

# **The Sentinel**

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

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**25 April 2015**

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

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

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

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

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### **:: Week in Review**

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

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### **Migrant Crossings – Mediterranean**

#### **Joint statement on Mediterranean crossings**

23 April 2015

UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres

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

Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for International Migration and

Development Peter Sutherland  
Director-General of the International Organization for Migration William Lacy Swing

A tragedy of epic proportions is unfolding in the Mediterranean. We, the undersigned [*above*], strongly urge European leaders to put human life, rights, and dignity first today when agreeing upon a common response to the humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean.

The European Union is founded on the fundamental principles of humanity, solidarity and respect for human rights. We urge EU Member States to demonstrate moral and political leadership in adopting a holistic and forward-looking action plan centred upon these values.

The European Union response needs to go beyond the present minimalist approach in the 10 Point Plan on Migration, announced by the EU on Monday, which focuses primarily on stemming the arrival of migrants and refugees on its shores. As a paramount principle, the safety, protection needs, and human rights of all migrants and refugees should be at the forefront of the EU response. EU leaders must look beyond the present situation and work closely with transit and origin countries both to alleviate the immediate plight of migrants and refugees and address in a more comprehensive way the many factors that drive them to resort to such desperate journeys by sea. Enforcement alone will not solve the issue of irregular migration, but could increase the risks and abuse faced by migrants and refugees.

We would therefore encourage bold, collective action to expand the range of measures under consideration to include:

- :: Setting in place a State-led, robust, proactive, and well-resourced search-and-rescue operation, urgently and without delay, with a capacity similar to Mare Nostrum and a clear mission to save lives.
- :: Creating sufficient channels for safe and regular migration, including for low-skilled migrant workers and individuals in need of family reunification, and access to protection where needed, as safe alternatives to resorting to smugglers.
- :: Making a firm commitment to receive significantly higher numbers of refugees through EU-wide resettlement, in addition to current quotas, and on a scale which will make a real impact, combined with other legal means for refugees to reach safety.
- :: Bolstering arrangements to support those countries receiving the most arrivals (Italy, Malta, and Greece) and to distribute responsibility more equitably across the European Union for saving lives and protecting all those in need.
- :: Combatting racist and xenophobic rhetoric vilifying migrants and refugees.

### **[IMO Secretary-General calls for coordinated efforts to safeguard migrants](#)**

International Maritime Organization

20/04/2015

*Deaths of hundreds of migrants in the Mediterranean highlight need for urgent coordinated action.*

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Mr. Koji Sekimizu, today (20 April) called for coordinated action to safeguard migrants, following the most recent incident involving large-scale loss of life in the Mediterranean.

While recognizing the significant contribution of the coast guards and naval forces of Italy and Malta, EU Operation Triton and the merchant shipping industry in rescuing thousands of migrants, Mr Sekimizu said:

"The deaths of hundreds of migrants drowned in the Mediterranean within sight of a potential rescue ship once again highlight the need for urgent action to be taken against those unscrupulous criminals whose greed and lack of respect for human life allow them to cram hundreds of innocent, desperate people into unsuitable craft with no concern for their safety. At the same time, I call upon Governments and the wider international community to expedite their efforts to take coordinated action to safeguard migrants and to manage the flow of migrants across borders in ways that do not lead to them being exploited and taken to sea in unsafe craft".

He added, "The international maritime search and rescue system created through IMO instruments was not designed to handle the huge flows of migrants that are currently being seen in the Mediterranean. In being compelled to embark these unsafe vessels, migrants are effectively being put into extreme danger as soon as they leave shore. The fact that migrants are drowning within sight of their would-be rescuers is testament to the dangers they face and every effort should be taken to find safer, managed routes for migrants."

The Secretary General of IMO hosted an Inter-agency, High-Level Meeting to Address Unsafe Mixed Migration by Sea at IMO Headquarters (4-5 March 2015) to facilitate dialogue and promote enhanced cooperation and harmonization between United Nations agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, Governments and the shipping industry.

### **Special meeting of the European Council, 23 April 2015 - statement**

23/04/2015

*Statement and remarks - 204/15*

1. The situation in the Mediterranean is a tragedy. The European Union will mobilise all efforts at its disposal to prevent further loss of life at sea and to tackle the root causes of the human emergency that we face, in cooperation with the countries of origin and transit. Our immediate priority is to prevent more people from dying at sea.

2. We have therefore decided to strengthen our presence at sea, to fight the traffickers, to prevent illegal migration flows and to reinforce internal solidarity and responsibility. Given that instability in Libya creates an ideal environment for the criminal activities of traffickers, we will actively support all UN-led efforts towards re-establishing government authority in Libya. We will also step up efforts to address conflict and instability as key push factors of migration, including in Syria.

3. We today commit to:

*Strengthening our presence at sea*

a) rapidly reinforce EU Operations Triton and Poseidon by at least tripling the financial resources for this purpose in 2015 and 2016 and reinforcing the number of assets, thus allowing to increase the search and rescue possibilities within the mandate of FRONTEX. We

welcome the commitments already made by Member States which will allow to reach this objective in the coming weeks;

*Fighting traffickers in accordance with international law*

b) disrupt trafficking networks, bring the perpetrators to justice and seize their assets, through swift action by Member State authorities in co-operation with EUROPOL, FRONTEX, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and EUROJUST, as well as through increased intelligence and police-cooperation with third countries;

c) undertake systematic efforts to identify, capture and destroy vessels before they are used by traffickers;

d) at the same time, the High Representative is invited to immediately begin preparations for a possible CSDP operation to this effect;

e) use EUROPOL to detect and request removal of internet content used by traffickers to attract migrants and refugees, in accordance with national constitutions;

*Preventing illegal migration flows*

f) increase support to Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, Mali and Niger among others, to monitor and control the land borders and routes, building on current CSDP operations in the region, as well as on regional cooperation frameworks (Rabat and Khartoum processes); step up dialogue with the African Union at all levels on all these issues;

g) reinforce our political cooperation with African partners at all levels in order to tackle the cause of illegal migration and combat the smuggling and trafficking of human beings. The EU will raise these issues with the African Union and the key countries concerned, with whom it will propose the holding of a summit in Malta in the coming months;

h) step up cooperation with Turkey in view of the situation in Syria and Iraq;

i) deploy European migration liaison officers in key countries to gather information on migratory flows, co-ordinate with national liaison officers, and co-operate directly with the local authorities;

j) work with regional partners in building capacity for maritime border management and search and rescue operations;

k) launch Regional Development and Protection programmes for North Africa and the Horn of Africa;

l) invite the Commission and the High Representative to mobilise all tools, including through development cooperation and the implementation of EU and national readmission agreements with third countries, to promote readmission of unauthorised economic migrants to countries of origin and transit, working closely with the International Organisation for Migration;

m) while respecting the right to seek asylum, set up a new return programme for the rapid return of illegal migrants from frontline Member States, coordinated by FRONTEX;

*Reinforcing internal solidarity and responsibility*

n) rapid and full transposition and effective implementation of the Common European Asylum System by all participating Member States, thereby ensuring common European standards under existing legislation;

o) increase emergency aid to frontline Member States and consider options for organising emergency relocation between all Member States on a voluntary basis;

p) deploy EASO teams in frontline Member States for joint processing of asylum applications, including registration and finger-printing;

q) set up a first voluntary pilot project on resettlement across the EU, offering places to persons qualifying for protection.

4. The EU institutions and the Member States will work immediately on the full implementation of these orientations. The Presidency and the Commission will present next week a roadmap setting out work up to June.

5. The European Council looks forward to the Commission Communication on a European Agenda for Migration, in order to develop a more systemic and geographically comprehensive approach to migration. The European Council will remain seized of the situation and will closely monitor the implementation of these orientations. The Council and the Commission will report to the European Council in June.

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## Syria

### ***Editor's Note:***

*At another extraordinary meeting of the UN Security Council on 24 April 2015, the conflict in Syria and the humanitarian crisis it has spawned was the focus of debate. We provide links to the video capture of this meeting below and invite readers to invest the time to view this compelling documentation. For convenience, the full text of selected remarks made during the meeting and other documentation are also included below.*

### **VIDEO: 24 Apr 2015 - Informal comments to the media by Ms. Valerie Amos, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, and Mr. António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, on Syria.**

Valerie Amos (OCHA) and António Guterres (UNHCR) on Syria - Security Council media stakeouts [4:24]

<http://webtv.un.org/watch/valerie-amos-ocha-and-ant%C3%B3nio-guterres-unhcr-on-syria-security-council-media-stakeouts-24-april-2015/4194616263001>

### **VIDEO: 24 Apr 2015 (Part 1) The situation in the Middle East - Security Council, 7433rd meeting** [2:24]

24 Apr 2015 - The situation in the Middle East Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014) (S/2015/264)

Reports by Ms. Valerie Amos, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, and Mr. António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, on Syria and others.

<http://webtv.un.org/watch/part-1-the-situation-in-the-middle-east-security-council-7433rd-meeting/4194930015001>

### **VIDEO (Part 2) The situation in the Middle East - Security Council, 7433rd meeting** [1:14]

24 Apr 2015 - The situation in the Middle East Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014)

S/2015/264

<http://webtv.un.org/watch/part-2-the-situation-in-the-middle-east-security-council-7433rd-meeting/4194983195001>

**[Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos Briefing to the Security Council on Syria, New York 24 April 2015](#)**

Report from UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Published on 24 Apr 2015

Download PDF (43.15 KB)

*As delivered*

Since my first briefing to the Council on Syria some three years ago, we have sat in this chamber many times and borne witness to the spiraling violence and growing despair in the country. Each time, I speak of atrocity after atrocity; violation after violation; misery after misery. And, despite the Council's unity on the appalling humanitarian consequences of the conflict and three resolutions demanding protection for civilians and full humanitarian access, the government, armed and terrorist groups continue to kill, maim, rape, torture and take Syria to new lows that seemed unimaginable a few years ago.

People have become numb to figures that should, every day, shock our collective conscience and spur urgent action. More than 220,000 people have been killed; over one million injured. More than 7.6 million people are displaced within Syria and nearly four million have sought refuge in neighbouring countries. People risk their lives if they stay, and some when they leave as we have seen with those who have drowned in the Mediterranean.

We need the numbness to the senseless violence and the apparent apathy to end.

Violence has continued to escalate in a number of areas of the country. In the past weeks alone well over 100,000 people have been displaced by fighting in Idlib; many of them for the second time. More than 1,500 people have been injured. But none of the three hospitals that were operating less than a month ago are functioning. There is nowhere for those seeking medical help to go.

And despite the Council's concerted action on the removal and destruction of chemical weapons, there are fresh allegations that chemical weapons have been used again in Idlib, killing and injuring civilians.

Civilians in Aleppo also continue to be subjected to indiscriminate fire from the air and from underground, with barrel bombs dropped on opposition-controlled parts of Aleppo city and tunnel bombs exploding under government-controlled districts. And it is civilians who are paying the heaviest price.

The Council has been briefed extensively on the situation in Yarmouk, once a symbol of Syrian hospitality with refugees and host communities living side by side. Today people have reached new levels of despair.

Hundreds of thousands of people elsewhere in the country also remain besieged. There is a daily struggle for survival as they remain trapped and out of our reach, subjected to collective punishment. Full and unimpeded humanitarian access remains a priority.

Humanitarian workers, often at great risk to themselves, are responding as best they can throughout the country including through cross-border operations.

On March 26th, a team of United Nations humanitarian workers and Syrian Arab Red Crescent volunteers delivering humanitarian supplies in Ar Rastan was briefly detained by a non-state armed group. ISIL has continued to inhibit the delivery of aid and this month has even prevented polio vaccines from reaching hundreds of thousands of children under five years old. The Government has finally approved a number of interagency convoys and critical food and education assessments but there continue to be restrictions in aid delivery that limit our capacity to deliver. Last month I called on the Council to remind government security forces that all aid – particularly medical and surgical supplies – must be allowed on convoys. Despite these calls, and the approval of civilian authorities, Government security forces again removed all surgical supplies from the trucks destined for Ar Rastan in Homs governorate, depriving people of urgently needed treatments.

In resolution 2139, the Council expressed its intent to take further steps in the case of non-compliance with the resolution.

Fourteen months later, there continues to be a shocking lack of respect for the most basic rules of international humanitarian law and a total absence of accountability. The failure to stop the violence has undermined the credibility of this Council and eroded confidence in the international community to take its responsibilities seriously. Billions of dollars have been pledged for humanitarian assistance, which we welcome, but the people of Syria, rightly, want more. They want an end to the war which has ravaged their country and destroyed lives and livelihoods.

I am appealing to the Council to look seriously at all the options at its disposal which could help to bring an end to the violence in Syria, stop the violations of international law, protect civilians and ensure humanitarian access. Some are practically difficult, others contentious, but given the conditions ordinary Syrians have to face I ask the Council to consider the following:

First, demand that attacks on education and health facilities cease and schools and hospitals become zones of peace. This is in line with resolution 2139 in which the Council 'demands that all parties demilitarize medical facilities, schools and other civilian facilities and avoid establishing military positions in populated areas and desist from attacks directed against civilian objects'.

Second, a specific Security Council Mandate to the Commission of Inquiry looking specifically at the situation in besieged communities and the militarisation and responsibility for attacks on medical and educational facilities. This should be done through the conduct of a fact-finding mission.

Third, mandate the negotiation of humanitarian pauses and days of tranquillity.

Fourth, send perpetrators a clear message that their crimes will not go unpunished and demonstrate to the Syrian people that there will be justice for the crimes committed against them. The High Commissioner for Human Rights has called for the situation in Syria to be referred to the International Criminal Court.

Fifth, enforce an arms embargo and targeted sanctions for violations of international humanitarian law and non-respect of humanitarian imperatives.

Mr. President,

This Council has paid great attention to the humanitarian situation in Syria. But try as we may, there is no humanitarian solution.

The only solution is through political dialogue that reduces and ultimately ends the violence.

Time is, however, running out for Syria, and for the neighbouring countries which have taken on such a heavy burden on behalf of the international community. This is a crisis with potential global repercussions. I ask this Council to match its scale with an equally bold and courageous response.

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**ICRC: [Meeting of states on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law](#)**

*News release*

24 April 2015

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Switzerland are hosting the fourth and final meeting of states in Geneva on 23-24 April 2015 as part of their joint initiative on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law.

The meeting was opened by ICRC President Peter Maurer and the head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Didier Burkhalter,

"The current state of human suffering, and of humanitarian needs caused by armed conflicts around the world, would be far lower if international humanitarian law were properly implemented by the parties on the ground, both State and non-State," said President Maurer. "There is - still - an overwhelming implementation gap."

The results of the diplomatic process, together with the recommendations, will be presented in a final report to the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in December 2015.

International humanitarian law (IHL) seeks to limit the effects of armed conflict on humanitarian grounds. Its main sources are the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols as well as customary international law. Although the nature of armed conflict has evolved, IHL remains an appropriate and relevant framework for regulating the conduct of war and ensuring protection for all those who are not or are no longer participating in hostilities.



For example, IHL prohibits the mistreatment of prisoners of war and attacks on civilians and contains rules on humanitarian access. The main problem in contemporary conflicts is not the lack of norms but rather the widespread breaches of the rules that exist.

Since 2012, Switzerland and the ICRC, based on a resolution of the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, have been conducting intensive consultations with states and other interested actors to find ways and means to strengthen compliance with IHL. In all, four meetings of states on strengthening compliance with IHL have been held.

In the course of the consultations, the states have acknowledged that the existing IHL enforcement mechanisms are inadequate. It has also been established that there is an institutional vacuum in the area of IHL implementation. The Geneva Conventions of 1949 are an exception among multilateral treaties in that they do not establish a regular conference of states parties or another similar type of institutional forum in which states can discuss the application of IHL and current challenges to compliance with it.

During the consultations, a majority of states have said that they are in favour of establishing a regular meeting of states for IHL. This would provide a forum for more intensive discussions on current challenges and on possible measures to address them, thereby enhancing overall dialogue and cooperation on issues such as the strengthening of state capacities in the implementation of IHL obligations. These states believe that a new mechanism would be an important step in strengthening protection for victims of war.

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### **[Foundations Must Move Fast to Fight Climate Change](#)**

By Larry Kramer and Carol Larson

April 20, 2015

*Chronicle of Philanthropy*, Opinion

It's not too late for grant makers to make a big difference in curbing climate change by promoting alternative energy and working collaboratively on a range of efforts, say the leaders of the Hewlett and Packard foundations.

Climate change is the defining issue of our day. It is an urgent global crisis that affects everything philanthropy seeks to do, whether it is to improve health, alleviate poverty, reduce famine, promote peace, or advance social justice. It is a problem that can and must be solved — a problem that demands action now, while we still have time. And it is a challenge on which foundations can make a profound difference.

Currently less than 2 percent of all philanthropic dollars are being spent in the fight against climate change. That is not enough given how big of a threat we face.

In 2013 the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere reached 400 parts per million for the first time since the Pliocene epoch, approximately three million years ago. The global average temperature during that period was 2° to 3°C higher than it is today; global sea levels were, on average, 82 feet higher than they are now. Unless we act quickly, it will soon be too late to

keep the average global temperature increase below 2°C, the internationally agreed threshold beyond which climate change risks become unacceptably high.

Climate change isn't just an environmental problem. It is an everything problem. Its effects touch all cultures, all incomes, and all geographies. Climate change disrupts earth's natural systems. It threatens public health and safety. And it hurts the world's poorest people — those living on less than \$2 a day — most of all.

The Hewlett Foundation and Packard Foundation have made commitments to the climate fight that far exceed any other pledges in our organizations' histories. We have done so because the business values that motivated our founders, Bill Hewlett and David Packard, still underpin our approach: partnership, respect for science, tolerance for risk, and a willingness to make big bets on problems worth solving.

When we consider all of our grant-making priorities — children, education, health, reproductive rights, oceans, our communities, and so much more — it is profoundly clear that climate change has the unique potential to undermine everything we care about as foundations.

In California, for example, the Packard Foundation collaborates with organizations to ensure young children are healthy and ready for school. Yet in Fresno, a city faced with hazardous air pollution from traffic and industry, approximately 20 percent of children have been diagnosed with asthma.

Despite local efforts to address conventional pollutants caused by cars, agricultural operations, industrial processes and more, the challenge will intensify as drier air and hotter temperatures become more routine. These escalating conditions would make asthma attacks more frequent and more damaging to children, causing them to miss school and jeopardizing their ability to thrive and succeed.

In Africa, the Hewlett Foundation supports organizations that work to empower women to make choices about whether and when to have children, how to raise their families, and how to earn a living. But that work won't transform women's lives if climate change progresses at its current pace. Experts predict climate change could reduce the amount of arable land in Africa by two-thirds, making food scarce and less affordable, hurting families, and creating instability that could cause political and other problems.

Fortunately, significant work is already under way to confront these epic threats, and we're beginning to see signs of progress worldwide: The U.S. has dramatically increased fuel efficiency standards to 54.5 miles per gallon for cars and light-duty trucks by 2025; Mexico has committed to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions by 22 percent and emissions of black carbon or soot by 51 percent by 2030; Brazil has reduced rates of deforestation; China is embracing new models for cleaner mass transit; India is increasing efficient energy standards for appliances; and European nations are reducing their reliance on coal power.

Looking around the country, we see evidence of what's possible when grant makers choose to engage in new ways.

The Barr Foundation in Boston expanded its climate portfolio several years ago and is now a leader in supporting efforts to promote clean energy and transportation alternatives. The Funders Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities is working to align foundations to promote an array of local climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. And the Council on Foundations is helping to bring all of philanthropy together to spotlight climate change and energy through its annual meeting. Initiatives like these demonstrate that foundations can have a positive impact on our climate future. But if we are going to prevail and preserve a future in which every person has the ability to achieve his or her full potential, foundations need to do more.

Our goal now is to enlist as many other grant makers and partners as we can, as quickly as possible, to join us. Working together, and by supporting the local, national, and international organizations focused on curbing climate change, we can prevent global average temperature change from exceeding 2°C.

It's not too late, but we must act quickly, and we must act together.

In the fight against climate change, foundations can make a lasting difference in ways that other sectors cannot because they share certain special qualities: the freedom to think big, the capacity to tolerate risk, and the ability to invest for the long haul.

We don't expect every foundation to make climate change its top priority. There are many urgent issues that demand attention. But there is a role for every organization to play in the fight against climate change, no matter where it works or how it works.

Leadership matters in this fight. We hope more foundations, whatever their grant-making priority — promoting civil society, economic development, social justice, or health (to name just a few) — will examine how climate change could impact their missions. Talk to your grantees about their climate concerns. Seek out allies for whom climate mitigation is a focus, and look for ways to learn from them. Attend climate-focused gatherings that might not fall neatly into your current program priorities. Engage your board. Ask hard questions.

There is no single playbook for preventing dangerous climate change. We are all forging solutions in real time. But we can no longer sidestep the threat that a warming planet presents to all the good we seek to achieve in the world.

Left to its current course, the impact of global climate change threatens the long-term success of every other effort foundations support. It is time to act in whatever ways we can. It is time to get going.

*Larry D. Kramer is president of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Carol S. Larson is president of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. Both serve on the board of ClimateWorks.*

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**[Scientific Advice for Policy Making - The Role and Responsibility of Expert Bodies and Individual Scientists](#)**

OECD

20 Apr 2015 :: 50 pages :: PDF

DOI: 10.1787/5js3311jcpwb-en

*Abstract*

The scientific community is increasingly being called upon to provide evidence and advice to government policy-makers across a range of issues, from short-term public health emergencies through to longer-term challenges, such as population ageing or climate change. Such advice can be a valuable, or even essential, input to sound policy-making but its impact depends on how it is formulated and communicated as well as how it is perceived by its target policy audience and by other interested parties.

It is rare that scientific evidence is the only consideration in a policy decision and, particularly for complex issues; many interests may have to be balanced in situations where the science itself may be uncertain. The rapid evolution of information and communication technologies and moves towards more participative democratic decision-making have put additional pressure on science to help provide answers and solutions, whilst also opening up the academic enterprise to closer surveillance and criticism.

What used to be 'private' debates between different scientific viewpoints over areas of uncertainty have now become public disputes that can be exploited by different stakeholders to confirm or deny entrenched positions. Science is truly at the centre of many important policy issues and scientists are increasingly visible and, in many cases, increasingly vulnerable, in policy-making processes.

*Overview*

Drawing on the analysis of different advisory systems, their exposure to legal risks and the particular requirements of crisis situations, Scientific Advice for Policy Making identifies three key factors that are particularly important in determining the success or failure of a science advisory process:

- :: Have a clear remit, with defined roles and responsibilities for its various actors.
- :: Involve the relevant actors – scientists, policy makers and other stakeholders, as necessary.
- :: Produce advice that is sound, unbiased and legitimate.

As governments and scientific bodies strive to improve mechanisms for the provision and communication of scientific advice, the report proposes the following:

- :: Governments and responsible institutions should define clear and transparent guidelines and rules of procedure for their science advisory processes and mechanisms.
- :: Governments should establish mechanisms for ensuring appropriate and timely advice in crises.
- :: Governments should work with international organisations to ensure coherence between national and international scientific advisory mechanisms relating to complex global challenges.
- :: Governments and responsible institutions should implement measures that build societal trust in science advice for policy making.

*Press Release:* [OECD calls for common principles for developing and communicating scientific advice](#)

23/04/2015 - Governments would benefit from agreeing common principles for developing and communicating scientific advice, both in crisis situations and for long-term policymaking,

according to a new OECD report. In light of recent controversies around science advice, the report proposes a checklist for countries to follow to ensure science advisory processes are effective and trustworthy.

Scientific Advice for Policymaking: The Role and Responsibility of Expert Bodies and Individual Scientists cites examples of recent events where science advice has been called into question, including the Ebola crisis, the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster and the 2009 earthquake at L'Aquila in Italy.

The report says governments need to clearly define the remit of scientific advice, by demarcating advisory roles from policy decision-making roles, and defining from the outset the legal responsibilities and potential liability of advisors. The scientific advisory process should also seek to mitigate controversies by introducing procedures to declare and verify conflicts of interest and by explicitly determining how to engage participation from non-scientists and civil society.

"If we want science to help answer the complex and controversial questions being asked by policymakers, the media and the public, we need scientific advice to be effective, transparent and legitimate," said OECD Director of Science, Technology and Innovation Andrew Wyckoff. "This new set of principles is designed to help governments create the conditions for scientific advice to be used to improve policy-making across a range of areas."

The report, produced by the OECD Global Science Forum, examines the fallout from disconnected science advice from one country to another and the risks of contradictory national positions. It finds that in today's inter-connected world, where social media and the Internet can drive much faster and louder reactions to events like natural disasters or epidemics, and countries come under harsh scrutiny for the advice they give, more co-operation and pooling of information among experts is needed.

Crisis management could also benefit from advisory processes in different countries following a set of similar principles and assuring a more effective and timely exchange of relevant information and data, the report says.

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## **SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY**

- Part I: Potential Impacts of Synthetic Biology on Biological Diversity
- Part II: Gaps and Overlaps with the Provisions of the Convention and Other Agreements

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

March 2015 :: CBD Technical Series No. 82 :: 119 pages

ISBN Web: 92-9225-584-3 pdf: [www.cbd.int/ts/cbd-ts-82-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/ts/cbd-ts-82-en.pdf)

### *Foreword*

One of the functions of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to the Convention on Biological Diversity is to identify new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. To streamline the work of the Subsidiary Body, the Conference of the Parties, in decision IX/29, provided guidance on the procedure for the identification of new and emerging issues and on the review of proposals.

The Conference of the Parties first turned its attention to synthetic biology at its tenth meeting in 2010, where Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations were, inter alia, invited to apply the precautionary approach to the field release of synthetic life, cell, or genome into the environment. Consideration of synthetic biology as a substantive issue was subsequently

placed on the agenda of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its sixteenth meeting in 2012, and since then it has been debated intensively.

Synthetic biology is a loosely-defined term for a range of techniques stemming from the combination of different disciplines, which adds a challenge to the debate. Moreover, as this field develops quickly, there are many unknowns regarding what products and applications will be technically feasible, commercially viable, and safe both for human health and biodiversity. In addition, questions of the adequacy of existing regulations to deal with current and anticipated components, organisms and products of synthetic biology as well as the social and ethical implications of synthetic biology are being raised.

The current document aims to support the international debate, and bridge gaps between the science-policy interface, by providing technical information on the potential positive and negative impacts on biodiversity that synthetic biology might entail as well as how adequately existing regulations cover the components, organisms and products of synthetic biology. This document was developed on the basis of information and views submitted by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and other stakeholders. It was complemented by background research to address relevant issues under the Convention...

#### *Press Releases*

[Comprehensive report on synthetic biology discusses impacts on biodiversity and reviews existing regulatory regimes](#)

Montreal, 20 April 2015 – A new report from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity discusses the potential for synthetic biology to have both positive and negative impacts on biodiversity and looks at the role and adequacy of existing risk assessment and regulatory regimes to evaluate the impact of these technologies...

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#### ***Editor's Note:***

*We provide the link below to the major report in the New York Times from 23 April concerning the Clinton Foundation, primarily as a follow-on to our coverage of the donations policy changes announced on 15 April 2015: [Clinton Foundation Policy Update](#). The Foundation had not issued any response to this report on its [website](#) at this writing.*

#### **[Cash Flowed to Clinton Foundation Amid Russian Uranium Deal](#)**

By [JO BECKER](#) and [MIKE McINTIRE](#)

*New York Times*, APRIL 23, 2015

As the Russian atomic energy agency gradually took charge of a company that controls one-fifth of all uranium production capacity in the United States, a stream of cash made its way to former President Bill Clinton's charitable organization.

.....

#### **[EBOLA/EVD](#) [to 25 April 2015]**

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

## WHO: [Ebola Situation Report - 22 April 2015](#)

[Excerpts]

### SUMMARY

**:: The decline in confirmed cases of Ebola virus disease (EVD) has halted over the last three weeks.** To accelerate the decline towards zero cases will require stronger community engagement, improved contact tracing and earlier case identification. In the week to 19 April, a total of 33 confirmed cases was reported, compared with 37 and 30 in the preceding weeks.

:: In the week to 19 April, Guinea reported 21 confirmed cases, compared with 28 cases the previous week. Sierra Leone reported 12 confirmed cases, compared with 9 cases reported the previous week. Liberia reported no confirmed cases...

### COUNTRIES WITH WIDESPREAD AND INTENSE TRANSMISSION

**:: There have been a total of 26,044 reported confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (figure 1, table 1), with 10,808 reported deaths** (outcomes for many cases are unknown). A total of 21 new confirmed cases were reported in Guinea, 0 in Liberia, and 12 in Sierra Leone in the 7 days to 19 April...

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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 25 April 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases/Meetings Coverage*

24 April 2015

HR/5247

[Representatives of Indigenous Peoples Detail Challenges in Protecting Lands, Rights, as First Week of Permanent Forum Concludes](#)

Standard measurements of well-being did not capture the distinct economic, social, and cultural aspects of indigenous peoples' lives, speakers in the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues said today, as they explored the type of information needed to accurately quantify their unique development experiences and how to collect it.

24 April 2015

SC/11874

[Security Council, Alarmed by Depth of Syrian Crisis, Urges Greater International Support to Neighbouring Countries Overwhelmed by Refugees](#)

Expressing alarm that the Syrian crisis had become the largest humanitarian emergency in the world, threatening regional stability, the Security Council this morning called for stepped-up, coordinated international support to neighbouring countries hosting refugees from the conflict.

21 April 2015

SC/11870

[Security Council Press Statement on Recent Maritime Tragedy in Mediterranean Sea](#)

[Security Council](#)

[Press Release](#)

The following Security Council press statement was issued today by Council President Dina Kavar (Jordan):

The members of the Security Council deplored the recent maritime tragedy in the Mediterranean Sea that resulted in hundreds of casualties, and extended their deepest condolences to all those affected and to their families.

The members of the Security Council expressed their grave concern at the recent proliferation of, and endangerment of lives by, the smuggling of migrants in the Mediterranean Sea, off the coast of Libya.

The members of the Security Council expressed their concern at the implications for regional stability posed by transnational organized crime and illicit activities such as the smuggling of migrants, condemned and deplored the said acts and underlined the need to bring the perpetrators of these acts to justice.

The members of the Security Council called for the full implementation by State Parties of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

The members of the Security Council expressed their strong support to countries in the region affected by the smuggling of migrants and emphasized the need to step up coordination of international efforts in order to strengthen a global response to this common challenge, and in order to protect these vulnerable migrants from being victimized by human traffickers.

The members of the Security Council urged all Member States, including countries of origin and transit, to cooperate with each other and with relevant international and regional organizations, including the IOM [International Organization for Migration], in addressing illicit migration flows, and dismantling smuggling networks in the region.

In that regard, the members of the Security Council urged all States to comply with their applicable obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and refugee law.

**UN OHCHR** Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 25 April 2015]

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

[Committee against Torture meets with Non-Governmental Organizations](#)

4/24/2015

...Claudio Grossman, Chairperson of the Committee, spoke about the great value the Committee placed on the contributions of civil society, both from the non-governmental organizations working here in Geneva and the non-governmental organizations working in countries all over the world. The contributions were essential in helping enrich the Committee's understanding of the situation in countries and as sources of information during the interactive dialogues with States. He spoke about their role in follow-up procedures, visiting places of



detention and providing alerts about potential violations of the Convention. He emphasized that the Committee took a zero tolerance approach to reprisals....

...The following non-governmental organizations took the floor in today's meeting: World Organization Against Torture (OMCT), Amnesty International, Alkarama, International Service for Human Rights, Association for the Prevention of Torture, Association of World Citizens, FIACAT, International Disability Alliance and Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain.

The video webcasts of the public meetings of the Committee can be viewed here:  
<http://www.treatybodywebcast.org>.

[Saving migrant lives is imperative but what next? – UN human rights experts ask EU leaders](#)  
4/24/2015

[Committee against Torture discusses proactive approaches to prevent torture with Subcommittee](#)  
4/23/2015

[Secret negotiations on trade treaties, a threat to human rights – UN expert](#)  
4/23/2015

["Callous" EU politics on migrants costing lives – Zeid](#)  
4/20/2015

**SRSR/CAAC** Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict [to 25 April 2015]  
<https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/virtual-library/press-release-archive/>  
*No new digest content identified.*

**SRSR/SVC** Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict [to 25 April 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 25 April 2015]  
<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/search?page=&comid=4a0950336&cid=49aea93a7d&scid=49aea93a40>  
[Joint statement on Mediterranean crossings](#)  
23 April 2015

[UNHCR - New Mediterranean boat tragedy may be biggest ever, urgent action is needed now](#)  
19 April 2015

**UN OCHA** [to 25 April 2015]  
<http://www.unocha.org/media-resources/press-releases>

24 Apr 2015

[Chad: Revue de Presse Humanitaire au Tchad, du 04 au 24 avril 2015](#)

[Syrian Arab Republic: Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos Briefing to the Security Council on Syria, New York 24 April 2015](#)

[Colombia: OCHA, ONU Mujeres y UNFPA firman Plan de Acción Conjunto para integrar perspectiva de género en contextos de respuesta humanitaria](#)

23 Apr 2015

[Yemen: Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen, Johannes van der Klaauw Statement on the Situation in Yemen, 23 April 2015 \[EN/AR\]](#)

[South Sudan: Statement by Toby Lanzer, Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan: Humanitarian Action Requires Freedom of Movement for Aid Workers](#)

[Vanuatu: Vanuatu: Cyclone Pam Response: Summary of Response Activities \(as of 23 April 2015\)](#)

21 Apr 2015

[Somalia: Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos Statement on security of aid workers](#)

[Sudan: Sweden contributes SEK 55 million \(US \\$6.4 million\) to the Sudan Common Humanitarian Fund for 2015 \[EN/AR\]](#)

[World: World Humanitarian Summit - Consulta Regional América Latina y el Caribe - Boletín No 6, Abril 2015](#)

[World: Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination - Asia-Pacific Newsletter Issue 4: April 2015](#)

**UNISDR** UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 25 April 2015]

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

[Nepal suffers devastating earthquake](#)

One of Asia's poorest and most disaster-prone countries, Nepal is reeling from a massive earthquake outside the capital Kathmandu which has claimed hundreds of lives.

25 Apr 2015

[Local governments lead resilience in Jordan](#)

Municipalities are taking the lead in Jordan to help build resilience to disasters, in the wake of recurrent winter storms that have seen heavy snow, rainfall and high winds cause power cuts, road closures and flooded homes.

22 Apr 2015

[Inventions for disaster risk reduction](#)

Inventors aiming to reduce the risk of disasters have flocked to Geneva to pitch a whole range of cutting-edge ideas, from earthquake-resistant buildings to lamps that make evacuations easier.

20 Apr 2015

**UNICEF** [to 25 April 2015]

[http://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_78364.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_78364.html)

#### [Measles vaccination campaign aims to immunize over 2.6 million Syrian children](#)

DAMASCUS, Syria, 24 April 2015 - A 10-day measles immunization campaign is underway in Syria to protect children from this deadly disease. Launched on 19 April, the campaign is aimed at children between six months and five years of age. Vaccination will be provided in 1,209 health centres, and nearly 6,000 health staff and mobile teams are participating in the campaign.

#### [282 boys and 1 girl freed in final release of children from Cobra Faction in South Sudan](#)

JUBA, South Sudan/NAIROBI, Kenya/NEW YORK, 24 April 2015 – 282 boys and 1 girl have been freed in the final release of children associated with the Cobra Faction armed group, in South Sudan.

#### [Hundreds of children killed or maimed in deadly month-long fighting in Yemen - UNICEF](#)

SANA'A, Yemen/AMMAN, Jordan/GENEVA, 24 April 2015 – At least 115 children have been killed and 172 maimed as result of conflict in Yemen since 26 March, UNICEF said today.

#### [Immunization drive under way for 3 million children in Ebola-hit countries](#)

DAKAR/GENEVA, 24 April 2015 – For the first time since the start of the Ebola outbreak, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone are conducting major nationwide immunization campaigns to protect millions of children against preventable but potentially deadly diseases.

#### [Malaria kills 1,200 children a day: UNICEF](#)

NEW YORK, 23 April 2015 – Ahead of World Malaria Day, UNICEF's 'Facts about Malaria and Children' shows the extensive impact of the disease on children and on pregnant women around the world.

#### [Nearly 8 million children in Sudan to be immunized against measles following deadly outbreak – UNICEF](#)

KHARTOUM, Sudan/ GENEVA / NAIROBI 22 April 2015 – Following one of the worst measles outbreaks in Sudan's recent history, the Ministry of Health with support from UNICEF, the Measles and Rubella Initiative (M&RI) and national partners, is launching a massive campaign to immunize 7.9 million children aged six months to 15 years against this life-threatening disease.

#### [Access to education for 1 million children improved through 10-year UNICEF and ING partnership](#)

NEW YORK, 21 April 2015 – UNICEF and ING, a Dutch multinational banking and financial services corporation, today announced the renewal of a decade-long partnership that to date has provided access to better quality education for more than 1 million of the world's hardest-to-reach children.

### [UNICEF pays tribute to colleagues killed and injured in Somalia attack](#)

NAIROBI, Kenya 21 APRIL 2015 - With great sadness, UNICEF can now release the names of the four colleagues who were killed in a horrific attack as they travelled to work yesterday in Garowe, northern Somalia.

### [UNICEF to support Scholas, Pope Francis' initiative to connect, educate and inspire adolescents](#)

VATICAN CITY/NEW YORK, 21 April 2015 – His Holiness Pope Francis and UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake met today in Rome to launch a new partnership that will provide more disadvantaged adolescents with the skills, information and understanding they need to become fully participating citizens of their societies – and the world.

### [Step up action before more tragedies unfold in the Mediterranean](#)

NEW YORK, 20 April, 2015 - "Reports of tragedies on the Mediterranean Sea - leaving hundreds of people, including children, dead or missing – are becoming all too frequent and the human cost all too high.

### [Attack in Garowe, Somalia: Statement by Anthony Lake, UNICEF Executive Director](#)

ROME/NEW YORK, 20 APRIL 2015 - "The horrific attack on our UNICEF colleagues today in northern Somalia is an assault not only on them but on the people they served. Our immediate thoughts are with the families of the four staff members who were killed and with those who were injured. All of us at UNICEF are deeply saddened, and deeply angered.

### [UNICEF Statement on attack in Somalia](#)

NAIROBI, Kenya, 20 April 2015 – Four UNICEF staff members have reportedly been killed in an attack on a vehicle in which they were riding in Garowe, Somalia. Four other UNICEF colleagues are reportedly in a serious condition.

### **UN Women** [to 25 April 2015]

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

### [Inspiring and advocating for women living with HIV in Kazakhstan](#)

Date : [April 24, 2015](#)

In the face of quickly rising rates of HIV infection in Central Asia, UN Women is supporting a network of women living with HIV in Kazakhstan and increasing their role in decision-making.

### [UN Women and Technovation announce strategic partnership to support young women entrepreneurs in technology](#)

Date : [April 23, 2015](#)

On this Girls in ICT Day, UN Women and Technovation are announcing a new partnership to expand young women's technological innovation around the globe. Both organizations are committed to ensuring that young women are at the forefront of technology and innovation, so that their talents and interest in using technology to solve problems and unleash opportunity are not just sparked, but actively supported.

### [States assess progress on women's involvement in conflict management and sustainable peace](#)

Date : [April 20, 2015](#)

More than 70 experts from across North America, Europe and Asia are meeting in the Lithuanian capital today for a conference organized by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), UN Women and the Lithuanian Government, to discuss the implementation of the landmark UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

**Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues** [to 25 April 2015]

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

[Fourteenth Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#)

20 April to 1 May 2015

UN Headquarters, New York

**WHO & Regionals** [to 25 April 2015]

:: [World Immunization Week: 24-30 April 2015](#) - [Close the immunization gap](#)

World Immunization Week, which will be held from 24-30 April 2015, will signal a renewed global, regional, and national effort to accelerate action to increase awareness and demand for immunization by communities, and improve vaccination delivery services. This year's campaign focuses on closing the immunization gap and reaching equity in immunization levels as outlined in the Global Vaccine Action Plan, which is a framework to prevent millions of deaths by 2020 through universal access to vaccines for people in all communities.

[Read more about the goals of the campaign](#)

[Africa](#) - *Vaccination a gift for life*

24-30 April 2015

[Americas](#) - *Boost your power! Get vaccinated!*

25 April - 2 May 2015

[Eastern Mediterranean](#) - *Close the immunization gap*

24-30 April 2015

[Europe](#) - *Close the immunization gap*

24-30 April 2015

:: [Global vaccination targets 'off-track' warns WHO](#)

*News release*

22 APRIL 2015 | GENEVA – Progress towards global vaccination targets for 2015 is far off-track with 1 in 5 children still missing out on routine life-saving immunizations that could avert 1.5 million deaths each year from preventable diseases. In the lead-up to World Immunization Week 2015 (24–30 April), WHO is calling for renewed efforts to get progress back on course...

[Together we can close the immunization gap](#)

Dr Jean-Marie Okwo-Bele, Director of the Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals  
*Commentary*

:: [Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly](#) - 18–26 May 2015

*Stories from Countries*

:: [India drives down malaria rates, sets sights on elimination](#)

24 April 2015

:: [Ebola diaries: Creating ways to understand an outbreak](#)

24 April 2015

:: [Improved blood systems in Ebola-affected countries expected to be positive outcome](#)

21 April 2015

:: [The Weekly Epidemiological Record \(WER\) 24 April 2015](#), vol. 90, 17 (pp. 169–184) includes:

:: Polio surveillance: tracking progress towards eradication worldwide, 2013–2014

:: Performance of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) surveillance and incidence of poliomyelitis, 2015

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

*No new digest content identified.*

### :: **WHO Regional Offices**

#### **WHO African Region AFRO**

:: [WHO Regional Director for Africa Dr Matshidiso Moeti concludes her visit to Liberia](#)

Monrovia, 24 April 2015 - The WHO Regional Director for Africa Dr Matshidiso Moeti has wrapped up her 3 day official visit to Liberia with a courtesy call on the President of Liberia, Her Excellency, Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Welcoming Dr Moeti, the President congratulated her for having been elected as Regional Director of WHO for the African Region. She also expressed her gratitude to WHO for being a good partner in health development and said that the organization has contributed tremendously in building capacity for Ebola virus Disease outbreak response...

:: [A child dies every minute from malaria in Africa - 24 April 2015](#)

:: [Zambia's First Lady launches African Vaccination Week in Lusaka - 23 April 2015](#)

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

:: [Vaccination Week in the Americas will target 60 million children and adults](#) (04/22/2015)

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

:: [Close the immunization gap](#)

Progress towards global vaccination targets for 2015 is far off-track with 1 in 5 children still missing out on routine life-saving immunizations that could avert 1.5 million deaths each year from preventable diseases. WHO is calling for renewed efforts to get progress back on course.

#### **WHO European Region EURO**

:: [Towards a malaria-free European Region by the end of 2015](#) 24-04-2015

:: [Poor indoor environments at school](#) 23-04-2015

:: [First meeting of the European Health Information Initiative: working together to improve information for better health](#) 20-04-2015

:: [Stronger action required on environmental pollutants](#) 20-04-2015

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

:: [WHO warns of imminent collapse of health care services in Yemen](#)

21 April 2015, Cairo, Egypt – WHO warns of an imminent collapse of health care services in Yemen. Health facilities are struggling to function as they face increasing shortages of life-saving medicines and vital health supplies, frequent disruptions in power supply and lack of fuel for generators. Lack of fuel has also disrupted functionality of ambulances and the delivery of health supplies across the country.

:: [Keeping Syrian children free from polio at home and across the border](#)

21 April 2015

:: [WHO continues to address health needs of affected populations in Anbar; appeals for funding](#)

20 April 2015

### **WHO Western Pacific Region**

:: [World Malaria Day 2015: Protecting and strengthening gains for a malaria-free future](#)

*Dr Shin Young-soo discusses malaria surveillance in Xekong Province, the Lao People's Democratic Republic.*

MANILA, 24 April 2015 – With the theme “Invest in the future, defeat malaria”, the World Health Organization (WHO) in the Western Pacific Region urges Member States to consolidate recent gains against malaria and accelerate efforts towards a malaria-free Region.

**UNAIDS** [to 25 April 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**UNFPA** United Nations Population Fund [to 25 April 2015]

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

*Press Release*

25 April 2015

[Earthquake in Nepal: Statement by the Executive Director](#)

On behalf of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, I express our deepest sympathy to the people and Government of Nepal following the 7.9 magnitude earthquake...

**UNDP** United Nations Development Programme [to 25 April 2015]

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

24 Apr 2015

[US\\$81 million announced to fight malaria in Sudan](#)

A new agreement reached in Sudan by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is set to provide a major boost in the fight against malaria in the country.

[Italy increases funding to UNDP to €4.2m for 2015](#)

The Italian Government announced that it will increase its 2015 core contribution to the United Nations Development Programme to €4.2m to help UNDP fulfill its coordination role for the UN

[Brazil and UNDP announce the first "World Games of Indigenous Peoples" during the UN Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York](#)

For the first time in history, nearly 50 ethnic groups from all regions will gather in October to celebrate their traditional sports, culture and diversity

22 Apr 2015

[UN: Escalation of violence is holding back development in Central Africa](#)

Continued violence in the Central African Republic, combined with the rise of Boko Haram in Nigeria and neighboring countries may delay development for years to come.

[UNDP Administrator visits Syrian Refugees in Turkey](#)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator Helen Clark today visited Syrian families in refugee camps in Gaziantep in South East Turkey.

21 Apr 2015

[Post-2015 agenda much larger than aid from developed to developing countries, says UNDP's Policy Head](#)

A two-day high-level meeting on financing for sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda brought together experts from global financial institutions and development agencies, including UNDP. The annual meeting organized by the UN Economic and Social Council included a thematic debate on the renewed global partnership for development in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

20 Apr 2015

[UN partnership begins global search for local climate change solutions](#)

A call for nominations opened today for the Equator Prize 2015, marking the beginning of a worldwide outreach effort designed to identify exceptional local efforts to reduce poverty, protect biodiversity, and address climate change.

[Over 30,000 Soccer Fans Support the Fight Against Ebola at 12th Annual Match Against Poverty](#)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) mobilized its team of top football players today to compete against a Saint Etienne All Stars, in France's Ligue 1 club to raise both funds for and awareness to help West African nations recover from the Ebola virus crisis.

**UN Division for Sustainable Development** [to 25 April 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**UNEP** United Nations Environment Programme [to 25 April 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

[Establishing China's Green Financial System - Report of the Green Finance Task Force](#)

The report is the outcome of a Green Finance Task Force which was tasked to develop policy, regulatory and market-innovations to better align China's financial system with the needs of green industry and sustainable development.

22/04/2015

[Global Alliance Announces Goal to Eliminate Lead in Paint by 2020](#)



UNEP Goodwill Ambassador, Don Cheadle, Urges Governments and Global Citizens to Commit to Tackle Climate Change, Protect the Environment and Eliminate Lead in Paint.  
21/04/2015

**UN DESA** United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 25 April 2015]  
<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news.html>

[Public-administration experts to ensure good governance](#)

23 April 2015, New York

In preparation for the new sustainable development agenda that is expected to be adopted this September at the Special Summit on Sustainable Development, public administration experts are gathering at the UN to examine measures to ensure good governance, which is seen as the cornerstone of efforts to implement the new global goals.

[The way forward for financing for development](#)

21 April 2015, New York

What will be the way forward for financing for development and what can the international community expect from the upcoming Third International Conference on Financing for Development taking place in Ethiopia in July? These and other questions related to financing for development were discussed by UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General Mr. Wu Hongbo and other panellists at the IMF seminar "Financing for Development: The Way Forward" on 17 April.

[Interactive dialogue at joint FFD and post-2015 negotiation session](#)

21 April 2015, New York

The upcoming joint session of the Financing for Development (FFD) process and the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, on 21-24 April, will focus on means of implementation and a global partnership for sustainable development.

**UNODC** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 25 April 2015]

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

23/04/2015

[- Terrorists profiting from drug trade, says UNODC Chief at Moscow conference on global security](#)

**UN-HABITAT** United Nations Human Settlements Programme [to 25 April 2015]

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

[2015/04/23 - The World Habitat Award 2015](#)

**FAO** Food & Agriculture Organization [to 25 April 2015]

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

[Dramatic impact of climate change on people's lives demands response - FAO leader](#)

A strong and collective effort is needed to tackle climate change, which is already having direct and "tragic" consequences for people's lives, FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva has told Italian lawmakers.

23-04-2015

**IFAD** International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 25 April 2015]

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

22 April: [El Salvador: UN rural development agency to boost support for youth, women and indigenous peoples](#)

[Spanish](#)

**ILO** International Labour Organization [to 25 April 2015]

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

*News*

[27 million Latin America and Caribbean youth in the informal economy](#)

22 April 2015

The International Labour Organization (ILO) calls for urgent action to help youth in the region move from the informal to the formal economy.

*Arab Labour Conference*

[ILO Director-General: Creating jobs key to stability in the Arab region](#)

20 April 2015

In his address to the Arab Labour Organization's 42nd Conference, International Labour Organization Director-General Guy Ryder urged the region's leaders to tackle unemployment, respond to globalization challenges, strengthen the private sector and engage in effective social dialogue.

**ICAO** International Civil Aviation Organization [to 25 April 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**IMO** International Maritime Organization [to 25 April 2015]

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

[IMO Secretary-General calls for coordinated efforts to safeguard migrants](#)

20/04/2015 Deaths of hundreds of migrants in the Mediterranean highlight need for urgent coordinated action.

*[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]*

[Conference on domestic ferry safety to be held in Philippines](#)

20/04/2015 Conference to consider draft guidelines on the safe operation of coastal and inter-island passenger ships not engaged on international voyages.

**WMO** World Meteorological Organization [to 25 April 2015]

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

[Kampala Declaration calls for improved climate services](#)

23 April 2015

Farmers and experts attending the Workshop on Improving Climate Services for Farmers in Africa and South Asia have adopted the Kampala Declaration on promoting cross-regional cooperation on the sharing and use of knowledge on climate products and services. The Declaration was inspired by the growing recognition that significant progress has been made in weather and climate forecasting. The Kampala Declaration is available [here](#).

The Declaration established the Regional Network of Farmers of Africa and South Asia, or RENOFASA, to develop an implementation plan for promoting cooperation, disseminating weather and climate information and services to farmers in a timely manner through information and communications technologies, organizing training seminars, and establishing advisory teams to interact with farmers and improve the uptake of weather and climate services. The Government of Uganda has offered to support the establishment of an office to support RENOFASA.

Agriculture is one of the four priority areas of the WMO-led Global Framework on Climate Services (GFCS), which is promoting operational climate services at the national and regional levels. The Framework's contribution to climate change adaptation and resilience has been recognized by the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The Kampala workshop was organized through the USAID-funded project "Laying the Foundation for Establishing Networks Linking Farmers in Africa and South Asia for Demand-driven Climate Services". The workshop was co-sponsored by WMO, Uganda's Ministry of Water and Environment and Ministry of Agriculture, and other partners.

**UNIDO** United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 25 April 2015]

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

[Belarus conference on inclusive and sustainable industrialization in European, Central Asian middle-income countries](#)

Thursday, 23 April 2015

MINSK, 23 April 2015 – Fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development in middle-income countries (MICs) in Europe and Central Asia through innovation and technology is the focus of an international conference...

**UNWTO** World Tourism Organization [to 25 April 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**ITU** International Telecommunications Union [to 25 April 2015]

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

[Tech community gears up to celebrate 'Girls in ICT Day' around the globe, 23 April 2015](#)

*Annual day aims to attract women to field where strong demand is creating global skills shortfall*

Geneva, 22 April 2015 – Every year on the fourth Thursday in April, ITU and the global technology community celebrate 'Girls in ICT Day', an awareness-raising initiative designed to promote tech careers and studies to a new generation of girls and young women.

Launched by ITU in 2010, the day is part of an international drive to encourage more female students to study STEM subjects – science, technology, engineering and mathematics – and consider a career in information and communication technology (ICT).

It aims to counter the chronic global decline in the number of female ICT students, which is in turn contributing to a predicted global shortfall of at least two million ICT jobs which will not be able to be filled through lack of qualified staff.

In OECD countries, female students now account for fewer than 20% of tertiary ICT enrolments, down from nearly 40% back in the 1980s, when computer science courses first appeared on university curricula. Only around 3% of total female graduates study ICT fields, compared with around 10% of male graduates.

This academic gender gap is reflected in the number of female ICT professionals, now estimated at just 20% across the OECD. In Europe, only 9% of app developers are female, only 19% of European ICT managers are women (compared with 45% women managers in other service sectors), and only 19% of ICT entrepreneurs are women (compared with 54% women in other service sectors), according to [figures released by the European Commission](#).

With strong backing from the tech sector and national governments, 'Girls in ICT Day' has rapidly grown into a global movement, with an estimated 3,500 events organized in over 140 countries, reaching 111,000 girls, since the event became a fixture on the UN calendar five years ago...

**UNESCO** [to 25 April 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**WIPO** World Intellectual Property Organization [to 25 April 2015]

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

[World IP Day 2015: "Get Up, Stand Up. For Music" on April 26](#)

In the early 1970s, fans of Bob Marley and the Wailers gathered around record players, 8-track tape decks and cassette players to listen to "Get Up, Stand Up", which went on to become an international anthem for human rights.

Apr 23, 2015 [PR/2015/776](#)

**CBD** Convention on Biological Diversity [to 25 April 2015]

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

*Statements*

[Message of the CBD Executive Secretary, Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, on the occasion of the International Mother Earth Day, 22April 2015](#)

*Press Releases*

[Comprehensive report on synthetic biology discusses impacts on biodiversity and reviews existing regulatory regimes](#)

Montreal, 20 April 2015 – A new report from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity discusses the potential for synthetic biology to have both positive and negative impacts on biodiversity and looks at the role and adequacy of existing risk assessment and regulatory regimes to evaluate the impact of these technologies.

*[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]*

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**USAID** [to 25 April 2015]

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

[USAID Announces New Program to Empower Workers in Bangladesh](#)

April 24, 2015

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced today a three-year Worker Empowerment Program in Bangladesh to support labor rights, union organizing, and women's empowerment in the ready-made garment sector. The announcement coincides with the second anniversary of the April 24, 2013 Rana Plaza garment factory collapse in Dhaka that killed over 1,100 workers and injured over 2,500.

[United States Pledges \\$16 Million in Additional Humanitarian Assistance for the People of South Sudan](#)

April 24, 2015

The United States announced the commitment of more than \$16 million in new humanitarian assistance for nutrition, shelter, water and health services for people suffering from the ongoing effects of the conflict that began in South Sudan in December 2013.

[Statement by Acting Administrator Lenhardt on the Death of Dr. Warren Weinstein](#)

April 23, 2015

On behalf of USAID, our deepest condolences go out to the family of American aid worker Dr. Warren Weinstein who was killed in the border region of Afghanistan and Pakistan while being held hostage by al-Qa'ida.

[Securing Water for Food: A Grand Challenge for Development Announces Winners of the Desal Prize](#)

April 22, 2015

U.S. and international community awarded for groundbreaking desalination technologies  
The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), in partnership with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of The Netherlands, announced today the winners of the Desal Prize, the second call for Securing Water for Food: A Grand Challenge for Development.

[USAID Launches Technology Competition to Combat Wildlife Crime](#)

April 22, 2015

Today, on the 45th anniversary of Earth Day, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced the Wildlife Crime Tech Challenge to combat illegal wildlife trade. USAID invites organizations and individuals to submit innovative science and technology solutions to help combat the illegal trade in marine and terrestrial wildlife. Successful applicants could win up to \$500,000 as well as technical assistance and networking opportunities to scale their solutions.

[USAID Announces \\$126 Million to Rebuild Life-Saving Health Services in Ebola-Affected Countries](#)

April 18, 2015

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Associate Administrator Mark Feierstein announced plans to spend \$126 million to help rebuild West African health systems impacted by

the Ebola outbreak at the Global Citizen Concert on the National Mall. The funds will help Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea restart critical health services that stopped due to the Ebola outbreak, including vaccinations, water and sanitation services, prenatal and maternal health care and nutrition, and programs to prevent and treat malaria and other infectious diseases.

**DFID** [to 25 April 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**ECHO** [to 25 April 2015]

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

[€50 million proposed for vital support in South Sudan, says Commissioner Stylianides](#)

25/04/2015

EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides, who is currently visiting South Sudan, requested from the EU budgetary authorities to release €50 million for vital support to the victims of the humanitarian crisis...

[EU Children of Peace: New education centre in Turkey for Syrian children](#)

22/04/2015

A new education centre for Syrian children was officially opened today in Turkey with the financial support of the EU Children of Peace initiative. The education centre was built in the city of Kahramanmaraş by UNICEF...

[EU supports the evacuation of European citizens from Yemen](#)

18/04/2015

This year the European Commission has allocated €25 million for Yemen to assist the victims of conflict, forced displacement, and acute malnutrition. Moreover the EU Civil Protection Mechanism has now been activated upon the request of Germany...

.....

**African Union** [to 25 April 2015]

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

Apr.22.2015 [ECOSOCC Condemns Xenophobic "Acrophobic" Attacks On African Citizens In South Africa](#)

Apr.22.2015 [African Union Commends Latest Financial Support in the Fight against Ebola worth \\$950 Million](#)

Apr.21.2015 [AU Commission Chairperson's condolence message following deaths in the Mediterranean seas](#)

Apr.21.2015 [The African Union releases the key findings and recommendations of the report of investigations on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Somalia](#)

Apr.20.2015 [The African Union strongly condemns the killing of African nationals by terrorist elements in Libya](#)

Apr.20.2015 [AUC Chairperson Approves the Deployment of African Union Long-Term Observers \(LTOs\) Mission to Ethiopia](#)

**The African Development Bank Group** [to 25 April 2015]

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

[AfDB 2015 Annual Meetings - "Africa and the New Global Landscape"](#)

25/05/2015 - To: 29/05/2015

Location: Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

The 2015 Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) is scheduled to take place in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from May 25-29 with the election of the 8th President\* of the Bank Group and commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the institution at the top of the agenda.

[AfDB approves a US \\$40 million Risk Participation Agreement with Banco Santander S.A. \(Spain\) to support Trade Finance in Africa](#)

23/04/2015 - The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank (AfDB) approved on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 an unfunded US \$40 million Risk Participation Agreement (RPA) with Banco Santander S.A. (Santander) to support issuing banks in Africa expand their trade finance operations. The facility will help address critical market demand for trade finance in Africa by providing support for trade in vital economic sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing. It will also foster financial sector development and regional integration, and contribute to government revenue generation.

[African Ministers unite in calling for strong universal climate agreement and sufficient finance to unlock Africa's potential](#)

20/04/2015 - Ministers from governments across Africa have renewed their call for a strong, new universal climate change agreement and increased flows of funds, including through market and finance opportunities, sufficient to fulfill Africa's development aspirations.

**ASEAN** [to 25 April 2015]

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

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**UNCTAD** [to 25 April 2015]

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

22 Apr 2015 - [Republic of Congo to promote foreign investment in agriculture](#)

Français | Español

21 Apr 2015 - [The Sudan to implement UNCTAD recommendations to bolster national investment regime](#)

[Français](#) | [Español](#)

20 Apr 2015 - [Investment promotion agencies honoured for their web-based promotion of green foreign direct investment](#)

[Français](#) | [Español](#)

**World Trade Organisation** [to 25 April 2015]

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

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

[Chair cites "urgent need" to find solutions in farm trade talks](#)

WTO members were urged on 24 April to step up efforts in resolving their differences on key issues blocking progress in the Doha Round farm trade talks. John Adank, the New Zealand ambassador chairing the negotiations, said there was an "urgent need to move from repeating positions to working for solutions".

[Finland pledges EUR 649,000 to programmes for developing countries](#)

21 April 2015

PRESS RELEASE

The government of Finland has pledged to make contributions totalling EUR 649,000 in 2015 to assist the participation of developing countries in the multilateral trading system. The funding consists of EUR 550,000 (CHF 571,794) to the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) and EUR 99,000 (CHF 102,923) for evaluating the WTO's Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund (DDAGTF).

**OECD** [to 25 April 2015]

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

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

[OECD calls for common principles for developing and communicating scientific advice](#)

23-April-2015

Governments would benefit from agreeing common principles for developing and communicating scientific advice, both in crisis situations and for long-term policymaking, according to a new OECD report.

*[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]*

[Pensions At Risk for 80 Million People in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)

20-April-2015

Experts and policy makers gathered today at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to discuss the future of pensions in Latin America and the Caribbean. A panel discussion moderated by CNN journalist Gabriela Frias explored different policy approaches to ensure greater coverage and sustainability of pension systems in the region.

**Organization of Islamic Cooperation** (OIC) [to 25 April 2015]

<http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/news/>



### [OIC to hold extraordinary council of foreign ministers meeting on situation in Yemen](#)

Considering the critical developments on the security and humanitarian fronts in Yemen, and following the announcement of the end of operation Decisive Storm and the start of operation Restoring Hope, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation is planning to hold an extraordinary meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Member States...

24/04/2015

### [OIC Delegation Conducts Extensive Talks Over Situation of Muslims in China](#)

The delegation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation conducted during the past two days extensive talks over the situation of Muslims in China with high officials in the Religious Affairs Administration at the central government of the People's Republic of China in the capital Beijing and high government officials in the city of Urumqi of the autonomous Xingxiang region...

24/04/2015

### [Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation \(OIC\) committed to strong action against Malaria](#)

Leaders Gather in Jeddah for World Malaria Day; Call for Increased Investment to Save Lives & Advance Development Efforts...

23/04/2015

### [OIC Condemns the Massacre of Ethiopians by DAESH Terrorist Group in Libya](#)

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) condemned the atrocious mass murder of thirty Ethiopian Christians by the affiliate of the DAESH terrorist group in Libya....

23/04/2015

### [The Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation condemns the holding of the so-called "Parliamentary Elections" in Occupied Nagorno-Karabakh](#)

The Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Iyad Ameen Madani condemns the "elections" to be held in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 3 May 2015. He states that these elections are illegal and in contravention of the resolutions of the UN Security Council, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Similarly, the OIC Secretary General calls on the international community to condemn this process and deem it illegitimate...

22/04/2015

### [OIC Welcomes Ending of Operation Decisive Storm and Launching the Process to Restore Hope in Yemen](#)

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation welcomed the announcement by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia ending operation Decisive Storm and that a "Hope Phase" is now launched in Yemen...

22/04/2015

### [OIC Secretary General Condemns Attack on UN Staff in Somalia](#)

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), has condemned the bomb attack on 20th April 2015 in Garowe, the Puntland region of Somalia in which six UNICEF staff were killed and seven other injured...

21/04/2015

### [Iyad Madani Stresses the Importance of IPHRC's Independence](#)

The General Secretariat of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held the official opening of the 7th session of the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Council (IPHRC) on Tuesday 21 April 2015, under the theme Protecting Family Values...

21/04/2015

### [OIC observes Presidential and Legislative Elections in the Sudan](#)

Upon the invitation of the National Elections Committee in the Sudan, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) dispatched a team of observers from the OIC General Secretariat to monitor the legislative and presidential elections in the Republic of the Sudan, which lasted for four days from 13 to 16 April 2015. The members of the team conducted extensive field visits to many polling stations and monitored all voting stages, which took place in a peaceful environment free from any violations and breaches that affect the progress and results of the election process...

21/04/2015

### [OIC: Launch of the first round of extensive consultations to boost relations between the Muslim world and China](#)

The first round of extensive political consultation between the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the People's Republic of China kicked off in the capital Beijing on Monday 20 April 2015...

20/04/2015

### **Group of 77** [to 25 April 2015]

<http://www.g77.org/>

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

Statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by Mr Mahlatse Mminele, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations, at the joint session between [Financing for Development and Post-2015 Processes \(New York, 24 April 2015\)](#)

Statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by Thembela Ngculu (Mr), Counsellor for Sustainable Development, on the relationship between the [FfD and Post-2015 processes \(Global Partnership and Possible Key Deliverables\) \(New York, 23 April 2015\)](#)

Statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by Mr Mahlatse Mminele, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations, at the Special Meeting of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on [International Cooperation in Tax Matters \(New York, 22 April 2015\)](#)

Intervention on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by Ambassador Kingsley Mamabolo, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, Chair of the Group of 77, to the joint session between [FfD and post-2015 processes to consider the technology facilitation mechanism and other science, technology and innovation issues \(New York, 22 April 2015\)](#)

Statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by H.E. Ambassador Kingsley Mamabolo, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations, Chair of the

Group of 77, at the [Joint Meeting of the FFD and the Post-2015 Development Agenda \(New York, 21 April 2015\)](#)

**IMF** [to 25 April 2015]

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

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

[Reinvigorate Trade to Boost Global Economic Growth](#)

By Christine Lagarde, Managing Director, IMF Address at the U.S. Ex-Im Bank Conference Washington, DC, April 23, 2015

[Press Release: The International Monetary Fund \(IMF\) and the Arab Monetary Fund \(AMF\) Enhance Cooperation](#)

April 19, 2015

**World Bank** [to 25 April 2015]

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

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

[Nigeria: World Bank Approves US\\$500 Million to Improve Maternal and Child Health, Achieve the 'Saving One Million Lives' Goal](#)

WASHINGTON, April 23, 2015 - The World Bank Group's Board of Executive Directors approved today a US\$500 million International Development Association (IDA)\* credit to significantly improve maternal, child, and nutrition health services for women and children. By improving access to higher quality health services, the new development financing will help Nigeria to achieve its "Saving One Million Lives (SOML) Initiative," which was launched by the Federal Ministry of Health in October 2012 to save the lives of the more than 900,000 women and children who die every year in Nigeria from largely preventable causes. "Saving One Million Lives is a bold response from the Nigerian government to improve the health of the country's mothers and children so they can survive illness and thrive. This, in turn, will also contribute to the social and economic development of Africa's largest economy," said Benjamin Loevinsohn, a Lead Health Specialist and Task Team Leader for the new project....

Date: April 23, 2015

[Burkina Faso: World Bank Approves Additional Financing to Improve Reproductive Health and Education for Women and Girls in the Sixth African Sahel Country](#)

WASHINGTON, April 23, 2015 – The World Bank Group's Board of Executive Directors today approved a US\$23.2 credit and US\$11.6 grant for women and adolescent girls' empowerment to expand their access to reproductive, child, and maternal health services in Burkina Faso. It will also help promote regional knowledge and data on proven gender development programs. The additional financing will build on the original Sahel Women Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Regional Project and add Burkina Faso to be the sixth country supported by the project. It first included five countries in Africa's Sahel region and the Economic Community of Western Africa States (ECOWAS) and now with the sixth the total financing for the project is US\$205 million. "Adding Burkina Faso will enhance the regional impact," says Mercy Tembon, the World Bank Country Manager for Burkina Faso. "Educating adolescent girls

and improving health services for women will certainly reduce poverty and boost shared prosperity...

Date: April 23, 2015

#### [Data and Analysis for More Secure Land Rights, Better Land Use, and Shared Prosperity](#)

These innovations and new tools—along with the dialogue around the Sustainable Development Goals—will further increase demand for reliable data and good analysis. “We see enormous demand for a more evidence-based and output-driven approach to land that can provide a basis for enhanced World Bank engagement in this important sector. Responding to it in a smart way will require support to local capacity to generate and analyze administrative, spatial, and household data and to persistently feed results into ongoing policy debates to secure rights for those who have been excluded—and draw in an increasing number of partners to make the conference more exciting every year,” said Klaus Deininger, Lead Economist in the Research Department and, together with Thea Hilhorst and Nisma Elias of the Research Department, principal organizer of the event...

Date: April 23, 2015

#### [Understanding the Drivers of Prosperity in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)

New report analyzes eight countries to extract valuable lessons for the future WASHINGTON, April 20, 2015—Latin America and the Caribbean have led the developing world in shared prosperity achievements in the last decade, and have seen impressive poverty reduction successes, driven by growth, labor incomes and effective safety net programs. The middle class has expanded and the socioeconomic makeup of the region has transformed as a result. As the region now faces an economic slowdown and stagnating inequality, understanding what helped drive these gains becomes particularly valuable. A new World Bank Group report, Shared Prosperity and Poverty Eradication in Latin America and the Caribbean, explores the performance of eight countries to understand what has driven progress, and what it will take to sustain it. Across the region, higher incomes, improved human capital, and mechanisms that enable the poor and vulnerable to persevere in the face of shocks will be important for safeguarding...

Date: April 20, 2015

\* \* \* \*

#### **:: *NGO/Collaborations/Initiatives Watch***

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

**Amref Health Africa** [to 25 April 2015]

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

[Invest in the Future and Defeat Malaria, urges Amref Health Africa](#)

Published: 24 April 2015

World Malaria Day Statement [Excerpt]

...Amref Health Africa is implementing programs to contribute to the elimination of malaria in Africa and on this World Malaria Day, it renews its commitment to working hand in hand with governments, development partners and civil society organisations to:

:: Explore innovative ways of engaging communities to empower them to scale up malaria prevention strategies

:: Support countries to scale up the implementation of evidence-based, high impact interventions such as IPTp

:: Hold governments accountable to deliver their promises on combating malaria.

Amref Health Africa realizes that governments are responsible for ensuring the right to health for their citizenry and commits to supporting governments to meet this objective. To that extent, Amref Health Africa urges governments as well as their development partners to:

:: Ensure universal coverage of quality diagnostics and treatment services to those in need

:: Invest in routine monitoring of antimalarial drug resistance

:: Avail funds for the development of new, alternative insecticides for use on bed nets

:: Support acceleration of development of a malaria vaccine.

### **Aravind Eye Care System** [to 25 April 2015]

<http://www.aravind.org/default/currentnewscontent>

*No new digest content identified.*

### **BRAC** [to 25 April 2015]

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

#### [BRAC USA calls on donors to close Rana Plaza victims' funding gap](#)

24 April 2015 On the two-year anniversary of Rana Plaza, the fund for victims of the 2013 Bangladesh factory collapse is still \$3 million short of what is needed for fair compensation BRAC USA, the North American affiliate of the Bangladesh-based anti-poverty organization BRAC, is calling on donors to close the \$3 million dollar funding gap to reach the \$30 million needed to compensate victims of the Rana Plaza garment factory collapse...

#### [More power for women- BRAC-Maya launched enhanced website and mobile app](#)

*[Undated]* BRAC-Maya partnership launched their enhanced website and mobile app today at an official ceremony in Dhaka. maya.com.bd is the first website of its kind in Bangladesh with an aim to connect women with the information they are looking for, when they are looking for it. With the support of Australian government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and UK Aid from the British Government, BRAC embarked on its collaborative work with Maya.

#### [Training on Human Rights and Migrant Workers](#)

*[Undated]* Migration Programme, BRAC started two national human rights and migrant workers training for the government officials specially the District Employment and Manpower Officials on 15 -16 April 2015 and on 19 - 20 April 2015 at the conference room of BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka. The training participants are the representatives from concerned ministries and district employment and manpower officials. The training is covering the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)...

### **CARE International** [to 25 April 2015]

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

[As Airstrikes Declared Over, a Political Solution must be Reached to Prevent Humanitarian Catastrophe, Warns CARE](#)

YEMEN

23 APRIL 2015

More must be done in Yemen to protect and access civilians with humanitarian assistance.

[CARE Responding to the Influx of Burundi Refugees into Rwanda](#)

RWANDA

22 APRIL 2015

CARE in Rwanda have mobilized to meet the humanitarian needs of thousands of refugees fleeing tensions related to presidential elections in Burundi.

[Mediterranean Migrant Boat Tragedies Shows Syria Crisis Response Insufficient](#)

SWITZERLAND

21 APRIL 2015

CARE is shocked by the recent tragedy in the Mediterranean, where hundreds of people have died trying to reach Europe across the Mediterranean Sea.

**Danish Refugee Council** [to 25 April 2015]

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

[More than Mines – International Mine Awareness Day 2015](#) (21.04.15)

In April, DDG celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action

**Casa Alianza** [to 25 April 2015]

**Covenant House** [to 25 April 2015]

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

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**ECPAT** [to 25 April 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Fountain House** [to 25 April 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Handicap International** [to 25 April 2015]

[http://www.handicap-international.us/press\\_releases](http://www.handicap-international.us/press_releases)

[Nepal Earthquake: Handicap International teams begin emergency response](#)

Posted on April 25, 2015 5:17 PM

**Heifer International** [to 25 April 2015]

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

April 25, 2015

[Earthquake Impacts Area of Heifer Projects in Nepal](#)

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal Saturday has impacted an area of Heifer International projects near the capital Kathmandu, Heifer officials said Saturday. Heifer staff are working to assess safety of families as well as determine damage to homes and any loss of animals. All Heifer Nepal staff are reported safe, said Padma Singh, senior director of Heifer's Asia Programs. Telephone lines have disrupted communication.

**HelpAge International** [to 25 April 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**International Rescue Committee** [to 25 April 2015]

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

*Press Releases*

24 Apr 2015

[Congressional testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee on the Central American Minors refugee resettlement program \("CAM"\)](#)

22 Apr 2015

[Restart search and rescue missions to save lives in the Mediterranean, says the IRC](#)

*IRC News*

[Yemen on the brink of collapse](#)

Posted by The IRC on April 23, 2015

Yemen was already in a desperately fragile state before simmering, months-long violence in the country boiled over in March. The IRC is working urgently to find ways to get essential drugs and supplies to hospitals. [more »](#)

[A fresh start for refugees in the United States](#)

Posted by [Jordan Helton](#) on April 23, 2015

From San Diego to Baltimore, the IRC is helping resettled refugees and their new neighbors in the United States access the fresh foods they need to live healthy lives

[IRC's Mustafa Hassan honored at TIME 100 Gala in NYC](#)

Posted by The IRC on April 22, 2015

Aid worker for the International Rescue Committee Mustafa Hassan was honored at the TIME 100 Gala in New York City for the most influential people in the world.

**ICRC** [to 25 April 2015]

<https://www.icrc.org/en>

[Migration: ICRC calls for expanded search and rescue, monitoring of humanitarian impact](#)  
[News release](#)

24 April 2015

Geneva (ICRC) – The International Committee of the Red Cross has said it is vital that plans to boost funding for rescue operations aimed at curbing migrant deaths in the Mediterranean cover an expanded area and that other policy proposals be scrutinised for their humanitarian impact.

[Meeting of states on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law](#)  
[News release](#)

24 April 2015

Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Switzerland are hosting the fourth and final meeting of states in Geneva on 23-24 April 2015 as part of their joint initiative on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law.

[Zimbabwe: Improved water supply for over 10,000 people at prison complex](#)  
[News release](#)

24 April 2015

Harare (ICRC) – Over 10,000 people at Chikurubi Prison Complex in the outskirts of Harare are now benefitting from an improved supply of clean water following the commissioning of repairs and upgrades to water infrastructure there.

"Addressing the needs of inmates by upgrading critical infrastructure in prisons run by the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services (ZPCS), such as the water supply system at Chikurubi Prison Complex, has been one of our top priorities since we began working with the ZPCS in 2009," said Thomas Merkelbach, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Zimbabwe. "We are privileged to have implemented this phase of a longer-term effort together with the authorities and the Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA)."

[Weapons: ICRC marks Ypres chlorine gas anniversary with WMD call](#)  
[News release](#)

22 April 2015

Geneva (ICRC) – The International Committee of the Red Cross has marked the 100th anniversary of a World War I battle, where deadly chlorine gas was used on thousands of troops, by underlining the urgent need for more progress towards ridding the world of all types of weapons of mass destruction.

[Turkish and Syrian Red Crescent deliver food to Syria with ICRC support](#)  
[News release](#)

21 April 2015

Geneva (ICRC) – Humanitarian aid has today been successfully delivered into north-east Syria, in an operation jointly organized by the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS), the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society (SARC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Two thousand food parcels were brought into Syria to be distributed to displaced people and civilians in Al-Hassake Governorate. Carried in two trucks, they were delivered to the border between the Turkish city of Nusaybin and the city of Qamishli in Syria. Before proceeding into Syria, the parcels were transferred from the TRCS's trucks to trucks provided by the SARC.



**IRCT** [to 25 April 2015]

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

*News*

[African NGO Forum: IRCT members promote the right to rehabilitation at the 56th session of African Commission for Human and People's Rights](#)

24 April 2015

[IRCT congratulates RCTV Memoria on 15th anniversary](#)

22 April 2015

[To properly address forced migration, eradicating torture is an indispensable task](#)

21 April 2015

The latest capsizing in the Mediterranean in which at least 700 people lost their lives at sea south of the Italian island of Lampedusa, is a human tragedy that reinforces the urgent need to address the issue of forced migration in the EU, which will only be achieved by tackling the root causes that force people to flee.

"Every day in torture treatment centres across Africa and the Middle East our members respond to the needs of torture survivors. We know that torture persists in these countries and that for some victims the only choice is to flee – even if it means taking risks like those who boarded a small fishing vessel setting out to sea. This disaster shows that these people are not receiving the help they so desperately need at home. European leaders, and the European electorate, need to recognise this and do everything in their power to put an end to torture and where it persists, to ensure that its victims get the protection and assistance they need and have a right to," says Victor Madrigal-Borloz, Secretary-General of the IRCT...

..."We call on the EU to acknowledge its responsibility to protect forced migrants who are risking their lives in search for safety. There is an urgent need to reintroduce proper rescue-at-sea operations, but the EU must also address the causes leading to these terrible tragedies and provide people in need with the proper legal framework so they can have adequate alternatives in line with international human rights standards" concluded Mr. Madrigal-Borloz.

[Torture treatment outcomes, the DSM 5 and virginity testing in focus on the latest issue of Torture Journal](#)

21 April 2015

**MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières** [to 25 April 2015]

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

*Press releases*

[Doctors Without Borders Launches Ad Campaign to Highlight Health Dangers of TPP Trade Deal](#)

April 23, 2015

[MSF Kicks off Global Campaign to Reduce the Price of Pneumonia Vaccine to \\$5 in Developing Countries](#)

April 22, 2015

NEW YORK—Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) today launched a global campaign—"A FAIR SHOT"—to call on pharmaceutical companies GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and Pfizer to slash the price of the pneumococcal vaccine in developing countries to US\$5 per child,

so more children can be protected from this childhood killer, and to disclose what they currently charge countries for the vaccine.

### [MSF Calls for Large-Scale Search and Rescue Operation in the Mediterranean](#)

April 19, 2015

Figures from a war zone in the Mediterranean: a mass grave created by European policies

#### *Field News*

### [Q&A: A Fair Shot](#)

April 23, 2015

On April 23, 2015, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) launched a global campaign—"A FAIR SHOT"—to call on pharmaceutical companies GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and Pfizer to slash the price of the pneumococcal vaccine in developing countries to US\$5 per child, so more children can be protected from this childhood killer, and to disclose what they currently charge countries for the vaccine.

### [South Sudan: More Displaced by Ongoing Fighting in Upper Nile State](#)

April 22, 2015

New fighting over the past 24 hours in the town of Malakal, in South Sudan's Upper Nile state, has killed two people, injured many more, and displaced some 900 people, who were forced to seek sanctuary at a designated Protection of Civilians (PoC) site.

Tension in the area remains very high. MSF, which is working in the hospital at the PoC, is currently preparing for a possible influx of wounded people.

### [South Africa: MSF Assists People Displaced by Xenophobic Violence](#)

April 21, 2015

For the past week, a medical team from Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has been responding to the health needs of people displaced by violent xenophobic attacks in South Africa's KwaZulu Natal (KZN) province.

The team began its work on April 14. After conducting assessments at the Isipingo, Chatsworth and Phoenix displacement camps, which collectively house more than 5,000 people near the coastal city of Durban, the team began providing basic medical care. A second team will soon conduct similar assessments in the Ekurhuleni region near Johannesburg.

### [In Ukraine, Providing Assistance Across the Front Line](#)

April 21, 2015

Medical needs remain urgent for both residents and people displaced by conflict on both sides of the front line in Ukraine. Many Ukrainian health workers have left rebel-held areas, leaving thousands of people in remote villages without access to adequate health care. Many medical facilities have been damaged or destroyed, and there are critical shortages of both basic and specialized medicines and supplies.

### **Mercy Corps** [to 25 April 2015]

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

### [Mercy Corps: Investing in Adolescent Girls Critical to Building Drought Resilience](#)

Kenya, April 22, 2015

*New report details the role of girls in improving food security in Kenya's pastoralist communities*

Washington, DC — A new report by global humanitarian organization Mercy Corps examines the role of adolescent girls in Kenya's pastoralist communities, finding that their contribution to household and community food security is critical and grows during times of crisis. With Kenya facing reoccurring drought and hunger, Mercy Corps advises the development community to evaluate the role adolescent girls play in strengthening their communities and adjust programming to meet the needs of this key demographic.

"Adolescent girls have long been overlooked as potential agents of change in pastoralist communities," says Lynn Renken, Kenya Country Director for Mercy Corps. "To help these communities prepare for and adapt to reoccurring crises such as drought, we must identify the barriers and opportunities adolescent girls face as care takers, income providers and future wives and mothers."

The Mercy Corps report is based on focus group discussions and interviews conducted in more than 20 communities in Turkana County, Kenya, in April 2014. The study draws a comparison between pastoralist girls and girls living in communities transitioning out of pastoralism, complementing Mercy Corps' 2014 research in the Sahel that illustrates the powerful influence gender dynamics have on household and community resilience...

The report makes several recommendations for additional research and program adjustment, including reinforcing pastoralist girls' capacities to diversify their sources of food and income during crisis and addressing the social and economic drivers of early marriage. Read or download the full report, Wealth and Warriors: Adolescents in the Face of Drought in Turkana, Kenya. 22Apr2015 NR Wealth&Warriors.pdf

### **Operation Smile** [to 25 April 2015]

[http://www.operationssmile.org/news\\_events/media-room/](http://www.operationssmile.org/news_events/media-room/)

*Upcoming Mission Schedule [Home page]*

April 22 - 25 | Comayagua, Honduras  
April 22 - 26 | Arauca, Colombia  
April 27 - 30 | Dumaguete, Philippines  
May 9 - 15 | Kolkata, India  
May 11 - 15 | Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam  
May 11 - 15 | Hanoi, Vietnam  
May 13 - 16 | Monagas, Maturin, Venezuela  
May 15 - 22 | Esteli, Nicaragua  
May 15 - 22 | Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua  
May 15 - 22 | Managua, Nicaragua

### **OXFAM** [to 25 April 2015]

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

[South Sudanese families being pushed to the brink](#)

21 April 2015

Skyrocketing inflation, conflict and collapsed markets are pushing people in South Sudan to breaking point as the political deadlock enters its 16th month and families face a second 'lean season' since fighting began.

### **Partners In Health** [to 25 April 2015]

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

Apr 22, 2015

[What Does It Mean to Heal and Be Healed? #WeHeal](#)

Apr 20, 2015

[Haiti: Training a New Generation of Family Physicians](#)

When it launched in 2011, the St. Marc family medicine residency was PIH's first formal training program for medical specialists in Haiti, made possible through a partnership with sister organization Zanmi Lasante, Haiti's national medical school, and the Ministry of Health. The first six residents finished their three-year program in December; and five are now working part- or full-time as attending physicians or mentors for residents within the PIH/ZL network. Another 16 family medicine residents are now training at St. Marc's Hôpital St. Nicolas.

**PATH** [to 25 April 2015]

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

Press release | April 23, 2015

[Malaria vaccine candidate has demonstrated efficacy over 3-4 years of follow-up](#)

Final results from Phase III trial suggest substantial public health benefits could be provided by the RTS,S malaria vaccine candidate in endemic regions in sub-Saharan Africa; vaccine efficacy enhanced by administration of a booster dose.

**Plan International** [to 25 April 2015]

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

22/04/2015:

[Mediterranean crossings: Urgent action required to protect children](#)

...Plan International is extremely concerned about the safety and wellbeing of refugee and migrant children who are making these dangerous crossings, some of them unaccompanied. Children are dying and more will die unless world leaders take action, now.....

**Save The Children** [to 25 April 2015]

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

[Yemen Conflict: Child Killed and 48 Injured following Huge Military Explosion in Sana'a Residential Area](#)

April 21, 2015

**SOS-Kinderdorf International** [to 25 April 2015]

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

[SOS Children's Villages: Europe must work to protect child migrants](#)

23.04.2015 - After the latest loss at sea of hundreds of desperate adults and children attempting to migrate to Europe, SOS Children's Villages International asks European governments to act together to prevent further such tragedies and protect child migrants.

**Tostan** [to 25 April 2015]

<http://www.tostan.org/latest-news>  
*No new digest content identified.*

**Women for Women International** [to 25 April 2015]

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

[The Plight of Syrian Women Refugees](#)

April 21, 2015 | Arise News TV

Women for Women International Regional Director Mandana Hendessi recounts the plight of Syrian women living in refugee camps in Northern Iraq.

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**ChildFund Alliance** [to 25 April 2015]

<http://childfundalliance.org/>

*Website unreachable.*

**Disasters Emergency Committee** [to 25 April 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 25 April 2015]

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

[Funding Call Webinar: Slides available to download!](#)

13.04.2015

Slides from 'funding call overview' Webinar on the 10th of April...

**END Fund** [to 25 April 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**GAVI** [to 25 April 2015]

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

24 April 2015

[Next five years vital for childhood immunisation - Gavi CEO](#)

Once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve vaccine access and coverage in developing countries

23 April 2015

[Pakistan vaccinators' salaries](#)

Clarification from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

**Global Fund** [to 25 April 2015]

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

24 April 2015

[Gavi and the Global Fund Welcome Malaria Vaccine Trial Results](#)

22 April 2015

[Net Campaign Targets Universal Coverage in Niger](#)

20 April 2015

[Global Fund Launches Online Platform for Strategy Development](#)

GENEVA - The Global Fund partnership has launched a consultation as part of a process to engage a wide range of stakeholders in developing its 2017-2021 strategy.

Through a web platform launched today, the Global Fund seeks to involve a broad spectrum of participants from government, civil society, people affected by the diseases, multilaterals, private sector and other interested parties to collectively shape the future of the partnership through contributing to the making of the new strategy.

The e-Forum 2015 will invite participants to discuss and share their thinking on diverse thematic areas that the Global Fund works in while highlighting how the partnership should prepare itself for changing dynamics in global health. The e-Forum will be a multilingual platform and will be hosted on the website <http://theglobalfund-eforum.org/consultation> .

Through the forum participants will have an opportunity to shape the future of the Global Fund partnership with its mission of ending AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as epidemics, while building resilient health systems and community responses.

The e-Forum is one strand in a broad consultative process which will also include Global Fund convened meetings across three continents - Africa, Asia and Latin America. Partners will gather in these venues to explore ways of guiding the Global Fund partnership to achieve much greater impact. There will be additional consultation opportunities alongside meetings hosted by WHO, UNAIDS, PMNCH and the StopTB Partnership...

**Hilton Prize Laureates Collaborative** [to 25 April 2015]

<http://hiltonprizelaureatescollaborative.net/>

*No new digest content identified.*

**ODI** [to 25 April 2015]

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

*Press Releases*

[Shale gas could make China's growth cleaner, but concerns exist over level of political ambition to phase out coal and meet environmental standards – new report](#)

News | 21 April 2015

A new report published today by the Overseas Development Institute finds shale gas could help green China's economic growth, reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and air pollution, if used to phase-out coal and aggressively expand renewables...

[Can fracking green China's growth?](#)

*Research reports and studies* | April 2015 | Ilmi Granoff; Sam Pickard; Julian Doczi; Roger Calow; Zhenbo Hou; Vanessa D'Alañon

This paper analyses whether shale gas, and by implication other unconventional sources, can materially improve the quality and sustainability of China's economic growth.

#### [The role of index-based triggers in social protection shock response](#)

Research reports and studies | April 2015 | Francesca Bastagli and Luke Harman

Index-based trigger mechanisms are an innovative instrument used to help ensure timely and adequate social protection response in the event of a shock. This report identifies the potential advantages and limitations of the inclusion of index-based triggers in social...

#### [Do organisational and political models for development cooperation matter for development effectiveness?](#)

Working and discussion papers | April 2015 | Raphaele Faure, Cathal Long, Annalisa Prizzon

This paper sets out to investigate the relationship between different institutional and political models for development cooperation and aid quantity and quality indicators.

#### [The development agency of the future. Fit for protracted crises?](#)

Working and discussion papers | April 2015 | Christina Bennett

This report identifies the numerous conceptual, architectural and political divides that prevent effective linkages between humanitarian and development aid.

#### [The road to reform: Women's political voice in Morocco](#)

Research reports and studies | April 2015 | Clare Castillejo and Helen Tilley

Morocco's active and effective women's movement has acquired a progressively greater presence for women in formal politics and the wider civil society. This report explores how excluded and adversely incorporated groups can achieve greater political voice and how this...

#### [The data revolution: finding the missing millions](#)

Research reports and studies | April 2015 | Elizabeth Stuart, Emma Samman, William Avis and Tom Berliner

This report argues that an absence of data is impeding development progress, particularly for the poorest and most marginalised. It sets out the challenges and provides suggested solutions that will allow a data revolution to take place and improve the lives of many of...

#### **The Sphere Project** [to 25 April 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

#### **Start Network** [to 25 April 2015]

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

*[Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies]*

[Start for Change 2015: Building new humanitarian solutions together](#)

April 23, 2015

Posted by [Tegan Rogers](#) in [News](#).

The Start Network's Annual Conference, entitled *Start for Change 2015: Building new humanitarian solutions together* will take place on 20 May 2015. Our Annual Conference is a unique opportunity for a broad range of staff from our member agencies to meet with other Start Network stakeholders from within and beyond the humanitarian sector, to debate and vote on the future of the collaboration...

**Muslim Charities Forum** [to 25 April 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.]*

[Job Vacancy at the Muslim Charities Forum](#)

24th April 2015

The Muslim Charities Forum is recruiting an Executive Director. We are looking for an experienced and dynamic team leader, with excellent interpersonal and networking skills and a strong knowledge of development programs, organisations and networks relating to sustainable development policy...

.....

**Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP)** [to 25 April 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**CHS International Alliance**

[The Boards of HAP and People In Aid have decided to merge, creating the CHS International Alliance](#)

18 March 2015

:: **Humanitarian Practice Network (HPN)** [to 25 April 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

:: **People In Aid** [to 25 April 2015]

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

[Final consultation on the draft CHS Verification Framework launched - have your say](#)

The final consultation on the draft Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) Verification Framework has now been launched and all humanitarian and development actors are strongly encouraged to make their voices heard.

(24 April 2015)

**InterAction**

<http://www.interaction.org/media-center/press-releases>

[The Global Food Security Act Brings Parties Together in Committee Markup](#)

Apr 23, 2015



WASHINGTON – On Thursday, April 23 the House Committee on Foreign Affairs unanimously approved the Global Food Security Act of 2015 (H.R. 1567). Speaking in response, InterAction President and CEO Sam Worthington said: "InterAction applauds the passage of H.R. 1567, the Global Food Security Act of 2015, by the House Foreign Affairs Committee today."

**Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP)** [to 25 April 2015]

<https://phap.org/>

[Washington 2015 Special Course on Humanitarian Law and Policy](#)

11 May - 13 May 2015: Washington, District of Columbia, United States

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**:: Foundation/Major Donor Watch**

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

**BMGF (Gates Foundation)** [to 25 April 2015]

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

[Emilio Emini Director of HIV](#)

SEATTLE (April 6, 2015) — The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation today announced that Emilio Emini, Ph.D, has been named director of HIV for the Global Health program. He will assume his new position on July 6, 2015.

Dr. Emini is currently the Chief Scientific Officer and Senior Vice President of Vaccine Research at Pfizer Inc. He is also a senior advisor to the Gates Foundation's HIV team. Previously, Dr. Emini served as Senior Vice President and Head of Vaccine Development at the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative. He was also the founding Executive Director of Merck's Department of Antiviral Research and the Vice President of Merck's Vaccine and Biologics Research...

**Clinton Foundation** [to 25 April 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Ford Foundation** [to 25 April 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**William and Flora Hewlett Foundation** [to 25 April 2015]

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

[Op-ed: Foundations Must Move Fast to Fight Climate Change](#)

Apr 20, 2015

*[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]*

**Conrad N. Hilton Foundation** [to 25 April 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Kellogg Foundation** [to 25 April 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**MacArthur Foundation** [to 25 April 2015]

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

*April 23, 2015 - Research and Results*

[Report Examines Nuclear Security and Disarmament Link](#)

Foreign Policy Institute Fellow Deepti Choubey examines how nuclear-armed and non-nuclear-weapon states view the relationship between preventing nuclear terrorism and reducing and eliminating nuclear weapons.

*April 23, 2015 - Research and Results*

[Assessing Views on Open Government Data](#)

Americans are generally optimistic that government initiatives to use open data can make government more accountable, but they are less confident that open data will improve government performance, according to a national survey.

*April 19, 2015 - Research and Results*

[Considering Ethics and Neuroscience in the Justice System](#)

The report addresses the intersection of neuroscience and the legal system and cites 16 works by members of the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Law and Neuroscience.

**Open Society Foundation** [to 25 April 2015]

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

[Guatemala Recommits to Battle against Criminal Impunity](#)

April 24, 2015 News

Extending the work of a UN-backed commission in Guatemala that fights corruption and organized criminality will reinforce efforts to strengthen the rule of law, the Open Society Justice Initiative said.

[Español](#)

**David and Lucile Packard Foundation** [to 25 April 2015]

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

[Packard and Hewlett Foundation Presidents Call on Philanthropy to Invest in Climate Mitigation](#)

April 20, 2015

This week, Packard Foundation President and CEO Carol Larson joined with Larry Kramer, President of the Hewlett Foundation, to co-author a column for the Chronicle of Philanthropy that calls on foundations to increase investment in climate mitigation.

*[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]*

## **Pew Charitable Trusts**

<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/about/news-room/press-releases>

*Press Release*

### [Pew: Sage-Grouse Report Points to Need for Balanced Land Management](#)

*Research shows bird's population dropping faster than anticipated*

April 24, 2015

#### America's Western Lands

...The report, [Greater Sage-Grouse Population Dynamics and Probability of Persistence](#), found a sharp decline in the number of breeding males—from 109,990 in 2007 to 48,641 in 2013—and noted that “sage-grouse populations across the range are declining even faster than the best models forecast for this past six years.”

Once numbering in the millions, the greater sage-grouse has diminished in the past century from its original distribution across the North American continent, due to the loss of 50 percent of the sagebrush steppe habitat. The bird depends on sagebrush for food and shelter, in a region that is also home to mule deer, pronghorn, golden eagles, and elk...

*Press Release*

### [Pew Study Shows Little Progress on Proven Oral Health Strategy](#)

States are slow to adopt policies to expand dental sealant programs in schools

April 23, 2015

#### Children's Dental Policy

WASHINGTON — States are driving up health care costs for families and taxpayers by not doing enough to use dental sealants, according to [States Stalled on Dental Sealant Programs](#), a new report by The Pew Charitable Trusts. The report, reveals that most states are failing to enact policies that ensure low-income children receive dental sealants—clear plastic coatings applied to the chewing surfaces of molars that are a proven strategy for preventing tooth decay. Applying a sealant is one-third of the cost of filling a cavity...

*Press Release*

### [Most Kansas Parents Support Healthy School Food Policies](#)

April 23, 2015

#### Kids' Safe and Healthful Foods Project

WASHINGTON—Nearly all parents of K-12 students in Kansas say it is important to serve nutritious food in schools, and 3 in 4 parents favor the healthy school meal standards in effect nationwide, according to a poll released today by the Kids' Safe and Healthful Foods Project. Respondents expressed broad support for the National School Lunch Program's enhanced nutritional guidelines, now in their third year, as well as for newer federal rules, implemented in 2014, governing food and drinks sold in school vending machines, at snack bars, and on a la carte menus.

[Pollster Memo \(PDF\)](#) | [Full Results \(PDF\)](#)

**Rockefeller Foundation** [to 25 April 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** [to 25 April 2015]

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

[Communities Receive Funding to Improve Residents' Health](#)

April 17, 2015

The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) announced the 24 communities that will receive funding to accelerate and deepen efforts to improve the health of their populations.

**Skoll Foundation** [to 25 April 2015]

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

[Song, Laughter and Art at the Skoll World Forum Closing Plenary](#)

April 18, 2015 by

**Wellcome Trust** [to 25 April 2015]

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

[Babies feel pain 'like adults'](#)

*A study using MRI to look inside babies' brains has found they feel pain in the same way as adults.*

The Wellcome Trust-funded study investigated new-born babies' response to a pain stimulus, with the results suggesting we need to review clinical guidelines for the pain management of young infants....The research was originally published in [eLife](#).

21 April 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**

April 2015 Volume 43, Issue 4, p313-422

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **American Journal of Preventive Medicine**

April 2015 Volume 48, Issue 4, p365-490

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **American Journal of Public Health**

Volume 105, Issue 5 (May 2015)

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

#### **[Ebola Crisis of 2014: Are Current Strategies Enough to Meet the Long-Run Challenges Ahead?](#)**

Gilbert Gimm, PhD, and Len M. Nichols, PhD

*Abstract*

The outbreak of the Ebola virus disease (EVD) in 2014 mobilized international efforts to contain a global health crisis. The emergence of the deadly virus in the United States and Europe among health care workers intensified fears of a worldwide epidemic. Market incentives for pharmaceutical firms to allocate their research and development resources toward Ebola treatments were weak because the limited number of EVD cases were previously confined to rural areas of West Africa. We discuss 3 policy recommendations to address the long-term challenges of EVD in an interconnected world.

### **American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene**

April 2015; 92 (4)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **BMC Health Services Research**

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

(Accessed 25 April 2015)

*Research article*

#### **[HIV service delivery models towards 'Zero AIDS-related Deaths': a collaborative case study of 6 Asia and Pacific countries](#)**

Masami Fujita, Krishna C Poudel, Kimberly Green, Teodora Wi, Iyanthi Abeyewickreme, Massimo Ghidinelli, Masaya Kato, Mean Vun, Seng Sopheap, Khin San, Phavady Bollen, Krishna Rai, Atul Dahal, Durga Bhandari, Peniel Boas, Jessica Yaipupu, Petchsri Sirinirund, Pairoj Saonuam, Bui Duong, Do Nhan, Nguyen Thu, Masamine Jimba BMC Health Services Research 2015, 15:176 (24 April 2015)

*Abstract* (provisional)

Background

In the Asia-Pacific region, limited systematic assessment has been conducted on HIV service delivery models. Applying an analytical framework of the continuum of prevention and care, this study aimed to assess HIV service deliveries in six Asia and Pacific countries from the

perspective of service availability, linking approaches and performance monitoring for maximizing HIV case detection and retention.

#### Methods

Each country formed a review team that provided published and unpublished information from the national HIV program. Four types of continuum were examined: (i) service linkages between key population outreach and HIV diagnosis (vertical-community continuum); (ii) chronic care provision across HIV diagnosis and treatment (chronological continuum); (iii) linkages between HIV and other health services (horizontal continuum); and (iv) comprehensive care sites coordinating care provision (hub and heart of continuum).

#### Results

Regarding the vertical-community continuum, all districts had voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) in all countries except for Myanmar and Vietnam. In these two countries, limited VCT availability was a constraint for referring key populations reached. All countries monitored HIV testing coverage among key populations. Concerning the chronological continuum, the proportion of districts/townships having antiretroviral treatment (ART) was less than 70% except in Thailand, posing a barrier for accessing pre-ART/ART care. Mechanisms for providing chronic care and monitoring retention were less developed for VCT/pre-ART process compared to ART process in all countries. On the horizontal continuum, the availability of HIV testing for tuberculosis patients and pregnant women was limited and there were sub-optimal linkages between tuberculosis, antenatal care and HIV services except for Cambodia and Thailand. These two countries indicated higher HIV testing coverage than other countries. Regarding hub and heart of continuum, all countries had comprehensive care sites with different degrees of community involvement.

#### Conclusions

The analytical framework was useful to identify similarities and considerable variations in service availability and linking approaches across the countries. The study findings would help each country critically adapt and adopt global recommendations on HIV service decentralization, linkages and integration. Especially, the findings would inform cross-fertilization among the countries and national HIV program reviews to determine county-specific measures for maximizing HIV case detection and retention.

#### **BMC Infectious Diseases**

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

(Accessed 25 April 2015)

[No new relevant content]

#### **BMC Medical Ethics**

(Accessed 25 April 2015)

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

[No new relevant content]

#### **BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth**

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

(Accessed 25 April 2015)

*Research article*

## **Determinants of women's satisfaction with maternal health care: a review of literature from developing countries**

Aradhana Srivastava, Bilal I Avan, Preety Rajbangshi, Sanghita Bhattacharyya BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth 2015, 15:97 (18 April 2015)

Abstract (provisional)

### Background

Developing countries account for 99 percent of maternal deaths annually. While increasing service availability and maintaining acceptable quality standards, it is important to assess maternal satisfaction with care in order to make it more responsive and culturally acceptable, ultimately leading to enhanced utilization and improved outcomes. At a time when global efforts to reduce maternal mortality have been stepped up, maternal satisfaction and its determinants also need to be addressed by developing country governments. This review seeks to identify determinants of women's satisfaction with maternity care in developing countries.

### Methods

The review followed the methodology of systematic reviews. Public health and social science databases were searched. English articles covering antenatal, intrapartum or postpartum care, for either home or institutional deliveries, reporting maternal satisfaction from developing countries (World Bank list) were included, with no year limit. Out of 154 shortlisted abstracts, 54 were included and 100 excluded. Studies were extracted onto structured formats and analyzed using the narrative synthesis approach.

### Results

Determinants of maternal satisfaction covered all dimensions of care across structure, process and outcome. Structural elements included good physical environment, cleanliness, and availability of adequate human resources, medicines and supplies. Process determinants included interpersonal behavior, privacy, promptness, cognitive care, perceived provider competency and emotional support. Outcome related determinants were health status of the mother and newborn. Access, cost, socio-economic status and reproductive history also influenced perceived maternal satisfaction. Process of care dominated the determinants of maternal satisfaction in developing countries. Interpersonal behavior was the most widely reported determinant, with the largest body of evidence generated around provider behavior in terms of courtesy and non-abuse. Other aspects of interpersonal behavior included therapeutic communication, staff confidence and competence and encouragement to laboring women.

### Conclusions

Quality improvement efforts in developing countries could focus on strengthening the process of care. Special attention is needed to improve interpersonal behavior, as evidence from the review points to the importance women attach to being treated respectfully, irrespective of socio-cultural or economic context. Further research on maternal satisfaction is required on home deliveries and relative strength of various determinants in influencing maternal satisfaction.

## **BMC Public Health**

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

(Accessed 25 April 2015)

*Research article*

**Effects of agricultural biodiversity and seasonal rain on dietary adequacy and household food security in rural areas of Kenya**

Florence K MũKaibi, Nelia P Steyn, Sophie Ochola, Lisanne Du Plessis BMC Public Health 2015, 15:422 (25 April 2015)

*Abstract* (provisional)

#### Background

Kenya has a high prevalence of underweight and stunting in children. It is believed that both agricultural biodiversity and seasonal rainfall influences household food security and dietary intake. In the present study we aimed to study the effects of agricultural biodiversity and seasonal rains on dietary adequacy and household food security of preschool Kenyan children, and to identify significant relationships between these variables.

#### Methods

Two cross-sectional studies were undertaken in resource-poor households in rural Kenya approximately 6 months apart. Interviews were done with mothers/caregivers to collect data from randomly selected households (N = 525). A repeated 24-hour recall was used to calculate dietary intake in each phase while household food security was measured using the Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS). A nutrient adequacy ratio (NAR) was calculated for each nutrient as the percent of the nutrient meeting the recommended nutrient intake (RNI) for that nutrient. A mean adequacy ratio (MAR) was calculated as the mean of the NARs. Agricultural biodiversity was calculated for each household by counting the number of different crops and animals eaten either from domestic sources or from the wild.

#### Results

Dietary intake was low with the majority of households not meeting the RNIs for many nutrients. However intake of energy ( $p < 0.001$ ), protein ( $p < 0.01$ ), iron ( $p < 0.01$ ), zinc ( $p < 0.05$ ), calcium ( $p < 0.05$ ), and folate ( $p < 0.01$ ) improved significantly from the dry to the rainy season. Household food security also increased significantly ( $p < 0.001$ ) from the dry (13.1 SD 6.91) to the rainy season (10.9 SD 7.42). Agricultural biodiversity was low with a total of 26 items; 23 domesticated and 3 from the natural habitat. Agricultural biodiversity was positively and significantly related to all NARs (Spearman,  $p < 0.05$ ) and MAR (Spearman,  $p < 0.001$ ) indicating a significant positive relationship between agricultural biodiversity of the household with dietary adequacy of the child's diet.

#### Conclusion

Important significant relationships were found in this study: between agricultural biodiversity and dietary adequacy; between agricultural biodiversity and household food security and between dietary adequacy and household food security. Furthermore, the effect of seasonality on household food security and nutrient intake was illustrated.

#### **BMC Research Notes**

(Accessed 25 April 2015)

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

[No new relevant content]

#### **British Medical Journal**

25 April 2015(vol 350, issue 8005)

<http://www.bmj.com/content/350/8005>

[No relevant content identified]



**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 4, April 2015, 209-284

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/93/4/en/>

[Reviewed earlier]

**Chronicle of Philanthropy**

April 1, 2015 Volume 27, Issue 8

<https://philanthropy.com/issue>

[New journal addition]

**Complexity**

March/April 2015 Volume 20, Issue 4 Pages C1–C1, 1–80

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/cplx.v20.4/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

**Conflict and Health**

[Accessed 25 April 2015]

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

[No new relevant content]

**Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation**

(Accessed 25 April 2015)

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

[No new relevant content]

**Developing World Bioethics**

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Development in Practice**

Volume 25, Issue 3, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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

Volume 10, Number 3 (May 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness**

Volume 9 - Issue 02 - April 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Disasters**

April 2015 Volume 39, Issue 2 Pages 185–405

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Emergency Medicine Journal**

April 2015, Volume 32, Issue 4

<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**

2015, Volume 5, Issue 1

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

[No relevant content identified]

### **Epidemiology and Infection**

Volume 143 - Issue 07 - May 2015

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

*Vaccine studies*

#### **[Transport networks and inequities in vaccination: remoteness shapes measles vaccine coverage and prospects for elimination across Africa](#)**

C. J. E. METCALF, A. TATEM, O. N. BJORNSTAD, J. LESSLER, K. O'REILLY, S. TAKAHASHI, F. CUTTS and B.T. GRENFELL

#### ***SUMMARY***

Measles vaccination is estimated to have averted 13·8 million deaths between 2000 and 2012. Persisting heterogeneity in coverage is a major contributor to continued measles mortality, and a barrier to measles elimination and introduction of rubella-containing vaccine. Our objective is to identify determinants of inequities in coverage, and how vaccine delivery must change to

achieve elimination goals, which is a focus of the WHO Decade of Vaccines. We combined estimates of travel time to the nearest urban centre ( $\geq 50,000$  people) with vaccination data from Demographic Health Surveys to assess how remoteness affects coverage in 26 African countries. Building on a statistical mapping of coverage against age and geographical isolation, we quantified how modifying the rate and age range of vaccine delivery affects national coverage. Our scenario analysis considers increasing the rate of delivery of routine vaccination, increasing the target age range of routine vaccination, and enhanced delivery to remote areas. Geographical isolation plays a key role in defining vaccine inequity, with greater inequity in countries with lower measles vaccine coverage. Eliminating geographical inequities alone will not achieve thresholds for herd immunity, indicating that changes in delivery rate or age range of routine vaccination will be required. Measles vaccine coverage remains far below targets for herd immunity in many countries on the African continent and is likely to be inadequate for achieving rubella elimination. The impact of strategies such as increasing the upper age range eligible for routine vaccination should be considered.

### **The European Journal of Public Health**

Volume 25, Issue 2, 01 April 2015

[http://eurpub.oxfordjournals.org/content/25/suppl\\_1](http://eurpub.oxfordjournals.org/content/25/suppl_1)

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Food Policy**

Volume 53, *In Progress* (May 2015)

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

#### **Weather shocks and cropland decisions in rural Mozambique**

Review Article

Pages 9-21

César Salazar-Espinoza, Sam Jones, Finn Tarp

Abstract

*Highlights*

- :: We examine the effect of weather shocks on cropland decisions in rural Mozambique.
- :: Farmers shift land use away from non-staple crops one year after a weather shock.
- :: The uncultivated land share also rises after a weather shock.
- :: Farmers living in higher drought risk areas appear more responsive to flood shocks.
- :: The reallocation identified appears temporary as farmers devote less land to staples after two periods.

#### **What drives and constrains effective leadership in tackling child undernutrition? Findings from Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India and Kenya**

Original Research Article

Pages 33-45

Nicholas Nisbett, Elise Wach, Lawrence Haddad, Shams El Arifeen

Abstract

*Highlights*

- :: Interviews with 89 leaders in four countries shed light on the incentives and constraints to effective leadership.
- :: Understanding leadership entails studying the adaptive practice of leaders rather than their personalities.

:: Leaders studied operate within fluid boundaries set by local political-economies of nutrition.  
:: Successful leaders (high adult development levels) are able to span boundaries and translate between disciplines and sectors.  
:: Supportive action can develop leadership attributes in individuals and their networks in a number of ways identified here.

### **Food Security**

Volume 7, Issue 2, April 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/12571/7/2/page/1>

*Feeding More than 9 Billion by 2050: Challenges and Opportunities*

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Forum for Development Studies**

Volume 42, Issue 1, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Genocide Studies International**

Volume 9, Number 1 /2015

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Global Health: Science and Practice (GHSP)**

March 2015 | Volume 3 | Issue 1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Global Health Governance**

<http://blogs.shu.edu/ghg/category/complete-issues/spring-autumn-2014/>

[Accessed 25 April 2015]

[No new relevant content]

### **Global Public Health**

Volume 10, Issue 4, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Globalization and Health**

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

[Accessed 25 April 2015]  
[No new relevant content]

### **Health Affairs**

April 2015; Volume 34, Issue 4  
<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/current>  
*Cost & Quality Of Cancer Care*  
[Reviewed earlier]

### **Health and Human Rights**

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

### **Health Economics, Policy and Law**

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

### **Health Policy and Planning**

Volume 30 Issue 3 April 2015  
<http://heapol.oxfordjournals.org/content/current>  
[Reviewed earlier]

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

<http://www.health-policy-systems.com/content>  
[Accessed 25 April 2015]

*Research*

#### **[Capacity for conducting systematic reviews in low- and middle-income countries: a rapid appraisal](#)**

Sandy Oliver, Mukdarut Bangpan, Claire Stansfield, Ruth Stewart  
Health Research Policy and Systems 2015, 13:23 (26 April 2015)  
Abstract (provisional)

Background

Systematic reviews of research are increasingly recognised as important for informing decisions across policy sectors and for setting priorities for research. Although reviews draw on international research, the host institutions and countries can focus attention on their own priorities. The uneven capacity for conducting research around the world raises questions about the capacity for conducting systematic reviews.

Methods

A rapid appraisal was conducted of current capacity and capacity strengthening activities for conducting systematic reviews in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). A systems

approach to analysis considered the capacity of individuals nested within the larger units of research teams, institutions that fund, support, and/or conduct systematic reviews, and systems that support systematic reviewing internationally.

#### Results

International systematic review networks, and their support organisations, are dominated by members from high-income countries. The largest network comprising a skilled workforce and established centres is the Cochrane Collaboration. Other networks, although smaller, provide support for systematic reviews addressing questions beyond effective clinical practice which require a broader range of methods. Capacity constraints were apparent at the levels of individuals, review teams, organisations, and system wide. Constraints at each level limited the capacity at levels nested within them. Skills training for individuals had limited utility if not allied to opportunities for review teams to practice the skills. Skills development was further constrained by language barriers, lack of support from academic organisations, and the limitations of wider systems for communication and knowledge management. All networks hosted some activities for strengthening the capacities of individuals and teams, although these were usually independent of core academic programmes and traditional career progression. Even rarer were efforts to increase demand for systematic reviews and to strengthen links between producers and potential users of systematic reviews.

#### Conclusions

Limited capacity for conducting systematic reviews within LMICs presents a major technical and social challenge to advancing their health systems. Effective capacity in LMICs can be spread through investing effort at multiple levels simultaneously, supported by countries (predominantly high-income countries) with established skills and experience.

#### *Research*

### **Assessing the implementation and influence of policies that support research and innovation systems for health: the cases of Mozambique, Senegal, and Tanzania**

Julius Mugwagwa, Daniel Edwards, Sylvia de Haan Health Research Policy and Systems 2015, 13:21 (18 April 2015)

#### Abstract

##### Background

Without good policies it will be difficult to provide guidance to research and innovation systems. However, policies need to be followed through and implemented to have the desired effect. We studied the policies and strategies in place to support research and innovation systems for health in Mozambique, Senegal, and Tanzania, and looked at the extent to which these policies and strategies have been implemented.

##### Methods

We reviewed documents and reports and conducted in-depth interviews with 16 key informants representing various actors of the national research for health systems.

##### Results

The results illustrate that there are various policies and strategies governing research and innovation for health in the three countries. However, implementation of these policies and strategies is generally rated as being poor. The reasons highlighted for this include lack of policy coherence, lack of enforcement and accountability mechanisms, and a lack of financing for implementing the policies. These contextual factors seem to be of such importance that even the increased stakeholder involvement and political leadership, as mentioned by the interviewees, cannot guarantee policy implementation.

##### Conclusions

We conclude that due to the contextual realities of the study countries, there is need for greater focus on policy implementation than on developing additional policies. Government institutions should play a central role in all stages of the policy process, and should ensure implementation of defined policies. Strong mechanisms, including financing, that strengthen the position and role of government in policy coordination and the oversight of the policy process will help increase efficient and impactful implementation of research and innovation for health policies.

### **Human Rights Quarterly**

Volume 37, Number 1, February 2015

[http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/human\\_rights\\_quarterly/toc/hrq.37.1.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/human_rights_quarterly/toc/hrq.37.1.html)

[Reviewed earlier]

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

Volume 39, Issue 2, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wasw21/current#.VTLPmJMw1hW>

[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**

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

[Accessed 25 April 2015]

*Research Article*

#### **[Prevalence and risk factors associated with malaria infection among pregnant women in a semi-urban community of north-western Nigeria](#)**

Sani Fana, Mohammed Bunza, Sule Anka, Asiya Imam, Shehu Nataala Infectious Diseases of Poverty 2015, 4:24 (24 April 2015)

*Research Article*

#### **[Knowledge, perception and practices about malaria, climate change, livelihoods and food security among rural communities of central Tanzania](#)**

Benjamin K Mayala, Carolyn A Fahey, Dorothy Wei, Maria M Zinga, Veneranda M Bwana, Tabitha Mlacha, Susan F Rumisha, Grades Stanley, Elizabeth H Shayo, Leonard Mboera Infectious Diseases of Poverty 2015, 4:21 (24 April 2015)

## **International Health**

Volume 7 Issue 2 March 2015

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

*Special issue: Digital methods in epidemiology*

[Reviewed earlier]

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

Volume 6 Issue 1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

## **International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction**

Volume 13, *In Progress* (September 2015)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/22124209/13>

### **[Disaster risk reduction or disaster risk production: The role of building regulations in mainstreaming DRR](#)**

Original Research Article

Pages 10-19

Ksenia Chmutina, Lee Boshier

[Abstract](#)

### **[Exploring the impacts of flood insurance reform on vulnerable communities](#)**

Original Research Article

Pages 20-36

Earthea Nance

[Abstract](#)

### **[Mapping the expected annual fatality risk of volcano on a global scale](#)**

Original Research Article

Pages 52-60

Hongmei Pan, Peijun Shi, Tao Ye, Wei Xu, Jing'ai Wang

[Abstract](#)

### **[Comparing the direct human impact of natural disasters for two cases in 2011: The Christchurch earthquake and the Bangkok flood](#)**

Original Research Article

Pages 61-65

Ilan Noy

[Abstract](#)

## **International Journal of Infectious Diseases**

June 2015 Volume 35, p1

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

### **[Prevalence of tuberculosis in adolescents, western Kenya: implications for control programs](#)**

Videlis Nduba, Anna H. Van't Hoog, Ellen Mitchell, Peter Onyango, Kayla Laserson, Martien Borgdorff



p11–17

Published online: March 11, 2015

*Open Access*

*Preview*

Tuberculosis (TB) has been declared a global health emergency by the World Health Organization (WHO).<sup>1</sup> No current vaccine has been shown to reliably prevent pulmonary TB in adolescents.<sup>2</sup> The risk of TB disease increases steeply in adolescence, suggesting adolescents may be a suitable target group for vaccination.<sup>3,4</sup> New vaccines are currently being developed,<sup>5-7</sup> and adolescents are considered a convenient target for novel TB vaccine trials because they are easy to reach in schools, are not highly mobile, and do not have many of the comorbidities that exclude adults from trial participation.

### **International Journal of Mass Emergencies & Disasters**

March 2015 (VOL. 33, NO. 1)

<http://www.ijmed.org/issues/33/1/>

#### **[Religious Actors in Disaster Relief: An Introduction](#), 1 -17**

The neglected intersection between religion and disaster relief should be given much greater attention. This emerging field is an intellectually compelling area for study, though much work still needs to be done to explore the processes that take place on the ground in different settings. It is also important for practitioners and policy makers involved in disaster response to have a nuanced understanding of the work that religious actors undertake. This special issue begins with an interview with representatives of prominent humanitarian organizations, all of whom call for greater attention to the work of religious actors in disaster relief. The following case studies provide a textured empirical analysis of religious responses to disasters in contemporary Asia. By attending to particular contexts it is shown that religious actors can and do play important yet complex roles in relief processes. This special issue – edited by Philip Fountain, Robin Bush, and R. Michael Feener – aims to critically examine these diverse intersections and also help set future research agendas on the subject.

#### **[Engaging Religion: An Interview with Practitioners](#), 18 -28**

#### **[Religion in Spaces of Social Disruption: Re-Reading the Public Transcript of Disaster Relief in Pakistan](#), 29 -55**

#### **[Waves of Conversion? The Tsunami, 'Unethical Conversions,' and Political Buddhism in Sri Lanka](#), 56 -76**

#### **[Disaster 'Caliphization': Hizbut Tahrir Indonesia, Islamic Aceh, and the Indian Ocean Tsunami](#), 77 -98**

#### **[Habitat for Humanity's Post-Tsunami Housing Reconstruction Approaches in Sri Lanka](#), 99 -121**

#### **[Breaking Rules to Be Compassionate: The 'Skillful Means' of Buddhist Relief after the Wenchuan Earthquake Disaster](#), 122 -147**

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

Volume 22, Issue 3, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/tsdw20/current#.VSj2SpMw1hX>

[Reviewed earlier]

## **International Migration Review**

Spring 2015 Volume 49, Issue 1 Pages 3–268

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/imre.2015.49.issue-1/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

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

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

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

### ***New Frontiers issue of Intervention***

[Reviewed earlier]

## **JAMA**

April 21, 2015, Vol 313, No. 15

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

*Viewpoint* | April 21, 2015

### **[Infant HIV-1 Vaccines - Supplementing Strategies to Reduce Maternal-Child Transmission](#)**

Genevieve G. Fouda, MD, PhD<sup>1,2</sup>; Coleen K. Cunningham, MD<sup>1</sup>; Sallie R. Permar, MD, PhD<sup>1,2</sup>  
Author Affiliations

This Viewpoint proposes that development of an infant human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) type 1 vaccine is equally important as adult HIV-1 vaccine development to reduce maternal-child HIV transmission.

*Global Health* | April 21, 2015

### **[Fifty Breakthroughs for Sustainable Global Development](#)**

M. J. Friedrich

JAMA. 2015;313(15):1506. doi:10.1001/jama.2015.3340.

Technological and scientific advances most needed to make a difference in the lives of poor people around the world are mapped out in a new study titled "50 Breakthroughs: Critical Scientific and Technological Advances Needed for Sustainable Global Development," from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's Institute for Globally Transformative Technologies (LIGTT) (<https://ligtt.org/50-breakthroughs>).

The authors of the study consulted with over 1000 experts to identify advances that could transform global outcomes, which are categorized into 9 areas: global health, food security and agricultural development, education, human rights, gender equity, water, access to electricity, digital inclusion, and resilience against climate change and environmental damage.

## **JAMA Pediatrics**

April 2015, Vol 169, No. 4

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Journal of Community Health**

Volume 40, Issue 2, April 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10900/40/2/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Journal of Development Economics**

Volume 114, *In Progress* (May 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health**

May 2015, Volume 69, Issue 5

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

*Commentary*

#### **[Impact evaluations of mental health programmes: the missing piece in global mental health](#)**

Mary J De Silva

*The missing piece*

The past 10 years have witnessed a remarkable rise in the visibility of the field of global mental health, which applies the core principles of global health (improving health and equity in health for all people worldwide<sup>1</sup>) to mental health. The stated goal of global mental health is to reduce the burden of mental disorders using an evidence-based and human rights approach with a focus on low and middle income countries (LMIC) as this is where inequity in mental health treatment and care is the greatest.<sup>2</sup>...

#### **[Health service use, out-of-pocket payments and catastrophic health expenditure among older people in India: The WHO Study on global AGEing and adult health \(SAGE\)](#)**

Ethel Mary Brinda<sup>1</sup>, Paul Kowal<sup>2,3</sup>, Jørn Attermann<sup>4</sup>, Ulrika Enemark<sup>1</sup>

Author Affiliations

<sup>1</sup>Section for Health Promotion and Health Services Research, Department of Public health, Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark

<sup>2</sup>Department of Health Statistics and Information Systems, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland

<sup>3</sup>Research Centre for Gender, Health and Ageing, University of Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia

<sup>4</sup>Section of Epidemiology, Department of Public Health, Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark

Published Online First 9 January 2015

*Abstract*

Background

Healthcare financing through out-of-pocket payments and inequities in healthcare utilisation are common in low and middle income countries (LMICs). Given the dearth of pertinent studies on these issues among older people in LMICs, we investigated the determinants of health service use, out-of-pocket and catastrophic health expenditures among older people in one LMIC, India.

## Methods

We accessed data from a nationally representative, multistage sample of 2414 people aged 65 years and older from the WHO's Study on global Ageing and adult health in India.

Sociodemographic characteristics, health profiles, health service utilisation and out-of-pocket health expenditure were assessed using standard instruments. Multivariate zero-inflated negative binomial regression models were used to evaluate the determinants of health service visits. Multivariate Heckman sample selection regression models were used to assess the determinants of out-of-pocket and catastrophic health expenditures.

## Results

Out-of-pocket health expenditures were higher among participants with disability and lower income. Diabetes, hypertension, chronic pulmonary disease, heart disease and tuberculosis increased the number of health visits and out-of-pocket health expenditures. The prevalence of catastrophic health expenditure among older people in India was 7% (95% CI 6% to 8%). Older men and individuals with chronic diseases were at higher risk of catastrophic health expenditure, while access to health insurance lowered the risk.

## Conclusions

Reducing out-of-pocket health expenditure among older people is an important public health issue, in which social as well as medical determinants should be prioritised. Enhanced public health sector performance and provision of publicly funded insurance may protect against catastrophic health expenses and healthcare inequities in India.

## Review

### **[Birth weight and childhood wheezing disorders: a systematic review and meta-analysis](#)**

Teumzghi F Mebrahtu, Richard G Feltbower, Darren C Greenwood, Roger C Parslow

#### Author Affiliations

Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Medicine, University of Leeds, Leeds, UK

Published Online First 22 December 2014

#### Abstract

##### Background

Previous observational studies have claimed that birth weight and childhood wheezing disorders are associated although the results remained inconsistent. One systematic review and two systematic reviews that included meta-analyses reported inconsistent results. We aimed to conduct a systematic review and meta-analysis to investigate this.

##### Methods

An online search of published papers linking childhood asthma and wheezing disorders with birth weight up to February 2014 was carried out using EMBASE and Medline medical research databases. Summary ORs were estimated using random-effects models. Subgroup meta-analyses were performed to assess the robustness of risk associations and between-study heterogeneity.

##### Results

A total of 37 studies comprising 1 712 737 participants were included in our meta-analysis. The unadjusted summary ORs for risk of childhood wheezing disorders associated with low birth weight (<2.5 kg) were 1.60 (95% CI 1.39 to 1.85,  $p < 0.001$ ) and 1.37 (95% CI 1.05 to 1.79,  $p = 0.02$ ) when compared with  $\geq 2.5$  and 2.5–4.0 kg birthweight groups, respectively. The overall summary OR for high birth weight (>4 kg) as compared to the 2.5–4.0 kg birthweight group was 1.02 (95% CI 0.99 to 1.04,  $p = 0.13$ ). There was substantial heterogeneity in the unadjusted low birth weight risk estimates which was not accounted for by predefined study characteristics. There was no significant heterogeneity in the high birth weight risk estimates.

There was some evidence of funnel plot asymmetry and small study effects in the low birth weight (2.5 vs  $\geq 2.5$  kg and  $< 2.5$  vs 2.5–4 kg) OR estimates.

#### Conclusions

Our results suggest that low birth ( $< 2.5$  kg) is an independent risk factor for wheezing disorders during childhood and adolescence although there was substantial heterogeneity among the risk estimates. However, we found no significant association of high birth weight with wheezing disorders.

#### **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 2, May 2015

[http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal\\_of\\_health\\_care\\_for\\_the\\_poor\\_and\\_underserved/toc/hpu.26.2.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_health_care_for_the_poor_and_underserved/toc/hpu.26.2.html)

***Part 2: Refugee, Immigrant, International, and LEP Patient Populations***

*Commentary*

**[The Health Implications of Deportation Policy](#)**

pp. 406-409

Juliana E. Morris, Daniel Palazuelos

**[Improving Access to Mental Health Services for Racialized Immigrants, Refugees, and Non-Status People Living with HIV/AIDS](#)**

pp. 505-518

Y.Y. Brandon Chen, Alan Tai-Wai Li, Kenneth Po-Lun Fung, Josephine Pui-Hing Wong

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

Volume 5 Issue 1 2015

<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/toc/jhlscm/5/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

#### **Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health**

Volume 17, Issue 2, April 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10903/17/2/page/1>

***Special Focus: Food, Diet, and Nutrition***

*39 articles covering these themes in different ethnic and national contexts*

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies**

Volume 13, Issue 1, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Infectious Diseases**

Volume 211 Issue 9 May 1, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of International Development**

April 2015 Volume 27, Issue 3 Pages 313–414

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jid.v27.3/issuetoc>

***Special Issue: Global Development beyond 2015: reflections on the post 2015 debate***

[Reviewed earlier]

**The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics**

Spring 2015 Volume 43, Issue 1 Pages 6–166

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jlme.2015.43.issue-1/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Medical Ethics**

April 2015, Volume 41, Issue 4

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (JPIDS)**

Volume 4 Issue 1 March 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Public Health Policy**

Volume 36, Issue 2 (May 2015)

<http://www.palgrave-journals.com/jphp/journal/v36/n2/index.html>

*Editorial*

**[Is WHO ineffectual because its members are ministries not states?](#)**

Anthony Robbins<sup>a</sup> and Phyllis Freeman<sup>a</sup>

Journal of Public Health Policy (2015) 36, 131–133. doi:10.1057/jphp.2015.4; published online 19 February 2015

**[A North/South collaboration between two national public health institutes – A model for global health protection](#)**

The authors describe a strategic collaboration between the national public health institutes of England and South Africa to protect their populations against infectious diseases and implement WHO International Health Regulations.

Chikwe Ihekweazu, Fortune Ncube, Barry Schoub, Lucille Blumberg, Ruth Ruggles, Mark Salter, Shabir Madhi, and Anthony Kessel

J Public Health Pol 36: 181-193; advance online publication, January 8, 2015; doi:10.1057/jphp.2014.52

**[Translating active living research into policy and practice: One important pathway to chronic disease prevention](#)** Open

Concerned about rising rates of non-communicable diseases, the authors propose ten strategies that may facilitate translation of research into health-enhancing urban planning policy.

Billie Giles-Corti, James F Sallis, Takemi Sugiyama, Lawrence D Frank, Melanie Lowe, and Neville Owen

J Public Health Pol 36: 231-243; advance online publication, January 22, 2015; doi:10.1057/jphp.2014.53

*The Federation's Pages*

**[Public health at all levels in the recent Nigerian Ebola viral infection epidemic: lessons for community, public and international health action and policy](#)**

Michael C Asuzu<sup>a</sup>, Adebayo T Onajole<sup>b</sup>, and Yahya Disu<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Community Medicine, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria. E-mail:

<sup>b</sup>Department of Community Health, University of Lagos Teaching Hospital, Lagos, Nigeria

<sup>c</sup>Lagos State Local Government Service Commission, Lagos, Nigeria

**Journal of the Royal Society – Interface**

06 May 2015; volume 12, issue 106

<http://rsif.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/current>[Reviewed earlier]

**Knowledge Management for Development Journal**

Vol 10, No 3 (2014)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**The Lancet**

Online First

*Comment*

**[Final results from a pivotal phase 3 malaria vaccine trial](#)**

Vasee S Moorthy, Jean-Marie Okwo-Bele

Published Online: 23 April 2015

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)60767-X](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)60767-X)

*Summary*

In The Lancet, the RTS,S Clinical Trials Partnership<sup>1</sup> report the most recent results from the pivotal phase 3 trial of RTS,S/AS01 malaria vaccine, the fourth major publication from this randomised controlled trial.<sup>2–4</sup> The trial enrolled 15,459 infants and young children at 11 centres in seven sub-Saharan African countries: Burkina Faso, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, and Tanzania. Two age groups were included: 6–12 weeks and 5–17 months at first dose. The schedule involved a primary series of three monthly doses, with a booster dose given 18 months later in one of the three trial groups.

Articles

**[Efficacy and safety of RTS,S/AS01 malaria vaccine with or without a booster dose in infants and children in Africa: final results of a phase 3, individually randomised, controlled trial](#)**

RTS,S Clinical Trials Partnership - Members listed at end of paper

Published Online: 23 April 2015

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)60721-8](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)60721-8)

*Summary*

Background

The efficacy and safety of the RTS,S/AS01 candidate malaria vaccine during 18 months of follow-up have been published previously. Herein, we report the final results from the same trial, including the efficacy of a booster dose.

Methods

From March 27, 2009, until Jan 31, 2011, children (age 5–17 months) and young infants (age 6–12 weeks) were enrolled at 11 centres in seven countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Participants were randomly assigned (1:1:1) at first vaccination by block randomisation with minimisation by centre to receive three doses of RTS,S/AS01 at months 0, 1, and 2 and a booster dose at month 20 (R3R group); three doses of RTS,S/AS01 and a dose of comparator vaccine at month 20 (R3C group); or a comparator vaccine at months 0, 1, 2, and 20 (C3C [control group]). Participants were followed up until Jan 31, 2014. Cases of clinical and severe malaria were captured through passive case detection. Serious adverse events (SAEs) were recorded. Analyses were by modified intention to treat and per protocol. The coprimary endpoints were the occurrence of malaria over 12 months after dose 3 in each age category. In this final analysis, we present data for the efficacy of the booster on the occurrence of malaria. Vaccine efficacy (VE) against clinical malaria was analysed by negative binomial regression and against severe malaria by relative risk reduction. This trial is registered with [ClinicalTrials.gov](http://ClinicalTrials.gov), number [NCT00866619](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT00866619).

Findings

8922 children and 6537 young infants were included in the modified intention-to-treat analyses. Children were followed up for a median of 48 months (IQR 39–50) and young infants for 38 months (34–41) after dose 1. From month 0 until study end, compared with 9585 episodes of clinical malaria that met the primary case definition in children in the C3C group, 6616 episodes occurred in the R3R group (VE 36·3%, 95% CI 31·8–40·5) and 7396 occurred in the R3C group (28·3%, 23·3–32·9); compared with 171 children who experienced at least one episode of severe malaria in the C3C group, 116 children experienced at least one episode of severe malaria in the R3R group (32·2%, 13·7 to 46·9) and 169 in the R3C group (1·1%, –23·0 to 20·5). In young infants, compared with 6170 episodes of clinical malaria that met the primary case definition in the C3C group, 4993 episodes occurred in the R3R group (VE 25·9%, 95% CI 19·9–31·5) and 5444 occurred in the R3C group (18·3%, 11·7–24·4); and compared with 116 infants who experienced at least one episode of severe malaria in the C3C group, 96 infants experienced at least one episode of severe malaria in the R3R group (17·3%, 95% CI –9·4 to



37·5) and 104 in the R3C group (10·3%, –17·9 to 31·8). In children, 1774 cases of clinical malaria were averted per 1000 children (95% CI 1387–2186) in the R3R group and 1363 per 1000 children (995–1797) in the R3C group. The numbers of cases averted per 1000 young infants were 983 (95% CI 592–1337) in the R3R group and 558 (158–926) in the R3C group. The frequency of SAEs overall was balanced between groups. However, meningitis was reported as a SAE in 22 children: 11 in the R3R group, ten in the R3C group, and one in the C3C group. The incidence of generalised convulsive seizures within 7 days of RTS,S/AS01 booster was 2·2 per 1000 doses in young infants and 2·5 per 1000 doses in children.

#### Interpretation

RTS,S/AS01 prevented a substantial number of cases of clinical malaria over a 3–4 year period in young infants and children when administered with or without a booster dose. Efficacy was enhanced by the administration of a booster dose in both age categories. Thus, the vaccine has the potential to make a substantial contribution to malaria control when used in combination with other effective control measures, especially in areas of high transmission.

#### Funding

GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals SA and the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative.

### **The Lancet**

Apr 25, 2015 Volume 385 Number 9978 p1591-1696 e38-e44

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

#### *Editorial*

### **[Vaccines: a step change in malaria prevention?](#)**

#### The Lancet

According to WHO's [2014 World Malaria Report](#) there were an estimated 198 million cases of malaria worldwide in 2013, occurring in around half of the world's countries. These infections resulted in some 584 000 deaths, principally associated with Plasmodium falciparum infection, of which 90% occurred in equatorial Africa. Most distressingly, malaria mortality is concentrated in children, with about 453 000 deaths of children aged younger than 5 years in 2013, the vast majority in African countries.

#### *Comment*

### **[Research priorities to address violence against women and girls](#)**

#### Marleen Temmerman

Published Online: 20 November 2014

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(14\)61840-7](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(14)61840-7)

Violence against women and girls is increasingly visible on the global health and development agenda—both as a matter of social justice and equality for women and as a public health priority. After many years of dedicated efforts, more is known about the epidemiology of some forms of violence against women, and knowledge is increasing about what works to prevent and respond to such violence. However, as this Lancet Series on violence against women and girls<sup>1–5</sup> highlights, in terms of research and evidence this is still an emerging field.

#### ***Series***

### **[Prevention of violence against women and girls: lessons from practice](#)**

Lori Michau, MA, Jessica Horn, MSc, Amy Bank, BA, Mallika Dutt, JD, Cathy Zimmerman, PhD

Published Online: 20 November 2014

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(14\)61797-9](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(14)61797-9)

#### *Summary*

This Series paper describes programming to prevent violence against women and girls, and emphasises the importance of systematic, sustained programming across the social ecology (ie,

the delicate equilibrium of interacting social, institutional, cultural, and political contexts of people's lives) to transform gender-power inequalities. Effective prevention policy and programming is founded on five core principles: first, analysis and actions to prevent violence across the social ecology (individual, interpersonal, community, and societal); second, intervention designs based on an intersectional gender-power analysis; third, theory-informed models developed on the basis of evidence; fourth, sustained investment in multisector interventions; and finally, aspirational programming that promotes personal and collective thought, and enables activism on women's and girls' rights to violence-free lives. Prevention programming of the future will depend on all of us having a vision of, and a commitment to, gender equality to make violence-free lives for women and girls a reality.

### ***Series***

#### **Addressing violence against women: a call to action**

Dr Claudia García-Moreno, MD, Cathy Zimmerman, PhD, Alison Morris-Gehring, PhD, Lori Heise, PhD, Avni Amin, PhD, Naeemah Abrahams, PhD, Oswaldo Montoya, MA, Padma Bhate-eosthali, SW, Nduku Kilonzo, PhD, Prof Charlotte Watts, PhD

Published Online: 20 November 2014

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(14\)61830-4](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(14)61830-4)

#### ***Summary***

Violence against women and girls is prevalent worldwide but historically has been overlooked and condoned. Growing international recognition of these violations creates opportunities for elimination, although solutions will not be quick or easy. Governments need to address the political, social, and economic structures that subordinate women, and implement national plans and make budget commitments to invest in actions by multiple sectors to prevent and respond to abuse. Emphasis on prevention is crucial. Community and group interventions involving women and men can shift discriminatory social norms to reduce the risk of violence. Education and empowerment of women are fundamental. Health workers should be trained to identify and support survivors and strategies to address violence should be integrated into services for child health, maternal, sexual, and reproductive health, mental health, HIV, and alcohol or substance abuse. Research to learn how to respond to violence must be strengthened. The elimination of violence against women and girls is central to equitable and sustainable social and economic development and must be prioritised in the agenda for development after 2015.

### **The Lancet Global Health**

May 2015 Volume 3 Number 5 e240-e296

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

#### ***Comment***

#### **Burden of obstetric fistula: from measurement to action**

Saifuddin Ahmed, Özge Tunçalp

Open Access

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(15\)70105-1](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(15)70105-1)

For every maternal death, an additional 20–30 women develop serious pregnancy-related complications. Among all maternal morbidities, obstetric fistula is one of the most devastating. It is caused by injury during childbirth, resulting in an abnormal opening between the vagina and the bladder (vesicovaginal fistula) or rectum (rectovaginal fistula), leading to continuous urinary or fecal incontinence. Obstructed labour is the most common cause of vesicovaginal fistula in low-income countries.<sup>1</sup> Worldwide, an estimated 2–3 million women have obstetric fistula,<sup>1</sup> almost exclusively in sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia.

*Comment*

**Governing the UN Sustainable Development Goals: interactions, infrastructures, and institutions**

Jeff Waage, Christopher Yap, Sarah Bell, Caren Levy, Georgina Mace, Tom Pegram, Elaine nterhalter, Niheer Dasandi, David Hudson, Richard Kock, Susannah Mayhew, Colin Marx, Nigel Poole

Published Online: 29 March 2015

Open Access

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(15\)70112-9](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(15)70112-9)

*Summary*

Three of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) concerned health. There is only one health goal in 17 proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Critiques of the MDGs included missed opportunities to realise positive interactions between goals.<sup>1</sup> Here we report on an interdisciplinary analytical review of the SDG process, in which experts in different SDG areas identified potential interactions through a series of interdisciplinary workshops. This process generated a framework that reveals potential conflicts and synergies between goals, and how their interactions might be governed.

*Articles*

**Prevalence of symptoms of vaginal fistula in 19 sub-Saharan Africa countries: a meta-analysis of national household survey data**

Mathieu Maheu-Giroux, ScD, Véronique Filippi, PhD, Sékou Samadoulougou, PhD, Marcia C Castro, PhD, Nathalie Maulet, MPH, Prof Nicolas Meda, MD, Dr Fati Kirakoya-Samadoulougou, PhD

Open Access

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(14\)70348-1](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(14)70348-1)

*Summary*

Background

Vaginal fistula is a serious medical disorder characterised by an abnormal opening between the vagina and the bladder or rectum, which results in continuous leakage of urine or stool. The burden of this disorder in sub-Saharan Africa is uncertain. We estimated the lifetime and point prevalence of symptoms of vaginal fistula in this region using national household surveys based on self-report of symptoms.

Methods

We considered all Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Multiple Indicators Cluster Surveys (MICS) from sub-Saharan Africa and included data for women of reproductive age (15–49 years). We estimated lifetime prevalence and point prevalence of vaginal fistula with use of Bayesian hierarchical meta-analysis.

Findings

We included 19 surveys in our analysis, including 262 100 respondents. Lifetime prevalence was 3·0 cases (95% credible interval 1·3–5·5) per 1000 women of reproductive age. After imputation of missing data, point prevalence was 1·0 case (0·3–2·4) per 1000 women of reproductive age. Ethiopia had the largest number of women who presently have symptoms of vaginal fistula.

Interpretation

This study is the first to estimate the burden of vaginal fistula in 19 sub-Saharan Africa countries using nationally representative survey data. Point prevalence was slightly lower than previously estimated but these earlier estimates are within the prevalence's credible intervals. Although vaginal fistula is relatively rare, it is still too common in sub-Saharan Africa.

Funding

None.

*Articles*

**[Health gains and financial risk protection afforded by public financing of selected interventions in Ethiopia: an extended cost-effectiveness analysis](#)**

Dr Stéphane Verguet, PhD, Zachary D Olson, MA, Joseph B Babigumira, PhD, Dawit Desalegn, MD, Kjell Arne Johansson, PhD, Margaret E Kruk, MD, Carol E Levin, PhD, Rachel A Nugent, PhD, Clint Pecenka, PhD, Mark G Shrimel, MD, Solomon Tessema Memirie, MD, David A Watkins, MD, Prof Dean T Jamison, PhD

Open Access

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(14\)70346-8](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(14)70346-8)

*Summary*

Background

The way in which a government chooses to finance a health intervention can affect the uptake of health interventions and consequently the extent of health gains. In addition to health gains, some policies such as public finance can insure against catastrophic health expenditures. We aimed to evaluate the health and financial risk protection benefits of selected interventions that could be publicly financed by the government of Ethiopia.

Methods

We used extended cost-effectiveness analysis to assess the health gains (deaths averted) and financial risk protection afforded (cases of poverty averted) by a bundle of nine (among many other) interventions that the Government of Ethiopia aims to make universally available. These nine interventions were measles vaccination, rotavirus vaccination, pneumococcal conjugate vaccination, diarrhoea treatment, malaria treatment, pneumonia treatment, caesarean section surgery, hypertension treatment, and tuberculosis treatment.

Findings

Our analysis shows that, per dollar spent by the Ethiopian Government, the interventions that avert the most deaths are measles vaccination (367 deaths averted per \$100 000 spent), pneumococcal conjugate vaccination (170 deaths averted per \$100 000 spent), and caesarean section surgery (141 deaths averted per \$100 000 spent). The interventions that avert the most cases of poverty are caesarean section surgery (98 cases averted per \$100 000 spent), tuberculosis treatment (96 cases averted per \$100 000 spent), and hypertension treatment (84 cases averted per \$100 000 spent).

Interpretation

Our approach incorporates financial risk protection into the economic evaluation of health interventions and therefore provides information about the efficiency of attainment of both major objectives of a health system: improved health and financial risk protection. One intervention might rank higher on one or both metrics than another, which shows how intervention choice—the selection of a pathway to universal health coverage—might involve weighing up of sometimes competing objectives. This understanding can help policy makers to select interventions to target specific policy goals (ie, improved health or financial risk protection). It is especially relevant for the design and sequencing of universal health coverage to meet the needs of poor populations.

Funding

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

**The Lancet Infectious Diseases**

May 2015 Volume 15 Number 5 p487-614  
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/issue/current>  
[New issue: No relevant content]

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

Volume 19, Issue 5, May 2015  
<http://link.springer.com/journal/10995/19/5/page/1>  
*Review Paper*

#### **[Use of Text Messaging for Maternal and Infant Health: A Systematic Review of the Literature](#)**

Elisabeth Poorman, Julie Gazmararian, Ruth M. Parker, Baiyu Yang, Lisa Elon

##### *Abstract*

Text messaging is an increasingly popular communication tool in health interventions, but has been little studied in maternal and infant health. This literature review evaluates studies of text messaging that may be applied to the promotion of maternal and infant health. Articles from peer-reviewed journals published before June 2012 were included if they were experimental or quasi-experimental studies of behaviors endorsed either by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the American Pediatrics Association, or the United States Preventive Services Task Force; included reproductive age women (12–50 years) or infants up to 2 years of age; and were available in English. Qualitative studies of text messaging specific to pregnant women were also included. Studies were compared and contrasted by key variables, including: design, time-period, study population, and results. Forty-eight articles were included, 30 of which were randomized controlled trials. Interventions vary greatly in effectiveness and soundness of methodology, but collectively indicate that there is a wide range of preventative behaviors that text message interventions can effectively promote, including smoking cessation, diabetes control, appointment reminders, medication adherence, weight loss, and vaccine uptake. Common methodological issues include not accounting for attention affect and not aligning text message content to measured outcomes. Those interventions that are based on an established theory of behavior change and use motivational as opposed to informational language are more likely to be successful. Building on the growing body of evidence for text message interventions reviewed here, as well as the growing popularity of text messaging as a medium, researchers should be able to use this technology to engage difficult to reach populations.

### **The Milbank Quarterly**

*A Multidisciplinary Journal of Population Health and Health Policy*  
March 2015 Volume 93, Issue 1 Pages 1–222  
[http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1468-0009/currentissue](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1468-0009/currentissue)  
[Reviewed earlier]

### **Nature**

Volume 520 Number 7548 pp407-578 23 April 2015  
[http://www.nature.com/nature/current\\_issue.html](http://www.nature.com/nature/current_issue.html)  
*Editorials*

#### **[Highway to health](#)**

Africa has an ambitious and welcome plan for a continent-wide centre for disease control — but if the agency is to live up to its promise, it will need substantially better resources.

*Comment*

**[Policy: Five priorities for the UN Sustainable Development Goals](#)**

Restructure data-gathering and evaluation networks to address climate change, energy, food, health and water provision, say Yonglong Lu and colleagues.

**New England Journal of Medicine**

April 23, 2015 Vol. 372 No. 17

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

[New issue; No relevant content]

**Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly**

April 2015; 44 (2)

<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**

April 2015, VOLUME 135 / ISSUE 4

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**PLOS Currents: Disasters**

[Accessed 25 April 2015]

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

**[Revitalising Evidence-based Policy for the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030: Lessons from Existing International Science Partnerships](#)**

April 23, 2015 · [Research article](#)

The convergence of agreements on disaster risk reduction (DRR), development finance, sustainable development and climate change in 2015 presents a unique opportunity for coherence across these inter-related policy areas. At the same time, demand is growing for a more prominent and effective role for science and technology in providing evidence for policy, with the international community recognising that successful disaster risk reduction (DRR) depends on it. Reflecting this ambition, science is included as a core aspect of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, although the ways in which this will be implemented in practice is still unclear. This paper aims to inform the implementation of international science coordination for DRR by examining a number of existing international science partnerships used across other relevant areas of policy to understand best practice,

options for coordination and lessons identified. In the field of DRR, the science-policy interface needs to be strengthened in line with the best practice described in this review. An enhanced UNISDR Scientific and Technical Advisory Group will be given the mandate for to enhance the evidence base for DRR and mobilise science and technical work in coordination with a broad range of stakeholders. The structure and function of an enhanced STAG must be as open, as inclusive and as participatory as possible in order to build trust in new and existing institutions at local, national, regional and global levels. The challenge for the international community is to facilitate evidence-based policy making by formally recognising the links between DRR, development finance, sustainable development and climate change in the upcoming post-2015 agreements.

### **PLoS Currents: Outbreaks**

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

(Accessed 25 April 2015)

#### **[Understanding the Emergence of Ebola Virus Disease in Sierra Leone: Stalking the Virus in the Threatening Wake of Emergence](#)**

April 20, 2015 · [Research](#)

Since Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) was first identified in 1976 in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo, and despite the numerous outbreaks recorded to date, rarely has an epidemic origin been identified. Indeed, among the twenty-one most documented EVD outbreaks in Africa, an index case has been identified four times, and hypothesized in only two other instances. The initial steps of emergence and spread of a virus are critical in the development of a potential outbreak and need to be thoroughly dissected and understood in order to improve on preventative strategies. In the current West African outbreak of EVD, a unique index case has been identified, pinpointing the geographical origin of the epidemic in Guinea. Herein, we provide an accounting of events that serve as the footprint of EVD emergence in Sierra Leone and a road map for risk mitigation fueled by lessons learned.

### **PLoS Medicine**

(Accessed 25 April 2015)

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

#### **[Research Priorities to Improve the Management of Acute Malnutrition in Infants Aged Less Than Six Months \(MAMI\)](#)**

Chloe Angood, Marie McGrath, Sagar Mehta, Martha Mwangome, Mary Lung'aho, Dominique Roberfroid, Abigail Perry, Caroline Wilkinson, Anne-Dominique Israel, Cecile Bizouerne, Rukhsana Haider, Andrew Seal, James A. Berkley, Marko Kerac, MAMI Working Group Collaborators Guidelines and Guidance | published 21 Apr 2015 | PLOS Medicine 10.1371/journal.pmed.1001812

##### *Summary Points*

:: Worldwide, 8.5 million infants aged less than 6 months (<6m) are acutely malnourished. For the first time, 2013 WHO Malnutrition Guidelines describe their treatment, but on the basis of "very low quality" evidence, per WHO. More and better research is urgently needed.

:: To prioritise the many possible research questions on infant <6m malnutrition, we used the systematic, transparent, well-established Child Health and Nutrition Research Initiative (CHNRI) approach. Sixty-four experts scored 60 research questions on the basis of their answerability,

likelihood of intervention efficacy, effectiveness, deliverability, sustainability, impact on disease burden, and impact on equity.

:: "How should infant <6m SAM be defined?" was the top-scoring research question; that this and other basic questions are still needed highlights paucity of evidence on this topic.

:: Other leading questions reflect interest in public health/community-focused models of care, e.g., "What are priority components of a package of outpatient care?" These questions are important to inform new outpatient strategies now recommended by WHO.

:: Most of our questions received high-priority scores reflecting a great need for a wide variety of evidence. Several major global initiatives such as the "Scaling Up Nutrition Movement" and "Generation Nutrition" would benefit from better evidence. Our results show clear ways forward for future research investments.

### **PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases**

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

(Accessed 25 April 2015)

Apr 2015 | PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases 10.1371/journal.pntd.0003693

[No new relevant content]

### **PLoS One**

[Accessed 25 April 2015]

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

[No new relevant content]

### **PLoS Pathogens**

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

(Accessed 25 April 2015)

[No new relevant content]

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

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

(Accessed 25 April 2015)

[No new relevant content]

### **Prehospital & Disaster Medicine**

Volume 30 - Issue 02 - April 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Public Health Ethics**

Volume 8 Issue 1 April 2015

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



[Reviewed earlier]

### **Qualitative Health Research**

May 2015; 25 (5)

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

#### **Trauma Systems in Kenya**

*A Qualitative Analysis at the District Level*

Hadley K. H. Wesson<sup>1,2</sup>, Kent A. Stevens<sup>1,3</sup>, Abdulgafoor M. Bachani<sup>1</sup>, Stephen Mogere<sup>4</sup>

Daniel Akungah<sup>5</sup>, Jackim Nyamari<sup>5</sup>, John Masasabi Wekesa<sup>6</sup>, Adnan A. Hyder<sup>1</sup>

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#### *Abstract*

Injury is a leading cause of death and disability in low- and middle-income countries. Kenya has a particularly high burden of injuries, accounting for 88.4 deaths per 100,000 population. Despite recent attempts to prioritize injury prevention in Kenya, trauma care systems have not been assessed. We assessed perceptions of formal and informal district-level trauma systems through 25 qualitative semi-structured interviews and 16 focus group discussions with Ministry of Health officials, district hospital administrators, health care providers, police, and community members. We used the principles of theoretical analysis to identify common themes of prehospital and hospital trauma care. We found prehospital care relied primarily on “good Samaritans” and police. We described hospital care in terms of human resources, infrastructure, and definitive care. The interviewees repeatedly emphasized the lack of hospital infrastructure. We showed the need to develop prehospital care systems and strengthen hospital trauma care services.

### **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)**

February 2015 Vol. 37, No. 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Risk Analysis**

February 2015 Volume 35, Issue 2 Pages 179–344

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/risa.2015.35.issue-2/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Science**

24 April 2015 vol 348, issue 6233, pages 369-472

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

*Report*

#### **An Ebola whole-virus vaccine is protective in nonhuman primates**

Andrea Marzi<sup>1,\*</sup>, Peter Halfmann<sup>2,\*</sup>, Lindsay Hill-Batorski<sup>2</sup>, Friederike Feldmann<sup>3</sup>, W. Lesley Shupert<sup>1</sup>, Gabriele Neumann<sup>2</sup>, Heinz Feldmann<sup>1</sup>, Yoshihiro Kawaoka<sup>2,4,5</sup>,

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*Abstract*

*Editor's Summary*

Zaire ebolavirus is the causative agent of the current outbreak of hemorrhagic fever disease in West Africa. Previously, we showed that a whole Ebola virus (EBOV) vaccine based on a replication-defective EBOV (EBOVΔVP30) protects immunized mice and guinea pigs against lethal challenge with rodent-adapted EBOV. Here, we demonstrate that EBOVΔVP30 protects nonhuman primates against lethal infection with EBOV. Although EBOVΔVP30 is replication-incompetent, we additionally inactivated the vaccine with hydrogen peroxide; the chemically inactivated vaccine remained antigenic and protective in nonhuman primates. EBOVΔVP30 thus represents a safe, efficacious, whole-EBOV vaccine candidate that differs from other EBOV vaccine platforms in that it presents all viral proteins and the viral RNA to the host immune system, which might contribute to protective immune responses.

### **Social Science & Medicine**

Volume 132, Pages 1-286 (May 2015)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/02779536/132>

*Review articles*

## **[Anchoring contextual analysis in health policy and systems research: A narrative review of contextual factors influencing health committees in low and middle income countries](#)**

Review Article

Pages 159-167

Asha George, Kerry Scott, Surekha Garimella, Shinjini Mondal, Rajani Ved, Kabir Sheikh

### *Abstract*

Health committees, councils or boards (HCs) mediate between communities and health services in many health systems. Despite their widespread prevalence, HC functions vary due to their diversity and complexity, not least because of their context specific nature. We undertook a narrative review to better understand the contextual features relevant to HCs, drawing from Scopus and the internet. We found 390 English language articles from journals and grey literature since 1996 on health committees, councils and boards. After screening with inclusion and exclusion criteria, we focused on 44 articles. Through an iterative process of exploring previous attempts at understanding context in health policy and systems research (HPSR) and the HC literature, we developed a conceptual framework that delineates these contextual factors into four overlapping spheres (community, health facilities, health administration, society) with cross-cutting issues (awareness, trust, benefits, resources, legal mandates, capacity-building, the role of political parties, non-governmental organizations, markets, media, social movements and inequalities). While many attempts at describing context in HPSR result in empty arenas, generic lists or amorphous detail, we suggest anchoring an understanding of context to a conceptual framework specific to the phenomena of interest. By doing so, our review distinguishes between contextual elements that are relatively well understood and those that are not. In addition, our review found that contextual elements are dynamic and porous in nature, influencing HCs but also being influenced by them due to the permeability of HCs. While reforms focus on tangible HC inputs and outputs (training, guidelines, number of meetings held), our review of contextual factors highlights the dynamic relationships and broader structural elements that facilitate and/or hinder the role of health committees in health systems. Such an understanding of context points to its contingent and malleable nature, links it to theorizing in HPSR, and clarifies areas for investigation and action.

## **[Patient access to health care and medicines across low-income countries](#)**

Original Research Article

Pages 21-27

Divya Srivastava, Alistair McGuire

### *Abstract*

This study explores the issue of demand for health care and medicines in low-income country settings. Using the World Health Survey, multivariate analysis of cross-sectional household data from 35 low-income countries found that when ill, patient demand for health care to visit a clinic or hospital is inelastic ranging from  $-0.19$  to  $0.11$ . The main determinants of health seeking behaviour include having insurance, having a chronic condition, high household expenditure, and marital status. Women, the educated and those living in urban settings are more likely to seek care in a clinic. These findings suggest low-income patients will experience access problems, raising important policy implications to improve access to health care and medicines in these settings.

## **[The traditional healer in obstetric care: A persistent wasted opportunity in maternal health](#)**

Original Research Article

Pages 59-66

Raymond Akawire Aborigo, Pascale Allotey, Daniel D. Reidpath

*Abstract*

Traditional medical systems in low income countries remain the first line service of choice, particularly for rural communities. Although the role of traditional birth attendants (TBAs) is recognised in many primary health care systems in low income countries, other types of traditional practitioners have had less traction. We explored the role played by traditional healers in northern Ghana in managing pregnancy-related complications and examined their relevance to current initiatives to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality. A grounded theory qualitative approach was employed. Twenty focus group discussions were conducted with TBAs and 19 in-depth interviews with traditional healers with expertise in managing obstetric complications. Traditional healers are extensively consulted to manage obstetric complications within their communities. Their clientele includes families who for either reasons of access or traditional beliefs, will not use modern health care providers, or those who shop across multiple health systems. The traditional practitioners claim expertise in a range of complications that are related to witchcraft and other culturally defined syndromes; conditions for which modern health care providers are believed to lack expertise. Most healers expressed a willingness to work with the formal health services because they had unique knowledge, skills and the trust of the community. However this would require a stronger acknowledgement and integration within safe motherhood programs.

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

[accessed 25 April 2015]

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

[No new relevant content]

**Sustainability**

Volume 7, Issue 4 (April 2015), Pages 3515-4782

<http://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/7/4>

Editorial: [Interdisciplinary Approaches and Methods for Sustainable Transformation and Innovation](#)

by [Sangkyun Kim](#)

Sustainability 2015, 7(4), 3977-3983; doi:[10.3390/su7043977](https://doi.org/10.3390/su7043977)

Received: 24 March 2015 / Revised: 26 March 2015 / Accepted: 1 April 2015 / Published: 3 April 2015

*Abstract:*

To increase the likelihood of success and sustainability, organizations must fundamentally reposition themselves and try to change current processes or create new products and services. One of the most effective approaches to find a solution for transformation and innovation is to learn from other domains where a solution for similar problems is already available. This paper briefly introduces the definition of and approaches to convergence of academic disciplines and industries, and overviews several representative convergence cases focusing on gamification for sustainable education, environments, and business managements.

Article: [Delivering a Multi-Functional and Resilient Urban Forest](#)

by [James D. Hale](#), [Thomas A. M. Pugh](#), [Jon P. Sadler](#), [Christopher T. Boyko](#), [Julie Brown](#), [Silvio Caputo](#), [Maria Caserio](#), [Richard Coles](#), [Raziyeh Farmani](#), [Chantal Hales](#), [Russell Horsey](#), [Dexter V. L. Hunt](#), [Joanne M. Leach](#), [Christopher D. F. Rogers](#) and [A. Rob MacKenzie](#)

Sustainability 2015, 7(4), 4600-4624; doi:[10.3390/su7044600](https://doi.org/10.3390/su7044600)

Received: 9 March 2015 / Revised: 4 April 2015 / Accepted: 8 April 2015 / Published: 17 April 2015

*Abstract:*

Tree planting is widely advocated and applied in urban areas, with large-scale projects underway in cities globally. Numerous potential benefits are used to justify these planting campaigns. However, reports of poor tree survival raise questions about the ability of such projects to deliver on their promises over the long-term. Each potential benefit requires different supporting conditions—relating not only to the type and placement of the tree, but also to the broader urban system within which it is embedded. This set of supporting conditions may not always be mutually compatible and may not persist for the lifetime of the tree. Here, we demonstrate a systems-based approach that makes these dependencies, synergies, and tensions more explicit, allowing them to be used to test the decadal-scale resilience of urban street trees. Our analysis highlights social, environmental, and economic assumptions that are implicit within planting projects; notably that high levels of maintenance and public support for urban street trees will persist throughout their natural lifespan, and that the surrounding built form will remain largely unchanged. Whilst the vulnerability of each benefit may be highly context specific, we identify approaches that address some typical weaknesses, making a functional, resilient, urban forest more attainable.

**TORTURE Journal**

Volume 25, Nr. 1, 2015

<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](https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/tmh/43/0/_contents)

[Reviewed earlier]

**Tropical Medicine & International Health**

May 2015 Volume 20, Issue 5 Pages 553–680

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/tmi.2015.20.issue-5/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 2, 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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