the different Immunization Advisory Bodies in the Region, namely, the Task Force on Immunization (TFI) in Africa, the African Regional Certification Committee (ARCC), the Measles and Rubella Technical Advisory Group among others present.

:: [Sugars contributing to emerging health threats in Africa - 04 March 2015](#)

WHO Region of the Americas PAHO

:: [PAHO and WHO urge countries to reduce sugar consumption among adults and children](#) (03/04/2015)

:: [Congenital anomalies are the second-leading cause of death in children under 5 in the Americas](#) (03/02/2015)

WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO

:: [Prevent birth defects, provide care for survivors](#) 03 March 2015

WHO European Region EURO

:: [European countries to meet in April to review progress on environment and health](#) 05-03-2015

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO

No new digest content identified.

WHO Western Pacific Region

:: [WHO First Embrace campaign to save more than 50 000 newborn babies a year in the Region](#) MANILA, 5 March 2015 – The World Health Organization (WHO) Region for the Western Pacific launched First Embrace today — a campaign highlighting simple steps that will save more than 50 000 newborn lives, and prevent hundreds of thousands of complications each year from unsafe practices in newborn care in the Region.

- [Read the news release](#)

UNAIDS [to 7 March 2015]

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

[Cricketers team up to support efforts to end the AIDS epidemic](#)

05 March 2015 | [PDF](#)

[Empowering women is critical to ending the AIDS epidemic](#)

04 March 2015 | [PDF](#)

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund [to 7 March 2015]

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

Statement

[Message on the occasion of International Women's Day: Beijing at 20](#)

Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, UNFPA Executive Director

8 March 2015

UNDP United Nations Development Programme [to 7 March 2015]

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

08 Mar 2015

[Helen Clark: Statement on International Women's Day](#)

New York, New York

...Twenty years on, we can see both progress and challenges in the twelve areas of critical concern laid out in the Beijing Platform for Action. Gender parity in primary education has been achieved, but completion rates and the quality of education are not high across all countries. More women have been elected to public office - about 21% of the world's parliamentarians are women, up from about 11% in 1995 - but we are still far from parity. More women than ever before are participating in the work force, but women generally earn less than men and, in rich and poor countries alike, carry a disproportionate burden of unpaid care work which deprives them of time for valuable pursuits like earning money, gaining new skills, and participating in public life. And, while more laws exist to protect women from violence, sexual and gender-based violence continue to occur on every continent and in every country, often reaching horrific levels where there is war and conflict.

Fortunately, there is encouraging momentum not only to renew the promises of Beijing, but to address issues which were not in the spotlight in 1995, such as the need to ensure women's participation in responding to climate change, building peace and security, and helping their countries recover from crises. These issues are central to UNDP's efforts to help partner countries build resilience to sustain development results. By promoting gender equality and empowering women as agents of change and leaders in the development processes which shape their lives, UNDP envisages a more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient world....

04 Mar 2015

[UNDP to support federal and provincial governance reforms in Pakistan](#)

Islamabad, Pakistan - The Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms of Pakistan signed today an agreement for US\$ 11.6 million with the United Nations Development Programme

(UNDP) to support the implementation of key governance reforms at the federal and provincial levels.

03 Mar 2015

[Helen Clark: Speech on the Ebola Recovery Assessment at the High Level Ebola Conference](#)
Brussels, Belgium

03 Mar 2015

[UNDP and partners call for increased efforts to protect wildlife and reduce illegal wildlife trade on World Wildlife Day](#)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) renewed its commitment to protecting wildlife and stopping wildlife crimes, such as poaching and trafficking, while commemorating World Wildlife Day today. The Day's 2015 theme is, "It's time to get serious about wildlife crime."

02 Mar 2015

[A new coalition: seeking justice for peace in eastern Ukraine](#)

Kyiv - Ukraine - To better respond to the growing need to record human rights violations in the east of Ukraine, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) is supporting a number of civic human rights monitors and investigators to ensure that human rights are upheld and violations are accounted for.

UN Division for Sustainable Development [to 7 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme [to 7 March 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[African Ministers Call for Adaptation-Mitigation Parity in 2015 Climate Agreement, to Keep Global Temperature Rise Below 1.5°C](#)

3-6-2015

[Visionary New African Network for Women Leaders on Environment Launched at African Ministerial Conference](#)

Women ministers and leaders from Africa, meeting at the Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) launched a new network, that aims at enhancing representation and involvement of women in decision-making in areas related to the environment and sustainable development continent wide.

3-5-2015

[From Villages to Nations, Africa's Success Stories Offer Lessons for Global Transition to Greener and More Inclusive Economies](#)

New study shows power of investing in a greener economy to boost GDP and life expectancy, create more and better jobs, and rapidly reduce poverty gap

3-5-2015

[Egypt to Save Over US \\$2.4 Billion Annually, Cut CO2 Emissions by 13%, Water Consumption by 40% and Create 8 Million New Jobs, Through Transition to Green Economy](#)

This report demonstrates that greening key sectors such as water, agriculture, waste and energy is an economically and environmentally astute course of action.

3-5-2015

[Costs of Climate Change Adaptation Expected to Rise Far Beyond Africa's Coping Capacity Even if Warming Kept Below 2°C](#)

Climate adaptation costs for Africa could soar to reach US \$50 billion annually by mid-century.

3-4-2015

DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 7 March 2015]

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

[27th meeting of the Interagency and Expert Group on MDG indicators \(IAEG-MDG\), New York, 9-10 March 2015](#)

UNSD will convene the 27th meeting of the Interagency and Expert Group on MDG indicators (IAEG-MDG), in New York, from 9 to 10 March 2015. The IAEG-MDG has been responsible for data development, compilation and analysis for the assessment and monitoring of progress towards the MDGs. The 27th Meeting will discuss preparations for the final global MDG monitoring report and related outputs. During the Meeting, transitioning from the MDGs to the SDGs will also be discussed. As the last meeting of the IAEG-MDG, steps toward the conclusion of the IAEG-MDG work will be addressed.

[Expert Group Meeting on the indicator framework for the post-2015 development agenda, New York, 25-26 February 2015](#)

The United Nations Statistics Division is organizing an Expert Group Meeting on the indicator framework for the post-2015 development agenda, to be held on 25-26 February 2015 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, back-to-back with the forty-sixth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (3-6 March 2015).

The Expert Group Meeting, with broad participation of representatives from national statistical systems and international and regional organizations, will discuss the development of the indicator framework for the post-2015 development agenda. The objective is to reach a common understanding of how this work will be conducted within the available time frame. Statistical experts from civil society, academia and private sectors will also participate. The outcome of the meeting will be presented to the Statistical Commission at its forty-sixth session under agenda item 3, Data in support of the post-2015 development agenda.

[Statistical Commission Friday Seminar on "The Development of an Indicator Framework for the post-2015 Development Agenda: Towards a nationally owned monitoring system for the SDGs", New York, 27 February 2015](#)

A Statistical Commission Friday Seminar on "The Development of an Indicator Framework for the post-2015 Development Agenda" will take place on 27 February 2015 to further the discussion on issues related to the development of indicators to monitor the post-2015 development agenda and hear from both data producers and data users. The Seminar will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

For additional information please refer to the following website:
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/statcom_2015/seminars/post-2015/default.html

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 7 March 2015]

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

06/03/2015 - [Statement of the UNODC Executive Director, Yury Fedotov, on International Women's Day](#)

04/03/2015 - [Urgent action needed to stop organized crime preying on migrants, says UNODC chief at irregular migration meeting](#)

London/Vienna, 04 March 2015 - We must act to stop the horrific treatment of migrants by criminal smugglers said Yury Fedotov, the Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), today at an international meeting on the movement of irregular migrants by sea.

He told his audience that overcrowded boats, makeshift vessels capsizing and sinking; unguided cargo ships abandoned, with migrants left to their fate at sea; women, men and children drowning or dying of hypothermia were part of a global tragedy.

"We cannot allow desperate people, escaping conflict and humanitarian disasters, to fall prey to organized crime. We need urgent and resolute action to save lives and punish the criminals," said Mr. Fedotov.

To help counter criminal networks and safeguard the rights of migrants, Mr. Fedotov said UNODC has developed a new strategy that would contribute to overall international efforts in the Mediterranean. He said the strategy was founded on five essential pillars: research and analysis, strengthening countries' abilities to develop effective criminal justice responses, promoting cooperation, building coordination and protecting migrant rights.

So far, he said, 185 countries have signed the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and 141 have signed its protocol on migrant smuggling, but Mr. Fedotov said that full implementation of these instruments was needed...

03/03/2015 - [Organized Crime Threat to Wild Species on the Increase, says UN on Wildlife Day](#)

03/03/2015 - [Statement of the UNODC Executive Director, Yury Fedotov, on World Wildlife Day](#)

UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme [to 7 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

FAO Food & Agriculture Organization [to 7 March 2015]

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

Int'l Women's Day 2015: Women farmers key to fighting hunger

[IFAD, WFP and FAO celebrate women's contribution to food and nutrition security](#)

06 March 2015, Rome - Marking International Women's Day 2015 (March 8th), leaders from the United Nations' three Rome-based food agencies gathered to remind the world that women farmers play a central role in achieving food and nutrition security.

At the Rome event, leaders from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) shared testimonials of their innovative interventions that have empowered rural women, and in doing so have contributed to food security and nutrition. They also highlighted that promoting gender equality and women's empowerment can significantly strengthen efforts to reduce rural poverty...

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 7 March 2015]

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

6 March: Int'l Women's Day 2015: Women farmers key to fighting hunger

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

5 March: Agricultural investment and services to farmers help build resilience to climate change in Cambodia

[English](#)

4 March: The world's largest donor signs declaration to support smallholder farmers with UN agency

[Arabic](#) | [English](#)

4 March: New project to improve incomes for poor people in rural Bangladesh

[English](#)

2 March: First African Conference on Remittances and Postal Networks addresses cost of sending money

[English](#)

Rome, 2 March 2015 – Each year more than US\$60 billion in remittances is sent to and within Africa but often at great expense. Finding ways to leverage this powerful financial and development force by making remittance services more affordable and accessible to rural people is the focus of the first African Conference on Remittances and Postal Networks, 4-5 March in Cape Town, South Africa, hosted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Over two days, some 100 delegates from postal operators, postal banks, regulatory authorities, governments, the private sector, international organizations, civil society and others involved in the remittance market from across Africa will focus on addressing the challenges for improving the provision of remittance and financial services through postal networks in rural Africa, and share experiences and solutions.

Among the topics to be covered by the conference are market positioning of postal operators, linking remittances with financial inclusion, innovative technologies for financial inclusion, and the legal and institutional environment affecting post offices and remittances...

ILO International Labour Organization [to 7 March 2015]

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

International Women's Day 2015

[ILO: Progress on gender equality at work remains inadequate](#)

06 March 2015

While there have been many achievements on gender equality since the Beijing Declaration on women rights was signed by 189 governments in 1995, many challenges remain, including a motherhood pay gap.

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization [to 7 March 2015]

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

[First Anniversary of the Tragic Disappearance of MH370](#)

MONTREAL – 6 March 2015 - Marking the anniversary of the tragic loss and unprecedented disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, on 8 March 2014, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) extends its continued sympathies to the families of the passengers and crew who have yet to be found, and its ongoing support to all States and agencies still involved in related search efforts.

2014 represented one of aviation's safest years in terms of how few accidents were recorded, but events relating to MH370 and the later downing of MH17 identified some important gaps which can arise under rare operational circumstances. The aviation community is now addressing those gaps and we will continue to make the safety of our passengers and aircraft our highest priority.

Responding to the loss of MH370, Chicago Convention signatory States recently set forth important new recommendations at ICAO's second High-Level Safety Conference (HLSC), held at our Headquarters in February of this year.

At that Conference, participants recommended the adoption of ICAO's Global Aeronautical Distress and Safety System (GADSS), including its near-term 15-minute tracking objective for normal flight operations and its 1-minute distress and abnormal flight tracking requirement. The GADSS concept of operations was developed over 2014 by the Working Group ICAO established immediately after MH370's disappearance. Its 15-minute and 1-minute tracking provisions are currently projected to become applicable in 2016 and 2021 respectively...

IMO International Maritime Organization [to 7 March 2015]

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

[UN agencies meet to address unsafe mixed migration by sea](#)

Briefing: 4, March 4, 2015

United Nations agencies are meeting in London today (Wednesday, 4 March) to discuss concerted ways to address the high numbers of lives being lost at sea in unsafe craft, particularly in the Mediterranean Sea, where hundreds of people are reported to have died in recent weeks alone on dangerous and unregulated sea passages.

The High-Level Meeting to Address Unsafe Mixed Migration by Sea is being hosted at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Headquarters in London and aims to facilitate dialogue and promote enhanced cooperation and harmonization between United Nations agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, Governments and the shipping industry.

It has been agreed that a mechanism will be established, to enhance inter-agency communication with respect to the maritime aspects of mixed migration. The meeting is also discussing joint projects, for example, the establishment of joint databases to share and collate information and statistics on irregular movements and suspect vessels; quantifying the effects of irregular and unsafe crossings on the shipping industry; and improving maritime situational awareness.

IMO Secretary-General Koji Sekimizu said that the issue of mixed migration by sea, including irregular migration, had, in recent years, reached epidemic proportions, to the extent where the whole system for coping with such migrants was being stretched up to, and sometimes beyond, its breaking point...

WMO World Meteorological Organization [to 7 March 2015]

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

[International Women's Day 2015](#)

6 March 2015

On International Women's Day, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) calls for action to strengthen the role of women in developing and using weather, water and climate services. It is also stepping up efforts to encourage more women to choose a career in meteorology and hydrology, and thus make a vital contribution to the safety and well-being of society. To mark the occasion, WMO is launching the Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women website (<http://www.wmo.int/gender>) which features a special section on Women in Weather, Water and Climate. The profiles of prominent female meteorologists and hydrologists are presented, including their words of advice to young women embarking on a scientific career.

[Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015](#)

4 March 2015

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL: WORLD THREATENED BY DANGEROUS AND UNACCEPTABLE LEVELS OF RISK FROM DISASTERS

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today warned that "growing global inequality, increasing exposure to natural hazards, rapid urbanization and the overconsumption of energy and natural resources threaten to drive risk to dangerous and unpredictable levels with systemic global impacts." The 2015 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR15), prepared by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and launched today by the Secretary-General, states that economic losses from disasters are now reaching an average of US\$250 billion to US\$300 billion annually.

[Barcelona Dust Forecast Center Activity Report](#)

2 March 2015

The Barcelona Dust Forecast Center has issued its activity report for 2014, covering the onset of its operations as a WMO Regional Specialized Meteorological Center for atmospheric sand and dust forecasts for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

Sand and dust storms which have a major impact on the economy, the environment and people's health and which are expected to worsen as a result of climate change and land degradation.

In response to growing concern about this phenomenon, WMO established the Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System (SDS-WAS) to provide timely and quality sand and dust storm forecasts, observations, information and knowledge to users through an international partnership of research and operational communities.

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 7 March 2015]

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

[Japan contributes additional USD 3.78 million to UNIDO projects](#)

Friday, 06 March 2015

VIENNA, 5 March 2015 – The Government of Japan today announced its contribution of USD 3.78 million to further strengthen its humanitarian assistance in Africa, as well as towards Syrian refugees in Turkey...

[UNIDO facilitates the adoption of Nigeria's strategy on implementing a national quality policy](#)

Thursday, 05 March 2015

ABUJA, 5 March 2015 – The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) facilitated the efforts of Nigeria's National Steering Committee to adopt a strategy for implementing the national quality policy...

[Director General's statement on International Women's Day](#)

Thursday, 05 March 2015

VIENNA, 5 March 2015 – The Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, LI Yong, issued the following statement, "Advancing gender equality, empowerment of women and girls for a transformative..."

[UNIDO launches training programme in Bahrain on enhancing the quality of industrial policy](#)

Sunday, 01 March 2015

MANAMA, 1 March 2015 – The training programme, "EQuIP – Enhancing the Quality of Industrial Policies", was launched today in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, at the Royal University for Women...

UNWTO World Tourism Organization [to 7 March 2015]

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

[UNWTO strongly condemns the destruction of cultural heritage](#)

4 March 2015

UNWTO is appalled by the systematic destruction of cultural and religious artefacts in Syria and Iraq, the last of which in the Mosul Museum in Iraq. On behalf of the international tourism community, UNWTO joins UNESCO in urging immediate action to safeguard the world's cultural heritage.

ITU International Telecommunications Union [to 7 March 2015]

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

05.03.2015

[ITU publishes 'whitelist' of mobile phones found compatible with hands-free terminals in cars](#)

New resource to assist consumers in selecting best hands-free performers in vehicles

03.03.2015

[ITU launches new online platform and storytelling campaign to mark 150th anniversary](#)

www.itu150.org brings together #ITU150 global community...

UNESCO [to 7 March 2015]

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

06.03.15

[UNESCO Director General condemns destruction of Nimrud in Iraq](#)

03.03.15

[Five exceptional women honored for their ground-breaking discoveries in the physical sciences](#)

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization [to 7 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity [to 7 March 2015]

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

2015-03-03

Press Release:

[Collaborative Partnership on Wildlife \(CPW\) launches sourcebook on bushmeat](#)

The Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) today launched the Bushmeat Sourcebook, an online resource, on the occasion of the second World Wildlife Day. The sourcebook examines bushmeat's vital contribution to food security, local livelihoods, and other aspects of human well-being in many parts of the world. It also shows, however, how unsustainable harvesting can affect the ecological stability of forest ecosystems, as well as human health.

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USAID [to 7 March 2015]

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

[White House Announces 'Let Girls Learn' Initiative](#)

March 3, 2015

The White House announced a new initiative today to expand its efforts to help adolescent girls worldwide get a quality education through an initiative called "Let Girls Learn." The new initiative will elevate existing programs and public-private partnerships, seek out new ones, and challenge organizations and governments to commit resources to lift up adolescent girls across the globe.

[USAID Announces that Assistant Administrator for Global Health Will Serve as Coordinator for Child and Maternal Survival](#)

March 2, 2015

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) today announced Ariel Pablos-Mendez as Child and Maternal Survival Coordinator, to focus on the goal of ending preventable child and maternal deaths. Katie Taylor, who has served as interim Coordinator, is named Deputy Coordinator.

DFID [to 7 March 2015]

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

[Minister visits Manchester to thank UK Ebola workers](#)

Published 6 March 2015 Press release DFID

[Minister praises Leeds-based FGM campaigners](#)

Published 6 March 2015 Press release DFID

[Justine Greening: International activism for girls and women](#)

Published 6 March 2015 Speech DFID

[DFID Research: Boosting income security and crop yields](#)

Published 5 March 2015 Research and analysis DFID

[DFID management response to the ICAI recommendations on: assessing the Impact of the Scale-up of DFID's support to Fragile States](#)

Published 5 March 2015 Independent report DFID

ECHO [to 7 March 2015]

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

[Ebola conference: From emergency to recovery](#)

03/03/2015

While international efforts to fight Ebola have recently reduced the number of infections, action is still needed to avert a new possible increase in cases. Today, the European Union is hosting a high-level conference "Ebola: From emergency to recovery" to continue mobilise international support and plan the next steps against the epidemic.

Today's conference aims to review progress in the international response and outline concrete steps to ensure that funds already pledged are made available, and that international support continues until there are no more cases of Ebola.

The goal is to define actions which will bring the number of Ebola infections down to zero, and prepare measures which can help affected countries recover from the severe blows. At the conference, the governments of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone are presenting their assessments and plans for national recovery.

Another objective of the event is to find ways to make the response more mobile and flexible. Crucial in this respect is fostering regional cooperation and assisting West African countries in prevention, containment and preparedness – to help secure that no other epidemic will have such devastating impact in future.

The priority areas for recovery include resuming and improving basic services (health, education, water, sanitation) and the need to return to sustainable economic development. The event brings together representatives from all institutions, international and non-governmental organisations, private sector and the scientific community who have been closely involved in reacting to the epidemic.

The conference is co-chaired by the European Union, the Presidents of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the United Nations, the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)...

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African Union [to 7 March 2015]

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

Mar.06.2015

[Consultation on Preparation of Implementation Plan and Roadmap for Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa, 2024 \(STISA-2024\)](#)

Mar.03.2015

[Burkina Faso Launches AU Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa](#)

The African Development Bank Group [to 7 March 2015]

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

[Global Environment Facility \(GEF\) supports climate resilience in Uganda](#)

05/03/2015 - The African Development Bank Board approved an additional financing of US \$8.37 million (on March 4, 2015 from the Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) for the Water Supply and Sanitation Programme (WSSP), already financed by the Bank. The GEF financing will increase the resilience of the natural environment and the physical infrastructure of vulnerable drought and flood prone districts in Eastern Uganda.

[African Development Bank SME Program: Enhancing Inclusive Growth and Job Creation in Zambia](#)

04/03/2015 - The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) through its private sector window approved on March 2, 2015 a US \$3 million line of credit (LoC) equivalent in the local currency (Zambian Kwacha) to Madison Finance Company Ltd.

[AfDB approves US \\$19 million in loans and grants to boost skills of tradespeople and agro-scientists in Eritrea](#)

04/03/2015 - The African Development Bank's (AfDB) Board of Executive Directors approved on March 3 in Abidjan a US \$19-million project comprising an African Development Fund (ADF) loan of US \$10.7 million and an ADF grant of US \$8.3 million to boost the Technical, Vocational, Education and Training (TVET) sector. The Support to Skills Development for Employability and Entrepreneurship (SDEEP) project includes US \$2.1 million in counterpart funding from the Government of the State of Eritrea (GSoE) bringing the total project cost to US \$21.1 million.

ASEAN [to 7 March 2015]

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

[ASEAN Ensures Effective Implementation of Competition Policies and Laws](#)

Friday, 06 March 2015.

SURABAYA, 6 March 2015 - A Workshop on Developing Institutional Core Competencies for Competition Regulation – Regulator Perspectives was held on 2-4 March in Surabaya, Indonesia. The workshop was convened to identify issues and solutions when setting-up and running competition agencies so as to ensure effective implementation of competition policies and laws. It aims to effectively find the best arrangement for ASEAN Member States amongst the mesh of different institutional settings for competition agencies, says Mr. Nawir Messi, Chairman of the Commission for the Supervision of Business Competition of Indonesia (KPPU)....

[ASEAN Women's Circle Welcomes New President](#)

Wednesday, 04 March 2015.

JAKARTA, 4 March 2015 – With long, admirable track record of promoting cooperation and solidarity among ASEAN ladies, the ASEAN Women's Circle (AWC) is poised to make a difference in the course of the ASEAN's journey toward a caring and sharing ASEAN Community through a change of guards...

UNCTAD [to 7 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

World Trade Organisation [to 7 March 2015]

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

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

6 March 2015

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

[EU donates over EUR 2 million to increase participation of developing countries in trade negotiations](#)

The European Union has pledged an additional EUR 2 million to the WTO Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund (DDAGTF) and EUR 100,000 for evaluating the fund. The contributions will support the active participation of developing and least-developed countries (LDCs) in the [Doha Round](#) negotiations. The DDAGTF finances around 280 activities per year, mostly tailor-made training delivered at regional and national level, covering all trade-related areas including trade facilitation, agriculture and services.

"With these welcome donations, the European Union has again demonstrated its longstanding commitment to helping developing and least-developed countries reap the benefits of trade and better integrate into the global economy," declared WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo...

OECD [to 7 March 2015]

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

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

[Early gender gaps drive career choices and employment opportunities, says OECD](#)

5 March 2015

Education systems have made major strides to close gender gaps in student performance but girls and boys remain deeply divided in career choices, which are being made much earlier than commonly thought, according to a new OECD report.

[New approach needed to tackle mental ill-health at work, says OECD](#)

4 March 2015

Health and employment services should intervene earlier, involve key stakeholders and ensure they work together in order to help people with mental-health issues find work and stay in a job, according to a new OECD report.

[Fit Mind, Fit Job: From Evidence to Practice in Mental Health and Work](#) says that around 30% to 40% of all sickness and disability caseloads in OECD countries are related to mental-health problems. The total cost of mental illness is estimated at around 3.5% of GDP in Europe.

The personal costs of mental ill-health are high. People with mild to moderate disorders, such as anxiety or depression, are twice as likely to become unemployed. They also run a much higher risk of living in poverty and social marginalisation. ..

IMF [to 7 March 2015]

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

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

March 06, 2015

[Press Release: IMF's Middle East Center for Economics and Finance and the Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center conclude Workshop on Fiscal Reporting and Transparency](#)

March 02, 2015

[Press Release: IMF Executive Board Approves US\\$114.63 Million in Financing and Debt Relief for Sierra Leone](#)

March 02, 2015

[Managing Capital Flows: Lessons from Emerging Markets for Frontier Economies](#)

World Bank [to 7 March 2015]

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

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

PRESS RELEASE

[World Bank Acknowledges Shortcomings in Resettlement Projects, Announces Action Plan to Fix Problems](#)

March 4, 2015

WASHINGTON, March 4, 2015 —Acting on internal World Bank reports that identified serious shortcomings in the implementation of its resettlement policies, the World Bank today released a [plan](#) that will improve the oversight and management of resettlement practices to ensure better protection of people and businesses affected by Bank-funded projects.

Three reports, which reviewed over two decades of World Bank projects involving possible resettlements, found that oversight of those projects often had poor or no documentation, lacked follow through to ensure that protection measures were implemented, and some projects were not sufficiently identified as high-risk for populations living in the vicinity.

"We took a hard look at ourselves on resettlement and what we found caused me deep concern," said World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim. "We found several major problems. One is that we haven't done a good enough job in overseeing projects involving resettlement; two, we haven't implemented those plans well enough; and three, we haven't put in place strong tracking systems to make sure that our policies were being followed. We must and will do better."

The action plan released Wednesday proposes to strengthen systems, staffing, and policy implementation. The plan focuses on improving preparation, supervision and implementation of resettlement, given the disruptive impact it can have on the lives of the people.

The plan is aligned with the World Bank's ongoing safeguards review process, and is largely based on recommendations from three reports: a 2014 Internal Audit Department (IAD) Advisory [Review](#) of the Bank's Environmental and Social Risk Management; and two internal draft working papers – Involuntary Resettlement Portfolio Review [Phase I](#) and [Phase II](#).

Since late 2012, the World Bank has been consulting with stakeholders on strengthening its environmental and social safeguard policies, including its policies regarding land acquisition and resettlement. On March 1, the World Bank concluded the second phase of consultations on the proposed Environmental and Social Framework, which would strengthen, update and clarify our existing safeguard policies.

On resettlement, World Bank operational teams are already implementing many of the measures identified in the action plan released today, including a comprehensive review of its current policies, additional staff guidance, a systematic risk management framework, and strengthened accreditation of specialist staff.

The plan also includes the use of a new Tracking Social Performance (TSP) Database, in response to a weakness found in two of the reviews that information on the scale and scope of project impacts is difficult to obtain in World Bank systems. This database was developed to better track resettlement issues for all Bank-funded projects with involuntary resettlement, and enable resettlement reports to be generated in real time. A similar tracking system is also now in place for environmental issues.

"Our policy is that if we resettle someone from their home, we will assist efforts to improve, or at least to restore, their incomes and living standards," Kim said. "Strong policies like ours require strong execution and it requires properly funding reviews and empowering those who work on safeguards. That will change with our action plan."

More information, including a [fact sheet](#), and an [FAQ](#) on the World Bank's Involuntary Resettlement Policy, is also available.

What is involuntary resettlement?

Involuntary Resettlement refers to two distinct but related processes. Displacement is a process by which development projects cause people to lose land or other assets, or access to resources. This may result in physical dislocation, loss of income, or other adverse impacts. Resettlement or rehabilitation is a process by which those adversely affected are assisted in their efforts to improve, or at least to restore, their incomes and living standards.

[Jobs Umbrella Trust Fund Call for Proposals](#)

March 4, 2015

The World Bank Group is pleased to announce a first Call for Proposals under the Umbrella Trust Fund for Jobs (UTF-JOBS). The Fund aims to generate global knowledge and innovative solutions to help promote job creation, improve the productivity and quality of jobs, and connect people to jobs.

Applications must be for projects that fall under the following Windows of the UTF-JOBS:

- Data, Diagnostics, Evaluations and Strategies (Window 1)
- Jobs for Youth (Window 3)
- Jobs in Fragile and Conflict Affected Countries (Window 4)

Successful proposals can receive funding of up to \$1,000,000.00 depending on Project objectives.

The UTF-JOBS aims to generate global knowledge and innovative solutions to support the implementation of multi-sector country strategies and programs that promote job creation; improve the productivity and quality of jobs; and connect people to jobs. This first call for proposals only covers 3 of the 5 Windows of the UTF-JOBS. A call for proposals under Actionable Research for Jobs (Window 5) will be made at a later date. Activities under [The Let's Work Global Partnership](#) (Window 2) are allocated separately.

Eligibility

The call is open to World Bank Group staff and those from institutions working in partnership with the World Bank Group. However, all applications, on the attached template, must be submitted by a World Bank Group staff member.

Selection Criteria

As this is the first call for funding under the UTF-JOBS, we are seeking projects that are of the highest quality and that will set an exceptional standard for future activities under this Trust Fund...

[World Bank Group Announces Expert Panel to Advise on Diversity and Inclusion](#)

WASHINGTON, March 3, 2015—The World Bank Group today announced the creation of its first External Advisory Panel for Diversity and Inclusion, which will provide a conduit between the World Bank Group and the global community, serve as a sounding board, and advise on matters relating to diversity and inclusion. While conducting a study of the diversity and inclusiveness of the World Bank Group's workforce, an organizational review of external best practices found that the institution should explore new ways to become more diverse and could benefit from an outside perspective. The World Bank Group, in selecting members of an External Advisory Panel, sought leaders who had demonstrated success in both diversity and inclusion in the workplace. The External Advisory Panel will review and advise President Jim Yong Kim and his senior management team on the organization's strategies and measures to achieve a diverse and inclusive workplace...

Date: March 3, 2015

[World Bank Approves \\$500 Million Project to Improve Access to Finance for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises](#)

WASHINGTON, DC, March 3, 2015 – The World Bank approved last week a \$500 million loan for the MSME Growth Innovation and Inclusive Finance Project to improve access to finance for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in manufacturing and services sector, from early to growth stage, including through innovative financial products. In India, MSMEs account for more than 80 percent of total industrial enterprises, produce over 8000 value-added products and employ an estimated 60 million people. It contributes around 45 per cent to manufacturing output and about 40 percent to exports, both directly and indirectly. In addition, over 50 percent of MSMEs are rural enterprises and widely distributed across low-income states making them an important sector for promoting economic growth and poverty reduction. However, lack of adequate finance is one of the biggest challenges facing the MSME sector...

Date: March 3, 2015

[Statement by Keith Hansen, Vice President for Global Practices, World Bank Group High Level International Conference on Ebola](#)

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am pleased to affirm the unwavering commitment by the World Bank Group to help Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone end the Ebola epidemic and rebound from this crisis. The World Bank Group has made a major

contribution to the global Ebola response, working closely with the governments in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone and with our bilateral and multilateral development partners, civil society, and the private sector. To date, the World Bank Group has mobilized more than US \$1 billion for the affected countries to combat Ebola and its impacts. This includes US \$518 million in unprecedented emergency response funding from IDA, the WBG's fund for the poorest countries, which is mostly all in the form of grants, and has been supporting the affected countries and UN agencies to provide Ebola treatment and care, contain and prevent the spread of infections, deploy domestic and foreign health workers, conduct safe burials...

Date: March 3, 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 7 March 2015]

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

Amref Health Africa Expands Facilities to Train Health Workers – and Announces Plans for a University

Kenya's Cabinet Mr James Macharia yesterday opened a newly constructed Annex at the Amref Health Africa Training Centre and Headquarters in Nairobi that will expand the organisation's capacity to train health workers from across the continent.

The new building, funded by USAID's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad programme at US\$400,000, has a capacity of 215 students, as well as information and communications technology to support eLearning and mLearning...

...The Chair of Amref Health Africa's International Board of Directors, Mr Omari Issa, announced that the organisation's International Board of Directors had decided to set up a university to train health workers.

The decision, he said, and construction of the new annex, were in line with Amref Health Africa's plans to expand its training portfolio and increase access to health care training. "We are investing in training people because we recognise that people are the most important element of the health system."

Aravind Eye Care System [to 7 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

BRAC [to 7 March 2015]

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

CARE International [to 7 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Danish Refugee Council [to 7 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Casa Alianza [to 7 March 2015]

Covenant House [to 7 March 2015]

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

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

[Creating A Haven for Young Trafficking Victims in Toronto](#)

In his Huffington Post column, President Kevin Ryan announces the opening of a Covenant House transitional housing program designed especially for sex-trafficking survivors in Toronto early next year that will be another critical step in our work to fight the human trafficking of homeless youth.

ECPAT [to 7 March 2015]

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

[ECPAT's "Stay safe from on-line sexual exploitation: a guide for young people" is available in Spanish](#)

Posted on 03/03/2015

ECPAT has published a Spanish version of the new guide for children, Stay safe from online sexual exploitation: a guide for young people.

Fountain House [to 7 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Handicap International [to 7 March 2015]

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

March 03, 2015

[Handicap International U.S. welcomes new Executive Director](#)

Handicap International U.S.' Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Jeff Meer as the next Executive Director of Handicap International U.S. With 27 years of experience working in the international humanitarian sector, Meer has held leadership roles at the U.S. Association for UNHCR, CHF International, and most recently, The Public Health Institute (PHI).

"Jeff's commitment to humanitarian action and development, paired with his vision for Handicap International U.S. make him a clear choice to take the organization to new heights," said Nancy A. Kelly, President of the Board. "His dedication to enhancing and protecting the

rights of marginalized communities, be them people with disabilities or populations fleeing conflict, makes him a perfect match to the Handicap International family.”

Meer served on the Handicap International U.S. Board for the past year. He is also a long-time donor to the organization...

Heifer International [to 7 March 2015]

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

March 3, 2015

[Elanco Supports East Africa Dairy Development Project with \\$1.5 Million Matching Challenge](#)

GREENFIELD, Ind. March 3, 2015

Elanco Animal Health is continuing its commitment to break the cycle of hunger for those most in need with a \$1.5 million matching challenge to help Heifer International fund Phase II of the East Africa Dairy Development Project (EADD).

HelpAge International [to 7 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

International Rescue Committee [to 7 March 2015]

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

02 Mar 2015

[Risking Repetition: Are We Ignoring Ebola's Lessons?](#)

- IRC report outlines significant missteps in the global response to Ebola
- Over-focus on treatment, insufficient support for community-led engagement and lack of protection and support for local health workers slowed international response

ICRC - International Committee of the Red Cross [to 7 March 2015]

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

[South Sudan: "Snapshot book" helps children find loved ones](#)

News release

05 March 2015

Unaccompanied boys and girls are among the hundreds of thousands of people who have been fleeing continuing violence, from South Sudan into neighbouring Ethiopia, Uganda, Sudan and Kenya. The use of a "snapshot book" by the ICRC and local Red Cross Societies is helping both adults and children find missing relatives. Since the beginning of the year, about 120 matches have been made.

[Red Cross Red Crescent denounces recent violence against its volunteers and staff](#)

News release

05 March 2015

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is deeply concerned about the recent spate of attacks against its volunteers and staff.

In the last month alone, two volunteers and one staff member were killed in Sudan. Volunteers have been attacked in Myanmar, and in Guinea teams fighting Ebola are being

attacked by community members on average 10 times a month due to misinformation and stigma. In the Central African Republic and elsewhere, the emblems have not been universally respected and in some cases have even been targeted. In Syria, 47 volunteers have lost their lives since the beginning of the conflict.

[Philippines: Thousands flee fighting in central Mindanao](#)

News release

04 March 2015

Manila (ICRC) – Thousands of people have fled their homes as fighting between government security forces and armed groups escalates in Maguindanao province, in central Mindanao. The number of displaced people is rising.

IRCT [to 7 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières [to 7 March 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases/Field News

Field News

[Ukraine: Fighting Declines, but Medical Situation Remains Dire](#)

March 03, 2015

Though fighting in eastern Ukraine has declined since a ceasefire came into effect on February 15, shelling continues in some areas and medical needs remain urgent on both sides of the frontline. Residents and displaced people alike are living in extremely precarious conditions, many medical facilities have been damaged or destroyed, and there are critical shortages of basic and specialized medicines and medical supplies.

Field news

[Ebola: With Epidemic Not Yet Over, Key Areas Must Be Addressed](#)

March 02, 2015

The Ebola outbreak in West Africa continues, albeit with decreasing intensity. The virus has infected more than 23,700 people across the region since the outbreak was declared 11 months ago. While the number of new patients in Liberia is declining, numbers are still fluctuating in both Guinea and Sierra Leone. A total of 99 new confirmed cases was reported across the three worst-affected countries during the week up to February 22, 2015.

Mercy Corps [to 7 March 2015]

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

[Mercy Corps and BPI Globe BankO Win GSMA Global Mobile Award for "Best Use of Mobile in Emergency or Humanitarian Situations"](#)

Philippines, March 4, 2015

Mercy Corps and BPI Globe BankO recognized for providing emergency e-cash transfers to more than 25,000 survivors after Philippines Typhoon Haiyan

Portland, Ore, and Cebu City, Philippines – BPI Globe BankO, the Philippines' first mobile micro-savings bank, and the global humanitarian organization Mercy Corps have been awarded GSMA's 2015 Global Mobile Award for "Best use of mobile in emergency or humanitarian situations." The award recognizes the innovative role mobile technology played in distributing a total of \$2.3 million in emergency cash assistance to more than 25,000 typhoon-affected households in Western, Central and Eastern Visayas regions after Typhoon Haiyan in 2013.

"In implementing our emergency response effort in the Philippines, BPI Globe BankO has been a tremendous partner," says Erynn Carter, Philippines country director for Mercy Corps. "BankO's mobile platform allowed us to provide thousands of hard-hit families with much-needed cash after the typhoon, and in the process introduce them to their first formal bank account."

Beneficiaries of the program were enrolled in BankO mobile savings accounts, through which they received three separate electronic cash transfers, totaling 3,950 Philippine Pesos (about \$90). Cash transfers after an emergency enable people to rebuild their homes and livelihoods, support the community's economic recovery, and help reduce families' vulnerability to future shocks...

Operation Smile [to 7 March 2015]

http://www.operationssmile.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 7 March 2015]

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

[Protection gaps exposing eastern Congo communities to continued abuse](#)

6 March 2015

Two years after the signing of a major peace accord designed to build sustainable peace in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a report by Oxfam reveals that citizens still receive little or no protection from the state; armed groups and security forces continue to exploit and abuse communities.

['Pee-power' to light camps in disaster zones](#)

5 March 2015

A toilet, conveniently situated near the Student Union Bar at the University of the West of England (UWE Bristol), is proving pee can generate electricity. The prototype urinal is the result of a partnership between researchers at UWE Bristol and Oxfam. It is hoped the pee-power

technology will light cubicles in refugee camps, which are often dark and dangerous places particularly for women.

[President Johnson Sirleaf and Oxfam call for \\$60m Liberia school upgrade](#)

3 March 2015

Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and international agency Oxfam today called on donors and others to join forces to support the government's \$60m appeal to upgrade Liberian schools with water and sanitation facilities as thousands of children across the country return to school for the first time in six months.

Partners In Health [to 7 March 2015]

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

Mar 06, 2015

[A Happy Milestone: 'Zero Patients' in Liberia](#)

Mar 04, 2015

[PIH Expands Emergency Response as Malawi Flooding Intensifies](#)

PIH/APZU is providing services beyond Neno District for the first time, aiding flood victims in nearby Chikwawa. Clinicians are seeing about 250 patients a day at the new clinic. [Read More](#)

Mar 03, 2015

[The Tiniest Ebola Patients](#)

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

PATH [to 7 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Plan International [to 7 March 2015]

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

05/03/2015: [Continued investment in next generation of women is paramount](#)

02/03/2015: [Major investments needed to help rebuild public services in Ebola-stricken countries](#)

Save The Children [to 7 March 2015]

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

[Statement from Save the Children, Save the Children Action Network on New USAID Child and Maternal Health Coordinator](#)

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 4, 2015) – Save the Children President and CEO Carolyn Miles and Save the Children Action Network President Mark Shriver issued the following statement

today on Dr. Ariel Pablos-Mendez being named the new Child and Maternal Health (MCH) Coordinator for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Last year, Save the Children partnered with other organizations working to end preventable maternal and child deaths to send a [letter](#) to then-USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah calling for the appointment of an empowered Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Coordinator.

"The selection of Ariel Pablos-Mendez as the new Child and Maternal Survival Coordinator for USAID demonstrates a significant step forward in the United States' continued efforts to end preventable maternal and child deaths...

[Almost 30 Countries Suffer From Weaker Health Systems Than Ebola-hit West Africa, Putting Millions At Risk](#)

Fairfield, Connecticut (March 3, 2015) — Health systems throughout the developing world need to be strengthened to prevent another Ebola-style outbreak, or worse, warns Save the Children in its new report '[A Wake Up Call: Lessons from Ebola for the world's health systems](#)'.

The report ranks the world's poorest countries on the state of their public health systems, finding that 28 have weaker defenses in place than Sierra Leone where, alongside Liberia and Guinea, the current Ebola crisis has already claimed more than 9,500 lives.

The report also advises that prevention is better than cure, finding that the international Ebola relief effort in West Africa has cost \$4.3bn, whereas strengthening the health systems of those countries in the first place would have cost just \$1.58bn.

Ahead of an Ebola summit attended by world leaders in Brussels today, the charity warns that alongside immediate much needed support to Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea, lessons need to be learned and applied to other vulnerable countries around the world...

SOS-Kinderdorf International [to 7 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Tostan [to 7 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Women for Women International [to 7 March 2015]

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

[Women for Women International Elects New Board Leadership and Members](#)

Tuesday, March 3, 2015 (Washington, D.C.) – The [Board of Directors](#) of Women for Women International (WfWI) today announced the appointment of philanthropist and business entrepreneur [Jan Rock Zubrow](#) as Board chair in addition to the election of new members. Prior to her appointment, Rock Zubrow served as Vice Chair of the Board and co-Chair of the Revenue and Advancement Committee...

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ChildFund Alliance

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

No new digest content identified.

Disasters Emergency Committee [to 7 March 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

EHLRA/R2HC [to 7 March 2015]

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

[3ie RFQ: Impact evaluations of programmes targeting moderate acute malnutrition in humanitarian situations](#)

Published on 04/03/2015

The [International Initiative for Impact Evaluation \(3ie\)](#) invites submission of qualifications for a proposal preparation grant for the impact evaluation of completed, ongoing or planned initiatives that aim to prevent and treat moderate acute malnutrition in humanitarian situations. While there is considerable evidence of the effectiveness of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment interventions in optimal conditions, there is insufficient and equivocal understanding of how effectiveness varies in crisis and post-crisis conditions and, especially, the difference in impact of MAM treatment programmes when prevention interventions are also present. The nature of the interventions differs but their interaction seems crucial. Evaluation proposals must take into account a number of issues such as prevention versus treatment, when to shift from one to the other, the cost-effectiveness of different approaches, heterogeneity of impact based on sex, and how context affects the most appropriate way to deal with the issue.

Visit 3ie's page on this opportunity for details for details on how to apply and terms – [click here](#).

END Fund [to 7 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

GAVI [to 7 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Global Fund [to 7 March 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Hilton Prize Laureates Collaborative [to 7 March 2015]

<http://hiltonprizelaureatescollaborative.net/>

No new digest content identified.

ODI [to 7 March 2015]

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

[Banks' fear of breaching counter-terrorism laws hinders the work of UK charities in Syria – new report](#)

Press release

5 March 2015

Banks' fear of breaching counter-terrorism laws hinders the work of UK charities in Syria – new report

A lack of guidance from the UK Government, specifically the Treasury, on how banks should respond to counter-terrorism legislation has resulted in overly risk averse actions being taken towards UK charities working in conflict zones says new report launched today.

Driven by a fear of financing terrorism which is a breach of this legislation, international banks including HSBC, UBS and NatWest are effectively “de-risking” by closing and freezing bank accounts held by these charities and delaying, blocking or returning millions of pounds of donations with “no detailed explanation” says the report by UK think tank the Overseas Development Institute (ODI)....

Download: *UK humanitarian aid in the age of counterterrorism: perceptions and reality* – [Victoria Metcalfe](#)-Hough, Tom Keatinge and [Sara Pantuliano](#)

ODI - March 2015 :: 36 pages

http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/styles/history_202_wide/public/odi-assets/publications-opinion-file-covers/9479.png?itok=1-J4cpRt

The Sphere Project [to 7 March 2015]

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

[Sphere Board unveils strategic plan 2015-2020](#)

6 March 2015

Sphere 2020, the Sphere Project strategic plan for the coming six years, has just been published. The plan defines an ambitious agenda for Sphere to continue fulfilling its unique...

[Developing capacity for Sphere in Cambodia](#)

By Marc Olivier

5 March 2015

Developing a strong network in which organisations can learn and apply Sphere humanitarian standards to improve the quality and accountability of their work is one...

Start Network [to 7 March 2015]

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

[Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies]

[Start Network response in Cameroon & West Africa thanks to long term DFID funding](#)

March 3, 2015

Posted by Tegan Rogers

Start Network member agencies will be implementing long term responses to the ongoing refugee crisis in Cameroon and the Ebola crisis in West Africa. This is thanks to two grants from

the UK Department for International Development which have been earmarked specifically for these two crises.

DFID have allocated £3 million for the refugee crisis in Cameroon. More than two years of violence in the Central African Republic has driven thousands of refugees into neighbouring Cameroon, which has resulted in its own humanitarian crisis as the camps struggle to meet their needs. This crisis is low profile, meaning it has attracted little funding for humanitarian agencies to respond to the increasing needs.

The West Africa Ebola response is to ensure preparedness and prevention in four specified West African countries to start with. The funding totalling £7m will cover projects up to twelve months in duration...

Muslim Charities Forum [to 7 March 2015]

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

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

[Banks' fear of breaching counter-terrorism laws hinders the work of UK charities in Syria – new report](#)

5th March 2015

The Muslim Charities Forum with the Overseas Development Institute has published a report looking at the effect of counter-terror legislation on the work of British INGOs overseas.

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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>

MARCH 05, 2015

[The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and CureVac Collaborate to Accelerate the Development of Transformative Vaccine Technology](#)

SEATTLE, WA, USA and TÜBINGEN, GERMANY (March 5, 2015) – The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and CureVac today announced that the foundation has made a commitment to invest \$52 million (€46 million) in CureVac, a leading clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company specializing in mRNA-based vaccine technologies. As part of the agreement, the foundation will also provide separate funding for several projects to develop prophylactic vaccines based on CureVac's proprietary messenger RNA (mRNA) platform. In addition, CureVac's longstanding investor dievini Hopp BioTech announced a commitment of \$24 million (€21 million) of additional equity.

Clinton Foundation

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

Press Release

[UPDATED: Hillary Rodham Clinton, Melinda Gates, and Chelsea Clinton Join International and Community Leaders for Official Release of the No Ceilings Full Participation Report on Status of Women and Girls](#)

March 5, 2015

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

[see announcement that Donna Shalala will head Clinton Foundation above in Week in Review. No announcement posted on Clinton Foundation website as of 10:16, 7 March 2015]

Ford Foundation

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

6 March 2015 [Restoring Balance to the Criminal Justice System](#)

Darren Walker calls for criminal justice reform in a Sacramento Bee op-ed

5 March 2015: [Fifty Years After Selma: Marching On](#)

Gathering to commemorate a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement

4 March 2015: [Report Finds College Education Essential for California Incarcerated](#)

Higher education reduces recidivism and more

2 March 2015: [Proud to Support Net Neutrality](#)

Foundation responds to erroneous reports about net neutrality support

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>

[Dr. Gail C. Christopher receives distinguished Terrance Keenan Leadership Award from Grantmakers in Health](#)

March 5, 2015

AUSTIN, Texas. –Dr. Gail C. Christopher, vice president for policy and senior advisor for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), today was awarded the esteemed Grantmakers in Health's

(GIH) Terrance Keenan Leadership Award in Health Philanthropy during their annual conference...

MacArthur Foundation

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

Publication

[Assessing Illinois' Deficit](#)

Published March 3, 2015

Illinois faces a \$9 billion operating deficit in fiscal year 2016, according to a [report](#) from the Fiscal Futures Project of the [University of Illinois Institute of Government and Public Affairs](#) [*MacArthur Fdn grantee*]. The report asserts that the depth of the problem in state finances has been hidden for years by accounting tricks and avoidance of difficult decisions, namely "pay-later budgeting", or spending more than could be supported by sustainable sources of revenue. The report estimates that the state's annual deficit will grow to \$14 billion by FY 2026...

David and Lucile Packard Foundation

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

[Packard Foundation Names Justin Guay Climate Program Officer](#)

March 4, 2015 •

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation announced today that Justin Guay will join the Foundation as a Climate Program Officer within our Conservation and Science Program...

Rockefeller Foundation

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

No new digest content identified.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

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

[Babies Born Just Miles Apart in Las Vegas Face Up to 16-Year Difference in Life Expectancy](#)

Map series aims to raise awareness of factors that shape health and spur action.

March 4, 2015

Princeton, N.J.—A new life expectancy map released today illustrates that opportunities to lead a long and healthy life can vary dramatically by neighborhood in Las Vegas. In fact, life expectancy can differ by as much as 16 years in the nine miles that separate The Strip from Southeast Las Vegas.

The map, created by researchers at the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Center on Society and Health with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), is the latest in a series developed to raise public awareness of how health is shaped by social and environmental factors across the United States and to support the work of local officials and community organizations to reduce health disparities.

"The health differences shown in these maps aren't unique to one area. We see them in big cities, small towns, and rural areas across America," said Derek Chapman, Ph.D., associate director for research, VCU Center on Society and Health. "Our goal is to help local officials,

residents, and others understand that there's more to health than health care and that improving health requires having a broad range of players at the table."...

[Students Eat More Fruit and Throw Away Less Food With New Healthier School Lunches](#)

Study documents decrease in plate waste following changes to school meals.

March 4, 2015

Hartford, Conn.—After the U.S. Department of Agriculture's healthier school meal standards went into effect, students ate more fruit and threw away less of their entrees and vegetables than before the changes, according to a study published today in *Childhood Obesity*.

The study was led by the Rudd Center for Food Policy & Obesity at the University of Connecticut and funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. It is among the first studies to reliably measure student consumption of entrees, fruits, vegetables and milk during lunch, before and after the healthier standards took effect.

Contrary to concerns about increased food waste following the initial implementation of the updated standards, this study shows that students are throwing away less food now than they were before the standards were in place.

"This research adds to evidence that the updated nutrition standards for the National School Lunch Program can succeed in helping students eat healthier," said Marlene Schwartz, PhD, the study's lead author and director of the Rudd Center...

[Poll Finds U.S. Public Sees Ill Health as Resulting from a Broad Range of Causes](#)

Many believe their health has been impacted by negative childhood experiences.

March 2, 2015

Princeton, N.J.—A new NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health poll finds that more than six in 10 people living in the United States (62%) are concerned about their future health. When those surveyed were asked to name the factors that could affect people's health, a number of environmental and social factors placed high on the list...

Skoll Foundation

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

[Jeff Skoll to Receive Arbuckle Award at Stanford Tonight](#)

March 5, 2015 by Sally Farhat Kassab

Sponsored annually by the Stanford GSB Alumni Association, the Ernest C. Arbuckle Award recognizes excellence in the field of management leadership. The award was created in 1968 in honor of the late Business School dean whose name it bears. Recipients demonstrate a commitment to both managerial excellence and to addressing the changing needs of society...

Wellcome Trust

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

[Ebola vaccine trial to begin in Guinea](#)

Clinical trials of a promising candidate Ebola vaccine will begin in Guinea this weekend, supported by funding from the Wellcome Trust.

5 March 2015

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:: Journal Watch

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

American Journal of Disaster Medicine

Vol. 9, No. 3–Summer 2014

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Infection Control

March 2015 Volume 43, Issue 3, p199-312

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Preventive Medicine

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Public Health

Volume 105, Issue 3 (March 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

March 2015; 92 (3)

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

[New issue; No relevant content]

BMC Health Services Research

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

(Accessed 7 March 2015)

[No new relevant content]

BMC Infectious Diseases

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

(Accessed 7 March 2015)

[No new relevant content]

BMC Medical Ethics

(Accessed 7 March 2015)

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

[No new relevant content]

BMC Public Health

(Accessed 7 March 2015)

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

Research article

[The HIV epidemic and sexual and reproductive health policy integration: views of South African policymakers](#)

Diane Cooper, Joanne E Mantell, Jennifer Moodley, Sumaya Mall BMC Public Health 2015, 15:217 (4 March 2015)

Abstract (provisional)

Background

Integration of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and HIV policies and services delivered by the same provider is prioritised worldwide, especially in sub-Saharan Africa where HIV prevalence is highest. South Africa has the largest antiretroviral treatment (ART) programme in the world, with an estimated 2.7 million people on ART, elevating South Africa's prominence as a global leader in HIV treatment. In 2011, the Southern African HIV Clinicians Society published safer conception guidelines for people living with HIV (PLWH) and in 2013, the South African government published contraceptive guidelines highlighting the importance of SRH and fertility planning services for people living with HIV. Addressing unintended pregnancies, safer conception and maternal health issues is crucial for improving PLWH's SRH and combatting the global HIV epidemic. This paper explores South African policymakers' perspectives on public sector SRH-HIV policy integration, with a special focus on the need for national and regional policies on safer conception for PLWH and contraceptive guidelines implementation.

Methods

It draws on 42 in-depth interviews with national, provincial and civil society policymakers conducted between 2008–2009 and 2011–2012, as the number of people on ART escalated. Interviews focused on three key domains: opinions on PLWH's childbearing; the status of SRH-HIV integration policies and services; and thoughts and suggestions on SRH-HIV integration within the restructuring of South African primary care services. Data were coded and analysed according to themes.

Results

Participants supported SRH-HIV integrated policy and services. However, integration challenges identified included a lack of policy and guidelines, inadequately trained providers, vertical programming, provider work overload, and a weak health system. Participants acknowledged that SRH-HIV integration policies, particularly for safer conception, contraception and cervical cancer, had been neglected. Policymakers supported public sector adoption of safer conception

policy and services. Participants interviewed after expanded ART were more positive about safer conception policies for PLWH than participants interviewed earlier.

Conclusion

The past decade's HIV policy changes have increased opportunities for SRH –HIV integration. The findings provide important insights for international, regional and national SRH-HIV policy and service integration initiatives.

Debate

[A critical review of population health literacy assessment](#)

Diana Guzys^{1*}, Amanda Kenny¹, Virginia Dickson-Swift¹ and Guinever Threlkeld²

Abstract

Background

Defining health literacy from a public health perspective places greater emphasis on the knowledge and skills required to prevent disease and for promoting health in everyday life. Addressing health literacy at the community level provides great potential for improving health knowledge, skills and behaviours resulting in better health outcomes. Yet there is a notable absence of discussion in the literature of what a health literate population looks like, or how this is best assessed.

Discussion

The emphasis in assessing health literacy has predominantly focused on the functional health literacy of individuals in clinical settings. This review examines currently available health literacy assessment tools to identify how well suited they are in addressing health literacy beyond clinical care settings and beyond the individual. Although public health literature appears to place greater emphasis on conceptualizing critical health literacy, the focus continues to remain on assessing individuals, rather than on health literacy within the context of families, communities and population groups. When a population approach is adopted, an aggregate of individual health literacy assessment is generally used. Aggregation of individual health literacy fails to capture the dynamic and often synergistic relationships within communities, and fails to reflect societal influences on health knowledge, beliefs and behaviours.

We hypothesise that a different assessment framework is required to adequately address the complexities of community health literacy. We assert that a public health approach, founded on health promotion theories provides a useful scaffold to assess the critical health literacy of population groups. It is proposed that inclusion of community members in the research process is a necessary requirement to coproduce such an appropriate assessment framework.

Summary

We contend that health literacy assessment and potential interventions need to shift to promoting the knowledge and skills essential for critical health literacy at a societal level. The challenge for researchers is to negotiate the myriad of complexities associated with each concept and component required for this task.

BMC Research Notes

(Accessed 7 March 2015)

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

[No new relevant content]

British Medical Journal

07 March 2015(vol 350, issue 7998)

<http://www.bmj.com/content/350/7998>

Editorials

The evidence base for new drugs

BMJ 2015; 350 doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.h952> (Published 02 March 2015) Cite this as: BMJ 2015;350:h952

Peter Doshi, associate editor¹,

Tom Jefferson, reviewer²

Author affiliations

New legislation in Germany provides another piece of a complex puzzle

Marketing campaigns cast new drugs as “must haves.” In reality, the public evidence base for new drugs often leaves more questions than answers.^{1 2} While marketing authorization indicates that regulators judged the risk-benefit profile to be favorable, product labels rarely list and quantify these benefits and harms. Publications of premarketing trials might fill in some gaps, but readers beware: not all trials are published and those that are may be inaccurately or incompletely reported.^{3 4}

Data transparency in clinical trials has emerged as a way to tackle the reporting biases that affect literature, enabling independent scrutiny of trials.⁵ But it is not enough. Even with open data we rarely know how new drugs compare with existing options or whether they improve patient centered outcomes. An analysis published in this issue (doi:10.1136/bmj.h796) suggests that new legislation in Germany may provide another piece of the puzzle.⁶

The German act on the reform of the market for medicinal products (AMNOG) was introduced in 2011 to inform drug pricing for all new drugs. To control costs, sponsors must submit a standardized dossier including evidence of the drug’s added benefit over already available drugs. This dossier is then reviewed by scientists, usually at the Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care (IQWiG), who produce an assessment report.

Editorials

Health literacy: towards system level solutions

BMJ 2015; 350 doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.h1026> (Published 24 February 2015) Cite this as: BMJ 2015;350:h1026

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Author affiliations

A new World Health Organization toolkit aimed at low and middle income countries could help reduce health inequalities in the rest of the world too

a new resource aimed at low and middle income countries, the World Health Organization has redefined health literacy as “the personal characteristics and social resources needed for individuals and communities to access, understand, appraise and use information and services to make decisions about health.”¹

Low health literacy is associated with poor engagement with health services, health knowledge, concordance with prescribed medication, self management of illness, markers of disease progression, overall health status, and survival. It is also associated with high rates of hospital admission and use of emergency care.^{2 3 4 5 6 7}

Low health literacy is more common in low income and minority ethnic groups, immigrants, people without full citizenship, those with fewer years of education, and older people; it is especially common in people who fall into several of these risk groups.^{8 9 10 11} People with low health literacy may feel ashamed and try to conceal it from professional carers and family members.¹² Differences in health literacy explain a substantial proportion of inequity in the uptake and use ...

Research

The impact of providing rapid diagnostic malaria tests on fever management in the private retail sector in Ghana: a cluster randomized trial

BMJ 2015; 350 :h1019 (Published 04 March 2015)

[PDF](#)

Open Access

Abstract

Objective

To examine the impact of providing rapid diagnostic tests for malaria on fever management in private drug retail shops where most poor rural people with fever present, with the aim of reducing current massive overdiagnosis and overtreatment of malaria.

Design

Cluster randomized trial of 24 clusters of shops.

Setting

Dangme West, a poor rural district of Ghana.

Participants

Shops and their clients, both adults and children.

Interventions

Providing rapid diagnostic tests with realistic training.

Main outcome measures

The primary outcome was the proportion of clients testing negative for malaria by a double-read research blood slide who received an artemisinin combination therapy or other antimalarial. Secondary outcomes were use of antibiotics and antipyretics, and safety. Results Of 4603 clients, 3424 (74.4%) tested negative by double-read research slides. The proportion of slide-negative clients who received any antimalarial was 590/1854 (32%) in the intervention arm and 1378/1570 (88%) in the control arm (adjusted risk ratio 0.41 (95% CI 0.29 to 0.58), $P < 0.0001$). Treatment was in high agreement with rapid diagnostic test result. Of those who were slide-positive, 690/787 (87.8%) in the intervention arm and 347/392 (88.5%) in the control arm received an artemisinin combination therapy (adjusted risk ratio 0.96 (0.84 to 1.09)). There was no evidence of antibiotics being substituted for antimalarials. Overall, 1954/2641 (74%) clients in the intervention arm and 539/1962 (27%) in the control arm received appropriate treatment (adjusted risk ratio 2.39 (1.69 to 3.39), $P < 0.0001$). No safety concerns were identified.

Conclusions

Most patients with fever in Africa present to the private sector. In this trial, providing rapid diagnostic tests for malaria in the private drug retail sector significantly reduced dispensing of antimalarials to patients without malaria, did not reduce prescribing of antimalarials to true malaria cases, and appeared safe. Rapid diagnostic tests should be considered for the informal private drug retail sector.

Registration Clinicaltrials.gov [NCT01907672](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT01907672)

Information on new drugs at market entry: retrospective analysis of health technology assessment reports versus regulatory reports, journal publications, and registry reports

BMJ 2015; 350 :h796 (Published 26 February 2015)

[PDF](#)

Open Access

Abstract

Background

When a new drug becomes available, patients and doctors require information on its benefits and harms. In 2011, Germany introduced the early benefit assessment of new drugs through the act on the reform of the market for medicinal products (AMNOG). At market entry, the pharmaceutical company responsible must submit a standardised dossier containing all available evidence of the drug's added benefit over an appropriate comparator treatment. The added benefit is mainly determined using patient relevant outcomes. The "dossier assessment" is generally performed by the Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care (IQWiG) and then published online. It contains all relevant study information, including data from unpublished clinical study reports contained in the dossiers. The dossier assessment refers to the patient population for which the new drug is approved according to the summary of product characteristics. This patient population may comprise either the total populations investigated in the studies submitted to regulatory authorities in the drug approval process, or the specific subpopulations defined in the summary of product characteristics ("approved subpopulations").

Objective

To determine the information gain from AMNOG documents compared with non-AMNOG documents for methods and results of studies available at market entry of new drugs. AMNOG documents comprise dossier assessments done by IQWiG and publicly available modules of company dossiers; non-AMNOG documents comprise conventional, publicly available sources—that is, European public assessment reports, journal publications, and registry reports. The analysis focused on the approved patient populations.

Design

Retrospective analysis.

Data sources

All dossier assessments conducted by IQWiG between 1 January 2011 and 28 February 2013 in which the dossiers contained suitable studies allowing for a full early benefit assessment. We also considered all European public assessment reports, journal publications, and registry reports referring to these studies and included in the dossiers.

Data analysis

We assessed reporting quality for each study and each available document for eight methods and 11 results items (three baseline characteristics and eight patient relevant outcomes), and dichotomised them as "completely reported" or "incompletely reported (including items not reported at all)." For each document type we calculated the proportion of items with complete reporting for methods and results, for each item and overall, and compared the findings.

Results

15 out of 27 dossiers were eligible for inclusion and contained 22 studies. The 15 dossier assessments contained 28 individual assessments of 15 total study populations and 13 approved subpopulations. European public assessment reports were available for all drugs. Journal publications were available for 14 out of 15 drugs and 21 out of 22 studies. A registry report in ClinicalTrials.gov was available for all drugs and studies; however, only 11 contained results. In the analysis of total study populations, the AMNOG documents reached the highest grade of completeness, with about 90% of methods and results items completely reported. In non-AMNOG documents, the rate was 75% for methods and 52% for results items; journal publications achieved the best rates, followed by European public assessment reports and registry reports. The analysis of approved subpopulations showed poorer complete reporting of results items, particularly in non-AMNOG documents (non-AMNOG versus AMNOG: 11% v 71% for overall results items and 5% v 70% for patient relevant outcomes). The main limitation of our analysis is the small sample size.

Conclusion

Conventional, publicly available sources provide insufficient information on new drugs, especially on patient relevant outcomes in approved subpopulations. This type of information is largely available in AMNOG documents, albeit only partly in English. The AMNOG approach could be used internationally to develop a comprehensive publication model for clinical studies and thus represents a key open access measure.

Brown Journal of World Affairs

Volume XXI Issue 1 Fall–Winter 2014

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Bulletin of the World Health Organization

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

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/93/3/en/>

[Reviewed earlier]

Complexity

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

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/cplx.v20.3/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

Conflict and Health

[Accessed 7 March 2015]

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

[No new relevant content]

Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation

(Accessed 7 March 2015)

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

[No new relevant content]

Developing World Bioethics

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

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

EDITORIAL

Empirical Research and Bioethics

Debora Diniz

Article first published online: 3 MAR 2015

DOI: 10.1111/dewb.12078

Extract

What counts as empirical evidence in bioethics? Differently from epidemiology or social sciences, bioethics is more argumentative than demonstrative, more normative than

explanatory. Saying that, I am suggesting some parameters for the field: we need strong concepts, yet pieces of data. My provocative argument is that we should not import the epistemic criteria of what counts as data from epidemiology or social sciences to evaluate a contribution as relevant to bioethics. An ethical argument is more important than a long deep description of data...

ARTICLE

Cultural Conundrums: The Ethics of Epidemiology and the Problems of Population in Implementing Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis

Kirk Fiereck*

Article first published online: 23 DEC 2013

DOI: 10.1111/dewb.12034

Abstract

The impending implementation of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) has prompted complicated bioethical and public health ethics concerns regarding the moral distribution of antiretroviral medications (ARVs) to ostensibly healthy populations as a form of HIV prevention when millions of HIV-positive people still lack access to ARVs globally. This manuscript argues that these questions are, in part, concerns over the ethics of the knowledge production practices of epidemiology. Questions of distribution, and their attendant cost-benefit calculations, will rely on a number of presupposed, and therefore, normatively cultural assumptions within the science of epidemiology specifically regarding the ability of epidemiologic surveillance to produce accurate maps of HIV throughout national populations. Specifically, ethical questions around PrEP will focus on who should receive ARVs given the fact that global demand will far exceed supply. Given that sexual transmission is one of the main modes of HIV transmission, these questions of 'who' are inextricably linked to knowledge about sexual personhood. As a result, the ethics of epidemiology, and how the epidemiology of HIV in particular conceives, classifies and constructs sexual populations will become a critical point of reflection and contestation for bioethicists, health activists, physicians, nurses, and researchers in the multi-disciplinary field of global health. This paper examines how cultural conundrums within the fields of bioethics and public health ethics are directly implicated within the ethics of PrEP, by analyzing the problems of population inaugurated by the construction of the men who have sex with men (MSM) epidemiologic category in the specific national context of South Africa.

ARTICLE

Not Fit for Purpose: The Ethical Guidelines of the Indian Council of Medical Research

Priya Satalkar* and David Shaw

Article first published online: 8 NOV 2013

DOI: 10.1111/dewb.12036

Abstract

In 2006, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) published its 'Ethical guidelines for Biomedical Research on human participants'. The intention was to translate international ethical standards into locally and culturally appropriate norms and values to help biomedical researchers in India to conduct ethical research and thereby safeguard the interest of human subjects. Unfortunately, it is apparent that the guideline is not fit for purpose. In addition to problems with the structure and clarity of the guidelines, there are several serious omissions and contradictions in the recommendations. In this paper, we take a close look at the two key chapters and highlight some of the striking flaws in this important document. We conclude that ethics committees and national authorities should not lose sight of international ethical standards while incorporating local reality and cultural and social values, as focusing too much

on the local context could compromise the safety of human subjects in biomedical research, particularly in India.

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/idt/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness

Volume 9 - Issue 01 - February 2015

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

Ebola Special Section

[Ebola Virus and Public Health \(Part 1\)](#)

[preview](#)

pp 29 - 29

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2015.18> (About DOI), Published online: 04 March 2015

[Abstract](#)

Introduction

[Ebola Virus and Public Health](#)

[preview](#)

Charles W. Beadling, Frederick M. Burkle, Jr, Kristi L. Koenig and Trueman W. Sharp

pp 31 - 31

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2015.16> (About DOI), Published online: 04 March 2015

[Abstract](#)

Editorial

[The Ebola Epidemic and Translational Public Health](#)

[preview](#)

James J. James

pp 32 - 32

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2014.106> (About DOI), Published online: 07 October 2014

[Abstract](#)

Special Reports

[A Primer on Ebola for Clinicians](#)

[preview](#)

Eric Toner, Amesh Adalja and Thomas Inglesby

pp 33 - 37

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2014.115> (About DOI), Published online: 17 October 2014

[Abstract](#)

[Triage Management, Survival, and the Law in the Age of Ebola](#)

[preview](#)

Frederick M Burkle, Jr and Christopher M Burkle

pp 38 - 43

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2014.117> (About DOI), Published online: 24 October 2014

[Abstract](#)

Commentaries

[Operationalizing Public Health Skills to Resource Poor Settings: Is This the Achilles Heel in the Ebola Epidemic Campaign?](#)

[preview](#)

Frederick M. Burkle, Jr

pp 44 - 46

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2014.95> (About DOI), Published online: 07 October 2014

[Abstract](#)

[Global and Domestic Legal Preparedness and Response: 2014 Ebola Outbreak](#)

[preview](#)

James G. Hodge, Jr

pp 47 - 50

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2014.96> (About DOI), Published online: 10 October 2014

[Abstract](#)

[Hubris: The Recurring Pandemic](#)

[preview](#)

Tom Koch

pp 51 - 56

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2014.107> (About DOI), Published online: 22 October 2014

[Abstract](#)

[Ebola Triage Screening and Public Health: The New "Vital Sign Zero"](#)

[preview](#)

Kristi L. Koenig

pp 57 - 58

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2014.120> (About DOI), Published online: 29 October 2014

[Abstract](#)

[Journalists and Public Health Professionals: Challenges of a Symbiotic Relationship](#)

[preview](#)

Pauline Lubens

pp 59 - 63

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2014.127> (About DOI), Published online: 10 November 2014

[Abstract](#)

[The Ebola Threat: China's Response to the West African Epidemic and National Development of Prevention and Control Policies and Infrastructure](#)

[preview](#)

Hao-Jun Fan, Hong-Wei Gao, Hui Ding, Bi-Ke Zhang and Shi-Ke Hou

pp 64 - 65

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2014.152> (About DOI), Published online: 07 January 2015

[Abstract](#)

[Mapping Medical Disasters: Ebola Makes Old Lessons, New](#)

[preview](#)

Tom Koch

pp 66 - 73

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2015.14> (About DOI), Published online: 09 February 2015
Abstract

Brief Reports

Ebola Virus Disease: Preparedness in Japan

preview

Yugo Ashino, Haorile Chagan-Yasutan, Shinichi Egawa and Toshio Hattori

pp 74 - 78

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2014.130> (About DOI), Published online: 17 November 2014

Abstract

Favipiravir: A New Medication for the Ebola Virus Disease Pandemic

preview

Takashi Nagata, Alan K. Lefor, Manabu Hasegawa and Masami Ishii

pp 79 - 81

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2014.151> (About DOI), Published online: 29 December 2014

Abstract

Concepts in Disaster Medicine

Ebola Outbreak Response: The Role of Information Resources and the National Library of Medicine

preview

Cynthia B. Love, Stacey J. Arnesen and Steven J. Phillips

pp 82 - 85

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2014.108> (About DOI), Published online: 17 October 2014

Abstract

Sign Me Up: Rules of the Road for Humanitarian Volunteers During the Ebola Outbreak

preview

Ryan Wildes, Stephanie Kayden, Eric Goralnick, Michelle Niescierenko, Miriam Aschkenasy, Katherine M. Kemen, Michael Vanrooyen, Paul Biddinger and Hilarie Cranmer

Disaster Prevention and Management

Volume 24 Issue 1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Disasters

April 2015 Volume 39, Issue 2 Pages 185–405

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/disa.2015.39.issue-2/issuetoc>

Papers

Reason, emotion, compassion: can altruism survive professionalisation in the humanitarian sector?

Gilles Carbonnier

Article first published online: 28 NOV 2014

DOI: 10.1111/disa.12096

Abstract

The humanitarian sector has grown enormously over the past two decades. Some fear that professionalisation comes at the expense of altruistic volunteering. This may be a valid concern if altruism is the product of organisational culture and individual experiences rather than an innate trait. This paper examines advances in evolutionary biology and neurology that provide evidence in support of both the nature and nurture arguments, echoing earlier insights from social sciences. It then questions to what extent humanitarian principles build on altruistic impulses or instead seek to constrain them, and reviews recruitment profiles of selected humanitarian organisations and applicants' letters accordingly. This initial investigation warrants further research to identify how altruism as a personal trait and an organisational principle has influenced diverse humanitarian actors and traditions. This paper outlines how training curricula and organisational reward systems can build on—rather than stifle—natural altruism to nurture critical, reflexive practitioners.

Papers

[The promise of acceptance as an NGO security management approach](#)

Larissa Fast¹, Faith Freeman², Michael O'Neill³ and Elizabeth Rowley⁴

Article first published online: 28 NOV 2014

DOI: 10.1111/disa.12097

Abstract

This paper explores three questions related to acceptance as a security management approach. Acceptance draws upon relationships with community members, authorities, belligerents and other stakeholders to provide consent for the presence and activities of a non-governmental organisation (NGO), thereby reducing threats from these actors. Little is documented about how NGOs gain and maintain acceptance, how they assess and monitor the presence and degree of acceptance, or how they determine whether acceptance is effective in a particular context. Based on field research conducted in April 2011 in Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda, we address each of these three issues and argue that acceptance must be actively sought as both a programme and a security management strategy. In the paper we delineate elements common to all three contexts as well as missed opportunities, which identify areas that NGOs can and should address as part of an acceptance approach.

Emergency Medicine Journal

March 2015, Volume 32, Issue 3

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Epidemics

Volume 11, *In Progress* (June 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

End of Life Journal

Summer 2014 Vol 4 Issue 2

<http://endoflifejournal.stchristophers.org.uk/current-issue>

[Reviewed earlier]

The European Journal of Public Health

Volume 25, Issue 1, 01 February 2015

http://eurpub.oxfordjournals.org/content/25/suppl_1

Theme: Unwarranted variations in health care performance across Europe: Lessons from the ECHO Project

[Reviewed earlier]

Food Policy

Volume 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)

March 2015 | Volume 3 | Issue 1

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

EDITORIALS

[ARVs: The Next Generation. Going Boldly Together to New Frontiers of HIV Treatment](#)

New antiretrovirals (ARVs), particularly the potentially “game-changing” ARV dolutegravir, offer major potential to meet the compelling need for simpler and better HIV treatment for tens of millions of people in the coming decade. Advantages include substantially lower manufacturing cost, fewer side effects, and less risk of resistance. But key obstacles must be addressed in order to develop and introduce new ARVs in specific combinations optimized for the needs of low- and middle-income countries. Strong leadership will be essential from the global health community to nurture more focused collaboration between the private and public sectors.

Matthew Barnhart, James D Shelton

Glob Health Sci Pract 2015;3(1):1-11. First published online January 27, 2015.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.9745/GHSP-D-14-00243>

Stunning Popularity of LARCs With Good Access and Quality: A Major Opportunity to Meet Family Planning Needs

Given true choice, a very high proportion of women, perhaps most, would select one of the long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs)—implants or IUDs—for contraception. If implemented on a wide scale, it would not only drastically alter the current method mix but also serve client needs much better and prevent unintended pregnancy more successfully.

Glob Health Sci Pract 2015;3(1):12-13. First published online February 25, 2015.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.9745/GHSP-D-15-00044>

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

Delivering High-Quality Family Planning Services in Crisis-Affected Settings I: Program Implementation

Dora Ward Curry, Jesse Rattan, Jean Jose Nzau, Kamlesh Giri

Glob Health Sci Pract 2015;3(1):14-24. First published online February 4, 2015.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.9745/GHSP-D-14-00164>

ABSTRACT

In 2012, about 43 million women of reproductive age experienced the effects of conflict. Provision of basic sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning, is a recognized right and need of refugees and internally displaced people, but funding and services for family planning have been inadequate. This article describes lessons learned during the first 2.5 years of implementing the ongoing Supporting Access to Family Planning and Post-Abortion Care in Emergencies (SAFPAC) initiative, led by CARE, which supports government health systems to deliver family planning services in 5 crisis-affected settings (Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Mali, and Pakistan). SAF PAC's strategy focuses on 4 broad interventions drawn from public health best practices in more stable settings: competency-based training for providers, improved supply chain management, regular supervision, and community mobilization to influence attitudes and norms related to family planning. Between July 2011 and December 2013, the initiative reached 52,616 new users of modern contraceptive methods across the 5 countries (catchment population of 698,053 women of reproductive age), 61% of whom chose long-acting methods of implants or intrauterine devices. Prudent use of data to inform decision making has been an underpinning to the project's approach. A key approach to ensuring sustained ability to train and supervise new providers has been to build capacity in clinical skills training and supervision by establishing in-country training centers. In addition, monthly supervision using simple checklists has improved program and service quality, particularly with infection prevention procedures and stock management. We have generally instituted a "pull" system to manage commodities and other supplies, whereby health facilities place resupply orders as needed based on actual consumption patterns and stock-alert thresholds. Finally, reaching the community with mobilization efforts appropriate to the cultural context has been integral to meeting unmet family planning needs rapidly in these crisis-affected settings. Despite the constraints in crisis-affected countries, such as travel difficulties due to security issues, in our experience, we have been able to extend access to a range of contraceptive methods, including long-acting reversible contraceptives, in such settings using best practice approaches established in more stable environments.

Delivering High-Quality Family Planning Services in Crisis-Affected Settings II: Results

Dora Ward Curry, Jesse Rattan, Shuyuan Huang,
Elizabeth Noznesky

Glob Health Sci Pract 2015;3(1):25-33. First published online February 4, 2015.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.9745/GHSP-D-14-00112>

ABSTRACT

An estimated 43 million women of reproductive age experienced the effects of conflict in 2012. Already vulnerable from the insecurity of the emergency, women must also face the continuing risk of unwanted pregnancy but often are unable to obtain family planning services. The ongoing Supporting Access to Family Planning and Post-Abortion Care (SAFPAC) initiative, led by CARE, has provided contraceptives, including long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs), to refugees, internally displaced persons, and conflict-affected resident populations in Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Djibouti, Mali, and Pakistan. The project works through the Ministry of Health in 4 key areas: (1) competency-based training, (2) supply chain management, (3) systematic supervision, and (4) community mobilization to raise awareness and shift norms related to family planning. This article presents data on program results from July 2011 to December 2013 from the 5 countries. Project staff summarized monthly data from client registers using hard-copy forms and recorded the data electronically in Microsoft Excel for compilation and analysis. The initiative reached 52,616 new users of modern contraceptive methods across the 5 countries, ranging from 575 in Djibouti to 21,191 in Chad. LARCs have predominated overall, representing 61% of new modern method users. The percentage of new users choosing LARCs varied by country: 78% in the DRC, 72% in Chad, and 51% in Mali, but only 29% in Pakistan. In Djibouti, those methods were not offered in the country through SAF PAC during the period discussed here. In Chad, the DRC, and Mali, implants have been the most popular LARC method, while in Pakistan the IUD has been more popular. Use of IUDs, however, has comprised a larger share of the method mix over time in all 4 of these countries. These results to date suggest that it is feasible to work with the public sector in fragile, crisis-affected states to deliver a wide range of quality family planning services, to do so rapidly, and to see a dramatic increase in the percentage of users choosing long-acting reversible methods.

Successful Proof of Concept of Family Planning and Immunization Integration in Liberia

Chelsea M Cooper[†], Rebecca Fields^b, Corinne I Mazzeo^c, Nyapu Taylord, Anne Pfitzera, Mary Momolue, Cuallau Jabbeh-Howee

ABSTRACT

Globally, unmet need for postpartum family planning remains high, while immunization services are among the most wide-reaching and equitable interventions. Given overlapping time frames, integrating these services provides an opportunity to leverage existing health visits to offer women more comprehensive services. From March through November 2012, Liberia's government, with support from the Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP), piloted an integrated family planning and immunization model at 10 health facilities in Bong and Lofa counties. Vaccinators provided mothers bringing infants for routine immunization with targeted family planning and immunization messages and same-day referrals to co-located family planning services. In February 2013, we compared service statistics for family planning and immunization during the pilot against the previous year's statistics. We also conducted in-depth interviews with service providers and other personnel and focus group discussions with clients. Results showed that referral acceptance across the facilities varied from 10% to 45% per month, on average. Over 80% of referral acceptors completed the family planning visit that day, of whom over 90% accepted a contraceptive method that day. The total number of new contraceptive users at participating facilities increased by 73% in Bong and by 90% in Lofa. Women referred from immunization who accepted family planning that day accounted for 44% and 34% of total new contraceptive users in Bong and Lofa, respectively. In Lofa, pilot sites

administered 35% more Penta 1 and 21% more Penta 3 doses during the pilot period compared with the same period of the previous year, while Penta 1 and Penta 3 administration decreased in non-pilot facilities. In Bong, there was little difference in the number of Penta 1 and Penta 3 doses administered between pilot and non-pilot facilities. In both counties, Penta 1 to Penta 3 dropout rates increased at pilot sites but not in non-pilot facilities, possibly due to higher than average background dropout rates at pilot sites prior to the intervention in Lofa and the disproportionate effect of data from 1 large facility in Bong. The project provided considerable basic support to assess this proof of concept. However, results suggest that introducing a simple model that is minimally disruptive to existing immunization service delivery can facilitate integration. The model is currently being scaled-up to other counties in Liberia, which could potentially contribute to increased postpartum contraceptive uptake, leading to longer birth intervals and improved health outcomes for children and mothers

Female Health Workers at the Doorstep: A Pilot of Community-Based Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health Service Delivery in Northern Nigeria

Charles A Uzondua, Henry V Doctora^{a,b}, Sally E Findley^b, Godwin Y Afenyadua, Alastair Agerb
Author Affiliations

aPartnership for Reviving Routine Immunization in Northern Nigeria–Maternal Newborn and Child Health Initiative, Kano, Nigeria

bColumbia University, Mailman School of Public Health, New York, NY, USA

Deployment of resident female Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs) to a remote rural community led to major and sustained increases in service utilization, including antenatal care and facility-based deliveries. Key components to success: (1) providing an additional rural residence allowance to help recruit and retain CHEWs; (2) posting the female CHEWs in pairs to avoid isolation and provide mutual support; (3) ensuring supplies and transportation means for home visits; and (4) allowing CHEWs to perform deliveries.

Engaging Communities With a Simple Tool to Help Increase Immunization Coverage

Use of a simple, publicly placed tool that monitors vaccination coverage in a community has potential to broaden program coverage by keeping both the community and the health system informed about every infant's vaccination status.

Manish Jain, Gunjan Taneja, Ruhul Amin, Robert Steinglass, Michael Favin

Glob Health Sci Pract 2015;3(1):117-125. <http://dx.doi.org/10.9745/GHSP-D-14-00180>

Abstract

Global Health Governance

[Accessed 7 March 2015]

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

[No new relevant content]

Global Public Health

Volume 10, Issue 4, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rqph20/current#.VPudJy5nBhU>

Endgame for polio eradication? Options for overcoming social and political factors in the progress to eradicating polio

Pavan V. Ganapathiraju^{a,b*}, Christiaan B. Morssink^c & James Plumb^d
pages 463-473

DOI:10.1080/17441692.2014.994655

Abstract

In 1988, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) was launched with the goal of eradicating polio by the year 2000. After 25 years, several dynamics still challenge this large public health campaign with new cases of polio being reported annually. We examine the roots of this initiative to eradicate polio, its scope, the successes and setbacks during the last 25 years and reflect on the current state of affairs. We examine the social and political factors that are barriers to polio eradication. Options are discussed for solving the current impasse of polio eradication: using force, respecting individual freedoms and gaining support from those vulnerable to fundamentalist 'propaganda'. The travails of the GPEI indicate the need for expanding the Convention on the Rights of the Child to address situations of war and civic strife. Such a cultural and structural reference will provide the basis for global stakeholders to engage belligerent local actors whose local political conflicts are barriers to the eradication of polio. Disregard for these actors will result in stagnation of polio eradication policy, delaying eradication beyond 2018.

Globalization and Health

[Accessed 7 March 2015]

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

[No new relevant content]

Health Affairs

March 2015; Volume 34, Issue 3

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

People In Sub-Saharan Africa Rate Their Health And Health Care Among The Lowest In The World

Angus S. Deaton^{1,*} and Robert Tortora²

Author Affiliations

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2Robert Tortora was principal scientist and chief methodologist at the Gallup Organization, in Washington, D.C., when this article was written. He is now a senior fellow of survey methodology at ICF International, in Rockville, Maryland.

Abstract

The health of people in sub-Saharan Africa is a major global concern. However, data are weak, and little is known about how people in the region perceive their health or their health care. We used data from the Gallup World Poll in 2012 to document sub-Saharan Africans' perceived health status, their satisfaction with health care, their contact with medical professionals, and the priority they attach to health care. In comparison to other regions of the world, sub-Saharan Africa has the lowest ratings for well-being and the lowest satisfaction with health care. It also has the second-lowest perception of personal health, after only the former Soviet Union and its Eastern European satellites. HIV prevalence is positively correlated with perceived improvements in health care in countries with high prevalence. This is consistent with an improvement in at least some health care services as a result of the largely aid-funded rollout of antiretroviral treatment. Even so, sub-Saharan Africans do not prioritize health care as a matter of policy, although donors are increasingly shifting their aid efforts in the region toward health.

Health and Human Rights

Volume 16, Issue 2 December 2014

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

Papers in Press: Special Issue on Health Rights Litigation

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Economics, Policy and Law

Volume 10 - Issue 02 - April 2015

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

[New issue; No relevant content]

Health Policy and Planning

Volume 30 Issue 2 March 2015

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

[Integrating mental health and social development in theory and practice](#)

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Author Affiliations

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Johannesburg 2006, South Africa

Accepted December 17, 2013.

Abstract

In many low and middle income countries, attention to mental illness remains compartmentalized and consigned as a matter for specialist policy. Despite great advances in global mental health, mental health policy and practice dovetail only to a limited degree with social development efforts. They often lag behind broader approaches to health and development. This gap ignores the small but growing evidence that social development unavoidably impacts the mental health of those affected, and that this influence can be both positive and negative. This article examines the theoretical and practical challenges that need to be overcome for a more effective integration of social development and mental health policy. From a theoretical perspective, this article demonstrates compatibility between social development and mental health paradigms. In particular, the capability approach is shown to provide a strong framework for integrating mental health and development. Yet, capability-oriented critiques on 'happiness' have recently been applied to mental health with potentially detrimental outcomes. With regard to policy and practice, horizontal and vertical integration strategies are suggested. Horizontal strategies require stronger devolution of mental health care to the primary care level, more unified messages regarding mental health care provision and the gradual expansion of mental health packages of care. Vertical integration refers to the alignment of mental health with related policy domains (particularly the social, economic and political domains). Evidence from mental health research reinforces aspects of social development theory in a way that can have tangible implications on practice. First, it encourages a focus on avoiding exclusion of those affected by or at risk of mental illness. Secondly, it underscores the importance of the process of implementation as an integral component of successful policies. Finally, by retaining a focus on the individual, it seeks to avoid uneven approaches to development.

Overcoming challenges to sustainable immunization financing: early experiences from GAVI graduating countries

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Author Affiliations

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Accepted January 6, 2014.

Abstract

Over the 5-year period ending in 2018, 16 countries with a combined birth cohort of over 6 million infants requiring life-saving immunizations are scheduled to transition (graduate) from outside financial and technical support for a number of their essential vaccines. This support has been provided over the past decade by the GAVI Alliance. Will these 16 countries be able to continue to sustain these vaccination efforts? To address this issue, GAVI and its partners are supporting transition planning, entailing country assessments of readiness to graduate and intensive dialogue with national officials to ensure a smooth transition process. This approach was piloted in Bhutan, Republic of Congo, Georgia, Moldova and Mongolia in 2012. The pilot showed that graduating countries are highly heterogeneous in their capacity to assume responsibility for their immunization programmes. Although all possess certain strengths, each country displayed weaknesses in some of the following areas: budgeting for vaccine purchase, national procurement practices, performance of national regulatory agencies, and technical capacity for vaccine planning and advocacy. The 2012 pilot experience further demonstrated the value of transition planning processes and tools. As a result, GAVI has decided to continue with transition planning in 2013 and beyond. As the graduation process advances, GAVI and graduating countries should continue to contribute to global collective thinking about how developing countries can successfully end their dependence on donor aid and achieve self-sufficiency.

Health seeking behaviour and the related household out-of-pocket expenditure for chronic non-communicable diseases in rural Malawi

Qun Wang, Stephan Brenner, Gerald Leppert, Thomas Hastings Banda, Olivier Kalmus, and Manuela De Allegri

Health Policy Plan. (2015) 30 (2): 242-252 doi:10.1093/heapol/czu004

Abstract

Policy options for pharmaceutical pricing and purchasing: issues for low- and middle-income countries

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Author Affiliations

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Accepted November 27, 2013.

Abstract

Pharmaceutical expenditure is rising globally. Most high-income countries have exercised pricing or purchasing strategies to address this pressure. Low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), however, usually have less regulated pharmaceutical markets and often lack feasible pricing or purchasing strategies, notwithstanding their wish to effectively manage medicine budgets. In high-income countries, most medicines payments are made by the state or health insurance institutions. In LMICs, most pharmaceutical expenditure is out-of-pocket which creates a different dynamic for policy enforcement. The paucity of rigorous studies on the effectiveness of pharmaceutical pricing and purchasing strategies makes it especially difficult for policy makers in LMICs to decide on a course of action. This article reviews published articles on pharmaceutical pricing and purchasing policies. Many policy options for medicine pricing and purchasing have been found to work but they also have attendant risks. No one option is decisively preferred; rather a mix of options may be required based on country-specific context. Empirical studies in LMICs are lacking. However, risks from any one policy option can reasonably be argued to be greater in LMICs which often lack strong legal systems, purchasing and state institutions to underpin the healthcare system. Key factors are identified to assist LMICs improve their medicine pricing and purchasing systems.

Health Research Policy and Systems

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

[Accessed 7 March 2015]

Research

How does context influence performance of community health workers in low- and middle-income countries? Evidence from the literature

Maryse C Kok^{12*}, Sumit S Kane¹, Olivia Tulloch³, Hermen Ormel¹, Sally Theobald³, Marjolein Dieleman¹, Miriam Taegtmeyer³, Jacqueline EW Broerse² and Korrie AM de Koning¹

Author Affiliations

Health Research Policy and Systems 2015, 13:13 doi:10.1186/s12961-015-0001-3

Published: 7 March 2015

Abstract (provisional)

Background

Community health workers (CHWs) are increasingly recognized as an integral component of the health workforce needed to achieve public health goals in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Many factors intersect to influence CHW performance. A systematic review with a narrative analysis was conducted to identify contextual factors influencing performance of CHWs.

Methods

We searched six databases for quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods studies that included CHWs working in promotional, preventive or curative primary health care services in LMICs. We differentiated CHW performance outcome measures at two levels: CHW level and end-user level. Ninety-four studies met the inclusion criteria and were double read to extract data relevant to the context of CHW programmes. Thematic coding was conducted and evidence on five main categories of contextual factors influencing CHW performance was synthesized.

Results

Few studies had the influence of contextual factors on CHW performance as their primary research focus. Contextual factors related to community (most prominently), economy, environment, and health system policy and practice were found to influence CHW performance.

Socio-cultural factors (including gender norms and values and disease related stigma), safety and security and education and knowledge level of the target group were community factors that influenced CHW performance. Existence of a CHW policy, human resource policy legislation related to CHWs and political commitment were found to be influencing factors within the health system policy context. Health system practice factors included health service functionality, human resources provisions, level of decision-making, costs of health services, and the governance and coordination structure. All contextual factors can interact to shape CHW performance and affect the performance of CHW interventions or programmes.

Conclusions

Research on CHW programmes often does not capture or explicitly discuss the context in which CHW interventions take place. This synthesis situates and discusses the influence of context on CHW and programme performance. Future health policy and systems research should better address the complexity of contextual influences on programmes. This insight can help policy makers and programme managers to develop CHW interventions that adequately address and respond to context to optimise performance

Editorial

[Health research improves healthcare: now we have the evidence and the chance to help the WHO spread such benefits globally](#)

Stephen R Hanney^{1*} and Miguel A González-Block²

Author Affiliations

Health Research Policy and Systems 2015, 13:12 doi:10.1186/s12961-015-0006-y

Published: 3 March 2015

Abstract

There has been a dramatic increase in the body of evidence demonstrating the benefits that come from health research. In 2014, the funding bodies for higher education in the UK conducted an assessment of research using an approach termed the Research Excellence Framework (REF). As one element of the REF, universities and medical schools in the UK submitted 1,621 case studies claiming to show the impact of their health and other life sciences research conducted over the last 20 years. The recently published results show many case studies were judged positively as providing examples of the wide range and extensive nature of the benefits from such research, including the development of new treatments and screening programmes that resulted in considerable reductions in mortality and morbidity.

Analysis of specific case studies yet again illustrates the international dimension of progress in health research; however, as has also long been argued, not all populations fully share the benefits. In recognition of this, in May 2013 the World Health Assembly requested the World Health Organization (WHO) to establish a Global Observatory on Health Research and Development (R&D) as part of a strategic work-plan to promote innovation, build capacity, improve access, and mobilise resources to address diseases that disproportionately affect the world's poorest countries.

As editors of Health Research Policy and Systems (HARPS), we are delighted that our journal has been invited to help inform the establishment of the WHO Global Observatory through a Call for Papers covering a range of topics relevant to the Observatory, including topics on which HARPS has published articles over the last few months, such as approaches to assessing research results, measuring expenditure data with a focus on R&D, and landscape analyses of platforms for implementing R&D. Topics related to research capacity building may also be considered. The task of establishing a Global Observatory on Health R&D to achieve the specified objectives will not be easy; nevertheless, this Call for Papers is well timed – it comes

just at the point where the evidence of the benefits from health research has been considerably strengthened.

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 7 March 2015]

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

[No new relevant content]

International Health

Volume 7 Issue 2 March 2015

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

Special issue: Digital methods in epidemiology

[Digital methods in epidemiology can transform disease control](#)

Extract

Modern society has been transformed by the digital revolution through cellular phones for communication, remote sensing of weather and other terrestrial data, cheap and plentiful digital computation and data storage, genomic sequencing and analysis, GPS for geolocation and navigation, and many other marvels. These advances have been concurrent with major changes in the burden, dynamics and distributions of diseases. The burden of disease remains intolerably high in much of the world,¹ and current challenges facing epidemiology include reducing the prevalence of both communicable and non-communicable diseases,¹ completing

the Global Polio Eradication Initiative,² developing strategies to control and eliminate malaria,^{2,3} and responding to outbreaks of emerging infectious diseases such as the recent Ebola epidemic.⁴ In this special issue of International Health, the authors illustrate both the ways in which modern digital methods are already being applied to these current challenges in epidemiology and also the opportunities for even greater impact.

Advancing digital methods in the fight against communicable diseases

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Abstract

Important advances are being made in the fight against communicable diseases by using new digital tools. While they can be a challenge to deploy at-scale, GPS-enabled smartphones, electronic dashboards and computer models have multiple benefits. They can facilitate program operations, lead to new insights about the disease transmission and support strategic planning. Today, tools such as these are used to vaccinate more children against polio in Nigeria, reduce the malaria burden in Zambia and help predict the spread of the Ebola epidemic in West Africa.

The promise of reverse vaccinology

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Received October 22, 2014.

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Accepted January 7, 2015.

Abstract

Reverse vaccinology (RV) is a computational approach that aims to identify putative vaccine candidates in the protein coding genome (proteome) of pathogens. RV has primarily been applied to bacterial pathogens to identify proteins that can be formulated into subunit vaccines, which consist of one or more protein antigens. An RV approach based on a filtering method has already been used to construct a subunit vaccine against *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup B that is now registered in several countries (Bexsero). Recently, machine learning methods have been used to improve the ability of RV approaches to identify vaccine candidates. Further improvements related to the incorporation of epitope-binding annotation and gene expression data are discussed. In the future, it is envisaged that RV approaches will facilitate rapid vaccine design with less reliance on conventional animal testing and clinical trials in order to curb the threat of antibiotic resistance or newly emerged outbreaks of bacterial origin.

Poverty, health and satellite-derived vegetation indices: their inter-spatial relationship in West Africa

Luigi Sedda, Andrew J. Tatem, David W. Morley, Peter M. Atkinson, Nicola A. Wardrop, Carla Pezzulo, Alessandro Sorichetta, Joanna Kuleszo, and David J. Rogers

Int. Health (2015) 7 (2): 99-106 doi:10.1093/inthealth/ihv005

Abstract

Background

Previous analyses have shown the individual correlations between poverty, health and satellite-derived vegetation indices such as the normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI). However, generally these analyses did not explore the statistical interconnections between poverty, health outcomes and NDVI.

Methods

In this research aspatial methods (principal component analysis) and spatial models (variography, factorial kriging and cokriging) were applied to investigate the correlations and spatial relationships between intensity of poverty, health (expressed as child mortality and undernutrition), and NDVI for a large area of West Africa.

Results

This research showed that the intensity of poverty (and hence child mortality and nutrition) varies inversely with NDVI. From the spatial point-of-view, similarities in the spatial variation of intensity of poverty and NDVI were found.

Conclusions

These results highlight the utility of satellite-based metrics for poverty models including health and ecological components and, in general for large scale analysis, estimation and optimisation of multidimensional poverty metrics. However, it also stresses the need for further studies on the causes of the association between NDVI, health and poverty. Once these relationships are confirmed and better understood, the presence of this ecological component in poverty metrics has the potential to facilitate the analysis of the impacts of climate change on the rural populations afflicted by poverty and child mortality.

International Journal of Epidemiology

Volume 44 Issue 1 February 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment

Volume 6 Issue 1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction

Volume 11, Pages 1-78 (March 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Infectious Diseases

April 2015 Volume 33, p1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Mass Emergencies & Disasters

November 2014 (VOL. 32, NO. 3)
<http://www.ijmed.org/issues/32/3/>
[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology

Volume 22, Issue 2, 2015

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

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

International Migration Review

Winter 2014 Volume 48, Issue 4 Pages 921–1110

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Intervention – Journal of Mental Health and Psychological Support in Conflict Affected Areas
March 2015 - Volume 13 - Issue 1 pp: 1-102

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

New Frontiers issue of Intervention

Articles

[Surviving juntas \(together\): lessons of resilience of indigenous Quechua women in the aftermath of conflict in Peru](#)

Suarez, Eliana Barrios

[Measuring suffering: assessing chronic stress through hair cortisol measurement in humanitarian settings](#)

Cunningham, Tim

Special Section

Ebola: reflections from the field

[Introduction to the Special Section on Ebola: reflections from the field](#)

Tankink, Marian

Personal reflections

[Mental health and psychosocial support in the face of Ebola in Liberia: the personal and professional intersect. A personal account](#)

Cooper, Janice L.

[The travellers dance: how Ebola prevention measures affect day to day life](#)

Gonzalez, Teresa

Field reports

[Mental illness and health in Sierra Leone affected by Ebola: lessons for health workers](#)

Hughes, Peter

[An outbreak of fear, rumours and stigma: psychosocial support for the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in West Africa](#)

Cheung, Eliza Y.L.

[Psychosocial support during the Ebola outbreak in Kailahun, Sierra Leone](#)

Garoff, Ferdinand

How to eat an elephant: psychosocial support during an Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone

Jónasdóttir, Elín

Announcement

Reaching out a helping hand during Ebola: adaptation of the Psychological First Aid guide

JAMA

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

Online First

March 05, 2015

Editorial

Emergency Treatment for Exposure to Ebola Virus: The Need to Fast-Track Promising Vaccines

Thomas W. Geisbert, PhD.

JAMA. Published online March 05, 2015. doi:10.1001/jama.2015.2057

Ebola virus is among the most deadly pathogens, with case fatality rates of up to 90%.¹ Ebola virus is categorized as a tier 1 pathogen by the US government because of its potential for deliberate misuse with significant potential for mass casualties. The current outbreak of Ebola virus in West Africa with more than 23 000 cases and 9000 deaths² also demonstrates the long-underestimated public health threat that Ebola virus poses as a natural human pathogen. There are no licensed vaccines or postexposure treatments for combating Ebola virus. However, substantial progress has been made in developing vaccines and antivirals that can protect laboratory animals against lethal disease.^{1,3} Advancing these interventions for human use is a matter of utmost urgency.

In this issue of JAMA, Lai et al⁴ report the use of a first-generation recombinant vesicular stomatitis virus–based Ebola vaccine (VSVΔG-ZEBOV)⁵ to treat a physician who experienced a needlestick in an Ebola treatment unit in Sierra Leone during the current Ebola virus outbreak. A single dose of the VSVΔG-ZEBOV vaccine was administered approximately 43 hours after the potential exposure. The patient experienced a transient febrile syndrome after vaccination. Importantly, no evidence of Ebola virus infection was detected, and the vaccine elicited strong innate and Ebola virus–specific adaptive immune responses. Most significantly, the vaccine, which expresses the surface glycoprotein of Ebola virus, was able to induce an IgG antibody response against the Ebola virus glycoprotein at a level that has been associated with protection of nonhuman primates.⁵

It is difficult to draw any definitive conclusions from a single case report. The inability to detect evidence of Ebola virus infection most likely is because there was not an actual exposure; however, it cannot be completely ruled out that the intervention was effective in controlling Ebola virus replication. Even though this patient experienced some adverse events after vaccination, the patient reported having traveler's diarrhea prior to receiving the VSVΔG-ZEBOV vaccine; therefore, it is also not possible to draw any strong conclusions regarding any adverse events from this case in regard to the safety of the vaccine. This is the second time that the VSVΔG-ZEBOV vaccine has been used to treat a potential exposure to Ebola virus. The initial use occurred in 2009 for a laboratory worker in Germany⁶ and also involved a needlestick injury. The results of that incident were nearly identical; however, the severity of adverse events following vaccination was less notable in the German case compared with the patient in the case report by Lai et al...⁴

Preliminary Communication

Emergency Postexposure Vaccination With Vesicular Stomatitis Virus–Vectored Ebola Vaccine After Needlestick

Lilin Lai, MD, Richard Davey, MD, Allison Beck, MPAS, et al.

JAMA. Published online March 05, 2015. doi:10.1001/jama.2015.1995

Abstract

Importance

Safe and effective vaccines and drugs are needed for the prevention and treatment of Ebola virus disease, including following a potentially high-risk exposure such as a needlestick.

Objective

To assess response to postexposure vaccination in a health care worker who was exposed to the Ebola virus.

Design and Setting

Case report of a physician who experienced a needlestick while working in an Ebola treatment unit in Sierra Leone on September 26, 2014. Medical evacuation to the United States was rapidly initiated. Given the concern about potentially lethal Ebola virus disease, the patient was offered, and provided his consent for, postexposure vaccination with an experimental vaccine available through an emergency Investigational New Drug application. He was vaccinated on September 28, 2014.

Interventions

The vaccine used was VSVΔG-ZEBOV, a replicating, attenuated, recombinant vesicular stomatitis virus (serotype Indiana) whose surface glycoprotein gene was replaced by the Zaire Ebola virus glycoprotein gene. This vaccine has entered a clinical trial for the prevention of Ebola in West Africa.

Results

The vaccine was administered 43 hours after the needlestick occurred. Fever and moderate to severe symptoms developed 12 hours after vaccination and diminished over 3 to 4 days. The real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction results were transiently positive for vesicular stomatitis virus nucleoprotein gene and Ebola virus glycoprotein gene (both included in the vaccine) but consistently negative for Ebola virus nucleoprotein gene (not in the vaccine). Early postvaccination cytokine secretion and T lymphocyte and plasmablast activation were detected. Subsequently, Ebola virus glycoprotein-specific antibodies and T cells became detectable, but antibodies against Ebola viral matrix protein 40 (not in the vaccine) were not detected.

Conclusions and Relevance

It is unknown if VSVΔG-ZEBOV is safe or effective for postexposure vaccination in humans who have experienced a high-risk occupational exposure to the Ebola virus, such as a needlestick. In this patient, postexposure vaccination with VSVΔG-ZEBOV induced a self-limited febrile syndrome that was associated with transient detection of the recombinant vesicular stomatitis vaccine virus in blood. Strong innate and Ebola-specific adaptive immune responses were detected after vaccination. The clinical syndrome and laboratory evidence were consistent with vaccination response, and no evidence of Ebola virus infection was detected.

JAMA - March 3, 2015, Vol 313, No. 9

[No new relevant content]

March 2015, Vol 169, No. 3

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

Viewpoint / March 2015

A Landmark Report on Improving Medicines for Children

Geert W. 't Jong, MD, PhD^{1,2}; Terry P. Klassen, MD, MSc, FRCPC^{1,2}; Stuart M. MacLeod, BSc(Med), MD, PhD, FRCPC³

[+] Author Affiliations

Extract

This Viewpoint discusses the publication of the Council of Canadian Academies report "Improving Medicines for Children in Canada."

Children have been classified as "therapeutic orphans" for more than 50 years, but the pediatric community has made important strides toward evidence-based safe and effective drug therapy for children through improved legislation, increased quantity and quality of research, and better stakeholder community involvement. In September 2014, another major step forward was taken with publication of the Council of Canadian Academies report "Improving Medicines for Children in Canada."¹ An international Expert Panel drafted the report, and many North American and European authorities participated in the final review. The Council of Canadian Academies was asked by Canada's federal government to review the status of pediatric therapeutics in Canada, based on the following question: "What is the state of clinical pharmacology, in Canada and abroad, that can be applied to the ethical development of safe and effective pharmaceuticals and biologics labeled as therapies for infants, children and youth?"¹

Journal of Community Health

Volume 40, Issue 2, April 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10900/40/2/page/1>

Commentary

Ebola Therapy and Health Equity

Neil J. Nusbaum

Abstract

Current care for Ebola patients in resource poor countries is hampered by a lack of resources to isolate patients and their close contacts. The current Ebola epidemic offers the opportunity to harvest convalescent serum to help contain this and future outbreaks. A systemic and just process to accomplish this goal can incorporate procedures to improve care for current Ebola patients and their close contacts.

Factors Impacting Influenza Vaccination of Urban Low-Income Latino Children Under Nine Years Requiring Two Doses in the 2010–2011 Season

Annika M. Hofstetter, Angela Barrett, Melissa S. Stockwell

Abstract

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that certain children under 9 years of age receive two influenza vaccine doses in a season for optimal protection. Recent data indicate that many of these children fail to receive one or both of these needed doses. Contributing factors to under-vaccination of this population remain unclear. Caregivers of children aged 6 months–8 years requiring two influenza vaccine doses in the 2010–2011 season were identified from households enrolled in four urban Head Start programs. Recruitment and survey administration were conducted between March and June 2011. The impact of caregiver, provider, and practice-based factors on influenza vaccine receipt was assessed using bivariate

and multivariable logistic regression analyses. Caregivers ($n = 128$) were predominantly mothers, Latina, Spanish-speaking, and non-U.S. born. Few children received one (31 %) or both (7 %) influenza vaccine doses. Caregivers who discussed influenza vaccination with providers were more likely to know their child needed two doses (55 vs. 35 %, $p < 0.05$) and have a fully vaccinated child (11 vs. 0 %, $p < 0.05$). Among caregivers whose child received the first dose, those who reported being told when to return for the second dose were also more likely to have a fully vaccinated child (35 vs. 0 %, $p = 0.05$). Belief in influenza vaccine effectiveness was positively associated with vaccination ($p < 0.001$), while safety concerns were negatively associated ($p < 0.05$). This study highlights the importance of provider-family communication about the two-dose regimen as well as influenza vaccine effectiveness and safety.

Journal of Development Economics

Volume 114, *In Progress* (May 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health

March 2015, Volume 69, Issue 3

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

Child health

The impact of the Iraq War on neonatal polio immunisation coverage: a quasi-experimental study

Valeria Cetorelli

Correspondence to Valeria Cetorelli, Department of Social Policy, London School of Economics

Abstract

Background The public health consequences of the Iraq War (2003–2011) have remained difficult to quantify, mainly due to a scarcity of adequate data. This paper is the first to assess whether and to what extent the war affected neonatal polio immunisation coverage.

Method The study relies on retrospective neonatal polio vaccination histories from the 2000, 2006 and 2011 Iraq Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys ($N=64\,141$). Pooling these surveys makes it possible to reconstruct yearly trends in immunisation coverage from 1996 to 2010. The impact of the war is identified with a difference-in-difference approach contrasting immunisation trends in the autonomous Kurdish provinces, which remained relatively safe during the war, with trends in the central and southern provinces, where violence and disruption were pervasive.

Results After controlling for individual and household characteristics, year of birth and province of residence, children exposed to the war were found to be 21.5 percentage points (95% CI -0.341 to -0.089) less likely to have received neonatal polio immunisation compared with non-exposed children.

Conclusions The decline in neonatal polio immunisation coverage is part of a broader war-induced deterioration of routine maternal and newborn health services. Postwar strategies to promote institutional deliveries and ensure adequate vaccine availability in primary health facilities could increase dramatically the percentage of newborns immunised

Journal of Global Ethics

Volume 10, Issue 3, 2014

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

Tenth Anniversary Forum: The Future of Global Ethics

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Global Infectious Diseases (JGID)

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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

Volume 26, Number 1, February 2015

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_health_care_for_the_poor_and_underserved/toc/hpu.26.1.html

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Management

Volume 4 Issue 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health

Volume 17, Issue 1, February 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies

Volume 12, Issue 4, 2014

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

Special Issue: New Forms of Intolerance in European Political Life

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Infectious Diseases

Volume 211 Issue 5 March 1, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of International Development

March 2015 Volume 27, Issue 2 Pages 155–312

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jid.v27.2/issuetoc>

Research Article

Beyond Aid: A Conceptual Perspective on the Transformation of Development Cooperation

Heiner Janus, Stephan Klingebiel and Sebastian Paulo*

Article first published online: 20 OCT 2014

DOI: 10.1002/jid.3045

Abstract

Development cooperation is part of an international system characterised by fragmentation and limitations in global problem solving. Drawing on the term beyond aid, this article explores the transformation of development cooperation within this system. The article distinguishes four dimensions of beyond aid – actors, finance, regulation and knowledge – where aid loses relevance relative to other fields of international cooperation. Creating links to these beyond aid dimensions is at the core of the transformation of development cooperation. Understanding this transformation as a learning process, the article identifies 'specialisation' and 'integration' as two options for the future of development cooperation.

Research Article

Adjustment and Long-Run Economic Performance in 18 African Countries

Fiseha Gebregziabher*

Article first published online: 28 NOV 2014

DOI: 10.1002/jid.3056

Abstract

This paper investigates the link between IMF-World Bank stabilisation-cum-structural adjustment programs and long-run economic performance in 18 African countries on a country-specific basis for the period 1960–2009. We employ a structural break approach to study the impact on long-run growth trajectories of the introduction of adjustment programs. The analysis reveals that only few countries have shown positive and sustained results. The traditional (first-generation) Fund-Bank adjustment package is linked with sustained increase in Gross Domestic Product, export and investment growth rates only in two countries (Ghana and Uganda). Many African economies remained on their pre-reform growth paths whereas some others experienced growth deceleration, despite more-than-a-decade-long adjustment. Taken as a whole, countries in the CFA franc currency zone fared much worse than their non-CFA counterparts because of the different adjustment strategies pursued.

The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics

Winter 2014 Volume 42, Issue 4 Pages 408–602

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jlme.2014.42.issue-4/issuetoc>

Special Issue: SYMPOSIUM: The Buying and Selling of Health Care

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Medical Ethics

March 2015, Volume 41, Issue 3

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (JPIDS)

Volume 4 Issue 1 March 2015
<http://jpid.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

Mar 07, 2015 Volume 385 Number 9971 p829-914 e16-e20
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/issue/current>

Comment

Morality in a time of Ebola

Arthur L Caplan

Published Online: 19 February 2015

Summary

The first true epidemic of Ebola led to widespread panic. The virus appeared in so many countries in 2014—including Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, and the USA—that WHO, officials at the US National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and many other government officials around the world declared the epidemic to be out of control.^{1,2} Talk of desperation and apocalypse with reference to Ebola is not uncommon.³ Previous Ebola outbreaks were rapidly contained through a combination of local attentiveness, the availability of resources, focused public education, and a bit of luck.

The Lancet Global Health

Volume 3, No. 3, e162–e168, March 2015
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/issue/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

The Lancet Infectious Diseases

Mar 2015 Volume 15 Number 3 p249-360

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

Editorial

[Global harmonisation in vaccine price](#)

[The Lancet Infectious Diseases](#)

Summary

On Jan 20, 2015, Médecins Sans Frontières published the second edition of the report *The right shot: bringing down barriers to affordable and adapted vaccines*. The report highlighted the lack of a rational pricing system for vaccines that serves all countries and populations, and, as a consequence, private and public health providers struggle to sustain the costs of immunisation campaigns in many settings. Several factors, such as limited information on vaccine prices, introduction of costly new vaccines, absence of competition in vaccine production, and a paucity of vaccine products suited for low-resource settings, have created a market in which children in many countries are unprotected against life-threatening—but preventable—diseases.

Comment

[Novel observational study designs with new influenza vaccines](#)

[Eelko Hak](#)

Published Online: 08 February 2015

Summary

In *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, Hector Izurieta and colleagues¹ presented results of a cohort study in 929 730 older people (65 years and older) who received a high-dose influenza vaccine (high-dose Fluzone, Sanofi Pasteur, PA, USA, 60 µg per strain) and compared rates of influenza-related visits and hospital admissions with 1 615 545 older people who received a standard dose of the same vaccine (15 µg per strain). The high-dose vaccine seemed to be 22% more effective than the standard-dose vaccine.

[Comparative effectiveness of high-dose versus standard-dose influenza vaccines in US residents aged 65 years and older from 2012 to 2013 using Medicare data: a retrospective cohort analysis](#)

Hector S Izurieta, Nicole Thadani, David K Shay, Yun Lu, Aaron Maurer, Ivo M Foppa, Riley Franks, Douglas Pratt, Richard A Forshee, Thomas MaCurdy, Chris Worrall, Andrew E Howery, Jeffrey Kelman

[Summary](#) [Full-Text](#) [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

[Effect of use of 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine in children on invasive pneumococcal disease in children and adults in the USA: analysis of multisite, population-based surveillance](#)

Matthew R Moore, Ruth Link-Gelles, William Schaffner, Ruth Lynfield, Catherine Lexau, Nancy M Bennett, Susan Petit, Shelley M Zansky, Lee H Harrison, Arthur Reingold, Lisa Miller, Karen Scherzinger, Ann Thomas, Monica M Farley, Elizabeth R Zell, Thomas H Taylor, Tracy Pondo, Loren Rodgers, Lesley McGee, Bernard Beall, James H Jorgensen, Cynthia G Whitney

[Summary](#) [Full-Text](#) [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

[Chains of transmission and control of Ebola virus disease in Conakry, Guinea, in 2014: an observational study](#)

Ousmane Faye, Pierre-Yves Boëlle, Emmanuel Heleze, Oumar Faye, Cheikh Loucoubar, N'Faly Magassouba, Barré Soropogui, Sakoba Keita, Tata Gakou, El Hadji Ibrahima Bah, Lamine Koivogui, Amadou Alpha Sall, Simon Cauchemez

[Summary](#) [Full-Text](#) [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Review

[The development of global vaccine stockpiles](#)

Dr Catherine Yen, MD, Terri B Hyde, MD, Alejandro J Costa, MSc, Katya Fernandez, MSc, John S Tam, PhD, Stéphane Hugonnet, MD, Anne M Huvos, JD, Philippe Duclos, PhD, Vance J Dietz, MD, Brenton T Burkholder, MD

Published Online: 05 February 2015

Summary

Global vaccine stockpiles, in which vaccines are reserved for use when needed for emergencies or supply shortages, have effectively provided countries with the capacity for rapid response to emergency situations, such as outbreaks of yellow fever and meningococcal meningitis. The high cost and insufficient supply of many vaccines, including oral cholera vaccine and pandemic influenza vaccine, have prompted discussion on expansion of the use of vaccine stockpiles to address a wider range of emerging and re-emerging diseases. However, the decision to establish and maintain a vaccine stockpile is complex and must take account of disease and vaccine characteristics, stockpile management, funding, and ethical concerns, such as equity. Past experience with global vaccine stockpiles provide valuable information about the processes for their establishment and maintenance. In this Review we explored existing literature and stockpile data to discuss the lessons learned and to inform the development of future vaccine stockpiles.

Personal View

Emergency Ebola response: a new approach to the rapid design and development of vaccines against emerging diseases

Claire M Tully, BA[Mod], Teresa Lambe, PhD, Prof Sarah C Gilbert, PhD, Prof Adrian V S Hill, DM

Published Online: 13 January 2015

1. Summary

The epidemic of Ebola virus disease has spread at an alarming rate despite containment efforts. As a result, unprecedented large-scale international response efforts have been made in an attempt to gain control of the outbreak and reduce transmission. Several international consortia have been formed in a remarkable worldwide collaborative effort to expedite trials of two candidate Ebola virus vaccines: cAd3-EBOZ and rVSV-EBOV. In parallel, both vaccines are being manufactured in large amounts to enable future rapid deployment for management of the crisis.

Maternal and Child Health Journal

Volume 19, Issue 3, March 2015

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

[New issue; No relevant content]

The Milbank Quarterly

A Multidisciplinary Journal of Population Health and Health Policy

March 2015 Volume 93, Issue 1 Pages 1–222

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

Op-Ed

Good Science + Good Ethics = Good Law: Five Rules for Epidemic Preparedness

LAWRENCE O. GOSTIN*

Article first published online: 5 MAR 2015

DOI: 10.1111/1468-0009.12100

[No abstract]

Nature

Volume 519 Number 7541 pp5-124 5 March 2015

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

Editorial

Fatal fallout

The Ebola epidemic has had a dire effect on the health prospects of pregnant women.

04 March 2015

Features

Maternal health: Ebola's lasting legacy

One of the most devastating consequences of the Ebola outbreak will be its impact on maternal health.

Erika Check Hayden

04 March 2015

New England Journal of Medicine

March 5, 2015 Vol. 372 No. 10

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

Perspective

Making Hepatitis E a Vaccine-Preventable Disease

Eyasu Teshale, M.D., and John W. Ward, M.D.

N Engl J Med 2015; 372:899-901 [March 5, 2015](#) DOI: 10.1056/NEJMp1415240

A hepatitis E vaccine could become a powerful new tool in the prevention and control of hepatitis E virus transmission and disease. Most immediately, it can have a role in curbing outbreaks of hepatitis E in humanitarian crises.

Original Article

Long-Term Efficacy of a Hepatitis E Vaccine

Jun Zhang, M.Sc., Xue-Feng Zhang, M.Sc., Shou-Jie Huang, M.Sc., Ting Wu, Ph.D., Yue-Mei Hu, M.Sc., Zhong-Ze Wang, B.Sc., Hua Wang, M.D., Han-Min Jiang, B.Sc., Yi-Jun Wang, M.Sc., Qiang Yan, M.Sc., Meng Guo, B.Sc., Xiao-Hui Liu, B.Sc., Jing-Xin Li, M.Sc., Chang-Lin Yang, B.Sc., Quan Tang, B.Sc., Ren-Jie Jiang, M.Sc., Hui-Rong Pan, Ph.D., Yi-Min Li, M.D., J. Wai-Kuo Shih, Ph.D., Mun-Hon Ng, Ph.D., Feng-Cai Zhu, M.Sc., and Ning-Shao Xia

N Engl J Med 2015; 372:914-922 [March 5, 2015](#) DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1406011

Abstract

Background

Hepatitis E virus (HEV) is a leading cause of acute hepatitis. The long-term efficacy of a hepatitis E vaccine needs to be determined.

Methods

In an initial efficacy study, we randomly assigned healthy adults 16 to 65 years of age to receive three doses of either a hepatitis E vaccine (vaccine group; 56,302 participants) or a hepatitis B vaccine (control group; 56,302 participants). The vaccines were administered at 0, 1, and 6 months, and the participants were followed for 19 months. In this extended follow-up study, the treatment assignments of all participants remained double-blinded, and follow-up assessments of efficacy, immunogenicity, and safety were continued for up to 4.5 years.

Results

During the 4.5-year study period, 60 cases of hepatitis E were identified; 7 cases were confirmed in the vaccine group (0.3 cases per 10,000 person-years), and 53 cases in the control group (2.1 cases per 10,000 person-years), representing a vaccine efficacy of 86.8% (95% confidence interval, 71 to 94) in the modified intention-to-treat analysis. Of the participants who were assessed for immunogenicity and were seronegative at baseline, 87% of those who received three doses of the hepatitis E vaccine maintained antibodies against HEV for at least 4.5 years; HEV antibody titers developed in 9% in the control group. The rate of adverse events was similar in the two groups.

Conclusions

Immunization with this hepatitis E vaccine induced antibodies against HEV and provided protection against hepatitis E for up to 4.5 years. (Funded by the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology and others; ClinicalTrials.gov number, [NCT01014845](#).)

Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly

February 2015; 44 (1)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration

Volume 4, No. 2 December 2014

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Pediatrics

March 2015, VOLUME 135 / ISSUE 3

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

Advancing Informed Consent for Vulnerable Populations

William J. Heerman, MD, MPH^a, Richard O. White, MD, MSc^b, and Shari L. Barkin, MD, MSH^a

Author Affiliations

^aDepartment of Pediatrics, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee; and

^bDivision of Community Internal Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, Florida

Extract

Informed consent is essential for the conduct of ethical biomedical research.¹ Despite its importance, obtaining informed consent is often a complex process, which raises concerns about the extent to which participants are truly informed. Effective implementation is especially difficult among research participants who have limited health literacy. Often, these potential participants are from traditionally high-risk groups, including underrepresented minorities and children. With this in mind, we suggest an innovative approach that uses low health-literacy communication strategies and visual aids to augment and potentially replace the traditional approach to informed consent.

The tension is clear. To provide a comprehensive review of the proposed research, the informed consent document and process are often lengthy, complex, and burdensome.² Consequently, research participants who sign or verbalize consent often do so without truly understanding the form that they are being asked to sign. In a recent systematic review, participants in one-third of trials assessed did not have adequate understanding in the areas of

risks, benefits, randomization, study aims, withdrawal, and voluntarism.³ There are no clear standards for “how much” understanding is adequate. Furthermore, we know that lower education levels, lower literacy, and a participant’s primary language are all associated with poor comprehension of the informed consent process.⁴ These issues are particularly important when studies are being done in children, adding an additional dimension to vulnerable populations....

Vaccination, Underlying Comorbidities, and Risk of Invasive Pneumococcal Disease

Inci Yildirim, MD, MSc^{a,b}, Kimberly M. Shea, DSc, MPH^{a,b}, Brent A. Little, PhD^a, Amy L. Silverio, MA^a, and Stephen I. Pelton, MD^{a,b} on behalf of the Members of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Author Affiliations

^aSection of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Boston University Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts; and

^bDepartment of Epidemiology, Boston University, School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts

Abstract

OBJECTIVES: Children with underlying conditions remain at increased risk for invasive pneumococcal diseases (IPD). This study describes the epidemiology, serotype distribution, clinical presentations, and outcomes of IPD in children with and without comorbidity.

METHODS: Cases of childhood IPD in Massachusetts were identified via enhanced surveillance from 2002 through 2014. Demographic and clinical data were collected via follow-up telephone interviews with parents and/or primary care providers. Underlying conditions were classified according to the 2012 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases and 2013 recommendations by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

RESULTS: Among 1052 IPD cases in Massachusetts children <18 years old, 22.1% had at least 1 comorbidity. Immunocompromising conditions (32.7%) and chronic respiratory diseases (22.4%) were most common. Children with comorbidities were older at the time of IPD diagnosis (median 54 vs 23 months, $P < .001$), had higher hospitalization (odds ratio 2.5; 95% confidence interval 1.7–3.6) and case-fatality rates (odds ratio 3.7; 95% confidence interval 1.5–8.9) compared with children without known underlying conditions after adjusting for age, gender, year of diagnosis, and pneumococcal vaccination status. During the last 2 years of the study, IPD among children with comorbidities was caused by non-pneumococcal conjugate vaccine 13 serotypes in 23-valent polysaccharide pneumococcal vaccine (6/12, 50%) or serotypes that are not included in any of the vaccines (6/12; 50%).

CONCLUSIONS: In children with comorbidity, IPD results in higher mortality, and a large proportion of disease is due to serotypes not included in current conjugate vaccines. Further research is needed, specifically to develop and evaluate additional strategies for prevention of IPD in the most vulnerable children.

PLOS Currents: Disasters

[Accessed 7 March 2015]

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

The Humanitarian Situation in Syria: A Snapshot in the Third Year of the Crisis

March 3, 2015 · Research article

Between April and June 2014, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), an International NGO, and the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East (GOPA) conducted a needs assessment of Syrians affected by the crisis with the objective of gaining a

better understanding of humanitarian needs and assistance priorities. Findings suggest that interventions that increase access to non-food items, food, medication and education should be prioritized where cost was the primary barrier to accessing goods and services. Cash transfer programs and direct provision of material assistance should be considered, though the most appropriate assistance modality is likely to vary by sector, location and the preferences and prior experience of donors and implementing organizations. Renewed international commitment to funding humanitarian assistance efforts in Syria and neighboring countries where the burden of refugees is greatest is essential from both a human rights perspective and in terms of maintaining stability in the region.

PLoS Currents: Outbreaks

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

(Accessed 7 March 2015)

[No new relevant content]

PLoS Medicine

(Accessed 7 March 2015)

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

[No new relevant content]

PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases

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

(Accessed 7 March 2015)

[No new relevant content]

PLoS One

[Accessed 7 March 2015]

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

[Pertussis Post-Exposure Prophylaxis among Household Contacts: A Cost-Utility Analysis](#)

Nisha Thampi, Ipek Gurol-Urganci, Natasha S. Crowcroft, Beate Sander

Research Article | published 06 Mar 2015 | PLOS ONE 10.1371/journal.pone.0119271

PLoS Pathogens

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

(Accessed 7 March 2015)

[No new relevant content]

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

(Accessed 7 March 2015)

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

[No new relevant content]

Prehospital & Disaster Medicine

Volume 30 - Issue 01 - February 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Public Health Ethics

Volume 7 Issue 3 November 2014

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Qualitative Health Research

April 2015; 25 (4)

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

Special Issue: Perceptions of Caregivers

[Exploring the Mental Health Effects of Political Trauma With Newly Arrived Refugees](#)

Patricia J. Shannon¹, Elizabeth Wieling¹, Jennifer Simmelink McCleary², Emily Becher¹

¹University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA

²Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Abstract

We explored the mental health effects of war trauma and torture as described by 111 refugees newly arrived in the United States. We used ethnocultural methodologies to inform 13 culture-specific focus groups with refugees from Bhutan (34), Burma (23), Ethiopia (27), and Somalia (27). Contrary to the belief that stigma prevents refugees from discussing mental health distress, participants readily described complex conceptualizations of degrees of mental health distress informed by political context, observation of symptoms, cultural idioms, and functional impairment. Recommendations for health care providers include assessment processes that inquire about symptoms in their political context, the degree of distress as it is culturally conceptualized, and its effect on functioning. Findings confirm the cross-cultural recognition of symptoms associated with posttraumatic stress disorder; however, refugees described significant cultural variation in expressions of distress, indicating the need for more research on culture-bound disorders and idioms of distress.

[Vicarious Resilience in Counselors of Child and Youth Victims of Interpersonal Trauma](#)

Fabiane S. Silveira¹, Wanda Boyer²

¹Open Doors Movement, Florianópolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil

²University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

Abstract

In this study, we investigated how bearing witness to clients' resilience processes during treatment impacts the personal and professional lives of counselors who work with child and youth victims of interpersonal trauma. We used a qualitative instrumental multiple-case study design and thematic analysis to explore the research question. The participants indicated that they experienced an increased sense of hope and optimism, and were inspired by the strengths

of their clients while working with this population. As the participants reflected on the challenges that their clients faced, the participants put their own challenges and strengths into perspective; they reported positive changes in their personal relationships. We suggest that future research might investigate the relationships we found between optimism, hope, and vicarious resilience processes, as well as the potential relationship between the counseling approach that counselors adopt and the development of vicarious resilience responses.

Refugee Survey Quarterly

Volume 34 Issue 1 March 2015

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Resilience: International Policies, Practices and Discourses

Volume 3, Issue 1, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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

December 2014 Vol. 36, No. 6

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Risk Analysis

January 2015 Volume 35, Issue 1 Pages 1–177

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Science

6 March 2015 vol 347, issue 6226, pages 1041-1168

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

Perspective

Infectious Disease

[A sustainable model for antibiotics](#)

Manos Perros

Author Affiliations

AstraZeneca Innovative Medicines and Early Development, Gatehouse Drive, Waltham, MA 02451, USA.

Despite the alarming increase in the prevalence of drug-resistant bacterial infections, far fewer new antibiotics have been approved in the past decade than at the peak in the 1980s (1).

The situation is particularly alarming for serious infections by Gram-negative bacteria, some of which are becoming untreatable by modern antibiotics (2–4). Particularly in low- and middle-income countries, untreatable infections are becoming an everyday reality in hospital and care settings (5). Increasing recognition of this problem is spurring a number of public and private initiatives on both sides of the Atlantic (6–8). To more effectively counter the threat of emerging resistance, we must increase the number of innovative new antibiotics in development and harness advances in diagnostic technology to preserve their efficacy.

Perspective

Infectious Disease

A return to the pre-antimicrobial era?

Stephen Baker^{1,2,3}

Author Affiliations

1Hospital for Tropical Diseases, Wellcome Trust Major Overseas Programme, Oxford University Clinical Research Unit, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

2Centre for Tropical Medicine, Oxford University, Oxford, UK.

3London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK.

After many years out of the limelight, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in bacteria is firmly back on the international political and scientific agenda (1, 2). The potential impact of AMR on hospital-acquired bacterial infections such as *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Acinetobacter baumannii* in higher-income countries has created both fear and a surge of motivation aimed at providing new solutions for the problem (3, 4). The political will and momentum to tackle AMR lies in higher-income countries, but the medical, social, and economic effects of AMR are likely to be felt more in lower-income countries, particularly those in South and Southeast Asia and in sub-Saharan Africa. The identification and development of new drugs is a potential solution but is challenging and costly; any novel therapies introduced into low-income settings without a suitable infrastructure to understand and prevent the rapid development of resistance will likely be expensive and futile.

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 7 March 2015]

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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
[Reviewed earlier]

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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