

The Sentinel

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

4 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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Editor &

Founding Director

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

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

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

Contents

:: Week in Review

:: Key Agency/IGO/Governments Watch - Selected Updates from 30+ entities

:: NGO/Collaborations/Initiatives Watch - Media Releases, Major Initiatives, Research

:: Foundation/Major Donor Watch -Selected Updates

:: Journal Watch - Key articles and abstracts from 100+ peer-reviewed journals

:: Ebola/EVD Watch

:: 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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Secretary-General Appoints High-Level Panel on Global Response to Health Crises

2 April 2015

SG/A/1558

Press Release

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today announced the appointment of a High-level Panel on the Global Response to Health Crises.

The Secretary-General has appointed Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, as Chair. A full list of Panel members appears below. The Secretary-General has asked the Panel to make recommendations to strengthen national and international systems to prevent and manage future health crises, taking into account lessons learned from the response to the outbreak of Ebola virus disease.

In carrying out its work, the Panel will undertake a wide range of consultations, including with representatives from the affected countries and communities, the United Nations system, multilateral and bilateral financial institutions and regional development banks, non-governmental organizations, countries supporting the response effort, other Member States, health-care providers, academic and research institutions, the private sector and other experts. The Panel will be supported by a Resource Group of leading experts which is to provide advice to the Panel on technical and other issues.

The Panel will hold its first meeting in early May 2015 and is expected to submit its final report to the Secretary-General at the end of December 2015. The Secretary-General will make the report available to the General Assembly and undertake further action as appropriate.

Panel Members

- Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete (United Republic of Tanzania)
- Celso Amorim (Brazil)
- Micheline Calmy-Rey (Switzerland)
- Marty Natalegawa (Indonesia)
- Joy Phumaphi (Botswana)
- Rajiv Shah (United States)

[Full press release including bios here: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sga1558.doc.htm>]

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Donors pledge US\$ 3.8 billion to help people affected by the constantly deteriorating Syria crisis

31 March 2015

In an expression of continued solidarity with the millions of children, women and men affected by the devastating crisis in Syria, now in its fifth year, international donors today pledged US\$3.8 billion at a conference hosted by the Amir of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Third International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria. Remarks by António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Kuwait City, 31 March 2015

UNHCR - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

31 March 2015 *[Excerpt]*

...The Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (or 3RP) aims to stop this downward spiral, to ensure we can meet refugees' basic needs and prevent them from sliding into abject poverty in increasing numbers. We are requesting continued humanitarian support for core protection and life-saving activities, also to prevent some of the terrible protection risks facing refugees – such

as child labor, child recruitment, sexual exploitation and abuse, or early marriages. The appeal also provides for shelter, water and sanitation, minimum health care requirements, and for bringing more children into school.

But this appeal is different from previous ones, in that it recognizes both the immediate and the longer-term imperatives of responding to the crisis by combining a humanitarian and a resilience component. This solid and innovative document was developed in close collaboration with over 200 partners and the host governments. The UNDP Administrator will speak in a few minutes about our common efforts to assist host communities, and to strengthen the ability of refugees and local families to cope with the crisis.

Let me just stress one thing – it is essential that immediate humanitarian needs and longer-term resilience programmes are supported from the totality of resources available to donors. Humanitarian assistance budgets are vastly insufficient to meet even the most basic needs, and development actors must step forward to support the longer-term efforts.

The programmes we are appealing for today have been designed with great emphasis on innovative responses and cost effectiveness. We increasingly use biometric registration and iris scan technology to make targeted assistance to the most vulnerable more effective. Food vouchers and cash grants for very vulnerable families not only allow them the dignity of choice, but we are starting to see that cash grants help to improve overall quality of life. But thousands of needy families are on a waiting list and cannot receive this support unless more funding is made available.

One of the risks that worry me most continues to be the growing threat of a lost generation of Syrian children. With half of all school-aged refugee children and another 2 million in Syria out of school, the number of young people at risk is staggering. They have already lost their childhoods to a terrible war and are now also facing lost futures. Even though humanitarian agencies have made some progress in reinforcing national and community systems to give refugee children better access to education and protection, increasing poverty risks reversing those gains when it forces parents to take their children out of school. With only about 40% of the identified needs funded in 2014, the No Lost Generation initiative needs considerably more support.

...As I said at the beginning, this is a dangerous tipping point. If we fail to provide adequate support to refugees and their hosts, and to build up their resilience to cope with the long-term pressures of this increasingly protracted refugee situation, we risk a further destabilization of the entire region. It is true that humanitarian action can only be a palliative. As the Secretary-General has said, without a political solution to the conflict, we will only find ourselves with greater and greater humanitarian needs. It is our duty to do everything we can to protect and assist those who face the very worst impact of this violent war – the people of Syria.

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Livelihoods Development Critical to Post-Conflict Peacebuilding and Economic Recovery - New Study

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme

WASHINGTON, DC/GENEVA, April 3, 2015 – In the wake of armed conflict, rebuilding livelihoods is critical to peacebuilding and economic redevelopment, according to a new study launched today by the Environmental Law Institute (ELI), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the University of Tokyo, McGill University, and Tufts University.

According to the study, entitled *Livelihoods, Natural Resources, and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding*, reestablishing natural resource-based livelihoods following conflict can strengthen food security, provide employment, help reintegrate ex-combatants and other vulnerable groups, and offer opportunities for cooperation between formerly warring groups.

Edited by Helen Young, a professor at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University, and Lisa Goldman, a senior attorney at ELI, the book combines the expertise and field experience of practitioners, researchers, civil society advocates, and others active in livelihoods and post-conflict peacebuilding from around the world. The publication includes 18 cases studies on livelihoods in 16 conflict-affected countries and territories in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas, and the Middle East. Together, these case studies illustrate a theory of change that underlies post-conflict livelihood interventions based on sustainable natural resource management.

The book examines post-conflict initiatives spanning a broad range of natural resource-based livelihoods, including agricultural development, land tenure, pastoralism, fisheries and coastal management, forest governance, protected area management and ecotourism, and disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR). These case studies illustrate some of the challenges inherent in post-conflict livelihoods programming: how to balance trade-offs, how to prioritize and sequence livelihoods interventions, how to undertake institutional reform, and the advantages and disadvantages of a market-based approach. At the same time, there is no uniform approach that can work in every case. Theoretical approaches must be informed by best practices that are rooted in messy, complex local realities.

"Rebuilding livelihoods in post conflict countries is a critical component of peacebuilding and economic recovery. Where conflict-affected communities rely on natural resources for livelihood security, peacebuilding solutions must address the livelihood needs of poor and vulnerable populations to ensure the sustainable management of these resources in the context of future national development planning and encourage the equitable distribution of development assistance," said United Nations Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner.

"This publication is a valuable contribution to our understanding of the role of livelihoods and natural resources in post-conflict peacebuilding," noted Jan Egeland, Secretary-General of the Norwegian Refugee Council. "If we are to build robust and peaceful societies, nothing is more important than creating and sustaining livelihoods."

Book: [Livelihoods, Natural Resources, and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding](#)

Edited by [Helen Young, Lisa Goldman](#)

Routledge – 2015 – 544 pages

Overview

Sustaining and strengthening local livelihoods is one of the most fundamental challenges faced by post-conflict countries. By degrading the natural resources that are essential to livelihoods and by significantly hindering access to those resources, conflict can wreak havoc on the ability of war-torn populations to survive and recover. This book explores how natural resource management initiatives in more than twenty countries and territories have supported livelihoods and facilitated post-conflict peacebuilding.

Case studies and analyses identify lessons and opportunities for the more effective design of interventions to support the livelihoods that depend on natural resources – from land to agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and protected areas. The book also explores larger questions about how to structure livelihoods assistance as part of a coherent, integrated approach to post-conflict redevelopment.

Livelihoods and Natural Resources in Post-Conflict Peacebuilding is part of a global initiative to identify and analyze lessons in post-conflict peacebuilding and natural resource management. The project has generated six books of case studies and analyses, with contributions from practitioners, policy makers, and researchers. Other books in this series address high value resources, land, water, assessing and restoring natural resources, and governance

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New competition aims to find creative solutions to education challenges in conflict zones

UNICEF-UNHCR Joint press release

NEW YORK/GENEVA, 31 March 2015 – UNICEF and the UN Refugee Agency UNHCR today announced the launch of a new Amplify challenge – a call for ideas and innovations that could improve the delivery and quality of education for children and adults displaced by violent conflict.

“For children whose lives have been devastated by conflicts, education offers hope, stability and – increasingly – a means of delivering life-saving information. It is also an essential investment in the lives of individual children and future generations,” said Josephine Bourne, UNICEF Chief of Education.

“Less than 2 per cent of global humanitarian funding is allocated to education in emergency contexts, leaving an estimated annual gap of \$247 million. Our challenge to designers and innovators is: How can we best preserve education – a basic human right – in difficult circumstances, using cost-effective methods without compromising the quality of learning?”

Through a collaborative process including research, brainstorming and refinement, Amplify hopes to find new economical, human-centred solutions to education in emergency situations, designed with input from the affected communities themselves and tailored to their unique needs. The Amplify programme is hosted by [IDEO.org](http://www.ideo.org) and OpenIDEO, and funded by the UK Department for International Development. The new challenge also includes expert guidance from UNICEF and the Innovation and Education units of UNHCR.

This is the third in a series of 10 challenges that aim to bring about positive change for people living in extreme poverty around the world. The first challenge focused on solutions that enable women to feel safe and empowered in low-income urban areas, the second sought to help parents and caregivers provide their children with the skills, competencies, health and habits crucial to early childhood development.

“The fact that half of the world’s 50 million refugees and displaced people are under the age of 18 is extremely sobering,” said Olivier Delarue, Lead of UNHCR Innovation. “This is why UNHCR is committed to providing access to quality education at the very onset of an emergency. Achieving this in the face of today’s increasingly complex humanitarian crises requires innovative approaches. We need to find creative solutions that are sustainable and, most importantly, place the needs of those who are forcibly displaced at the heart of the design process.”

For more information and to take part in the challenge, visit: <http://ideo.pn/refugeeeducation>



Securing Livelihoods For All: Foresight for Action

OECD - Development Centre Studies

March 31, 2015 :: 164 pages :: DOI:[10.1787/9789264231894-en](https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264231894-en)

Online version: <http://www.oecd.org/dev/securing-livelihoods-for-all-9789264231894-en.htm>

Press Release

Action is needed to secure future livelihoods in developed and emerging economies, says the OECD Development Centre

This report uses a foresight approach to develop five possible livelihood landscapes for the world in 2030, shows that vulnerability and the risk of falling back into extreme poverty remain high in the face of a changing global context.

In most developing regions, 80% of people feel they are struggling or even suffering in their daily lives, rather than thriving. Furthermore, emerging trends in the economy, technology, demography, environment and security could negatively impact livelihoods – defined as the ability to support oneself and thrive now and in the future – in the next decades.

“The outlook for livelihoods is fragile. Emerging global trends are creating a lot of uncertainty, and we need to find innovative ways to ensure resilience of livelihoods”, said Carl Dahlman, Head of Global Development Research at the Development Centre. “Still, in all middle and low-income countries, people generally think that the future will be better than the past or the present. The greatest optimism is in the East Asia-Pacific region” he added.

Worrying global trends include:

:: Increasing inequality as the benefits of economic growth are not shared equally. The poorest 66% of the world’s population are estimated to receive less than 13% of world income, while the richest 1% receive nearly 15%. And around 70% of the world’s undernourished live in middle-income countries.

:: Jobless growth both in emerging and developing economies. The case of China is striking: between 1991 and 2012, GDP multiplied by a factor of almost nine (adjusted for inflation), while total employment remained almost static, and the workforce participation rate of 24-65 year olds fell from 85% to 77%.

:: Jobs are further challenged by rapid technical change and automation. Even white-collar occupations such as accountancy, legal work and technical writing may eventually be phased out.

:: Persisting financial fragilities. Policy measures taken in recent years to reduce the fragility of the financial and banking systems have been considerable, but more is needed to make the system truly robust. The next major shocks may well come from emerging markets, whose growing corporate sector has benefited from massive lending by the global financial system.

:: The growing youth population in Sub-Saharan Africa – where the labour force is growing by 8 million people a year - and in South Asia – where it is growing by 12 million a year - which will become a source of major stress if they do not have enough jobs.

:: Environmental and resource challenges, particularly the expected increase in severe drought incidence. By 2050, more than 40% of the world's population will live under severe water stress.

:: New security concerns – such as cybercrime and terrorism – threaten livelihoods in addition to traditional conflicts due to geopolitical unrest.

Despite these challenges, the report is optimistic that livelihoods can be secured if innovative initiatives are taken. It makes a call for action at all relevant levels to seize these opportunities:

:: At the global level, efforts must continue to increase co-ordination and co-operation to create the right conditions for livelihoods in many fields, from financial stability to climate change, from international trade to migration, from water governance to cyber security.

:: National governments can be enablers of vibrant societies and a back-stop in hard times. For example, to address the jobs challenge, governments could enhance opportunities for lifelong learning and promote livelihood portfolios made up of part-time work, paid training, and unemployment benefits.

:: Local initiatives help secure livelihoods, for example, by supporting a vibrant shared local economy in which individuals can survive through a patchwork of entrepreneurial and social initiatives involving exchanges, barter and virtual service marketplaces. The introduction of local currencies (also known as complementary or community currencies) for example, could shelter local communities from the turbulence of volatile global financial markets.

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Developing Common Principles for Tracking Climate Finance

World Bank

April 3, 2015

The world's largest development finance institutions are working together on a common set of principles for tracking climate finance. They have agreed on the first set for tracking mitigation finance. Similar principles for tracking adaptation finance and leverage are being developed this year.

A key step to reining in climate change is shifting how trillions of dollars are invested, moving finance out of carbon-intensive, business-as-usual investments that can lock in greenhouse gas emissions for decades to come and moving it into low-carbon growth.

Knowing where the money is flowing is critical for reaching areas of opportunity and need, because what gets measured gets managed.

This week, more than two dozen of the world's largest development finance institutions – including multilateral development banks like the World Bank Group and regional and national development banks like Agence Française de Développement – agreed to a common set of principles that each will use to consistently track financial commitments that help reduce the drivers of climate change.

Tracking climate mitigation finance is the first step. The group is also developing principles for tracking adaptation finance and the ability to leverage finance, with frameworks possible mid-year.

"Common methodologies will build trust that climate finance is flowing," said World Bank Group Vice President and Special Envoy for Climate Change Rachel Kyte. "Our ability as multilateral, national and bilateral development institutions to tell a shared story will provide an essential piece of the climate finance jigsaw puzzle. That puzzle needs to be solved in the next few weeks. It's important for the climate conference in Paris, of course, but for Addis Ababa and finance for development, as well."

Common principles for tracking

The development finance institutions have been tracking climate finance for only a few years, and their methods have varied, making global public finance numbers difficult to compare. Some methods left out segments; others led to double counting of resources.

To help create a more accurate map of climate finance flows and assessment of the volume, the multilateral development banks (MDBs) began jointly reporting on climate finance about four years ago and have been fine-tuning their harmonized framework. Together, the African Development Bank (AfDB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), European Investment Bank (EIB), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the World Bank Group (WBG) reported nearly US\$75 billion in climate finance in fiscal years 2011 to 2013.

Separately, the International Development Finance Club (IDFC) developed a process for its 22 national, regional and international development finance institutions, which include Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Germany's KfW. Together, the IDFC members reported US\$87 billion in climate finance in 2013.

Over the past year, these two groups have worked together to develop the principles, guidelines and definitions in the Common Principles for Climate Mitigation Finance Tracking that were agreed to at the Climate Finance Forum in Paris this week.

The principles

The principles set common definitions and guidelines for tracking climate finance, but they leave the implementation, reporting, and quality control to each institution.

An activity is classified as related to climate change mitigation under the common principles if it promotes "efforts to reduce or limit greenhouse gas emissions or enhance greenhouse gas sequestration."

The guidelines then list activities that can be counted as climate finance in nine categories: renewable energy; lower-carbon and efficient energy generation; energy efficiency; agriculture, forestry and land-use; water and wastewater; transportation; low-carbon technologies; non-energy greenhouse gas reductions such as cleaner industrial production and carbon capture and storage; and cross-cutting issues such as support for the development of carbon markets, policies and regulations, and emissions monitoring systems...

Common Principles for Climate Mitigation Finance Tracking – 7 pages

Pdf: <http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/Climate/common-principles-for-climate-mitigation-finance-tracking.pdf>

Introduction

The purpose of these Common Principles for Climate Mitigation Finance Tracking (or the Principles) is to set out agreed climate change mitigation finance tracking principles for development finance. The Principles have been developed by the joint climate finance group of multilateral development banks (MDBs)¹ and the International Development Finance Club (IDFC)² based on their experience on the topic and with the intention to be shared with other institutions that are looking for common approaches for tracking and reporting. The principles consist of a set of common Definitions and Guidelines including the list of activities, but do not

cover aspects related to their implementation, including quality control procedures which remain the sole responsibility of each institution and/or group. The Principles, reflect the approach that both groups (MDBs and IDFC) have been following for tracking climate change mitigation activities for the past 4 years, and are based on the application of harmonized terms.

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EBOLA/EVD [to 4 April 2015]

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

Ebola Situation Report – 1 April 2015

[Excerpts]

SUMMARY

:: A total of 82 new confirmed cases of Ebola virus disease (EVD) were reported in the week to 29 March, a slight increase compared with 79 cases the previous week.

Case incidence in Guinea increased to 57, compared with 45 the previous week. This offset a fourth consecutive weekly fall in case incidence in Sierra Leone, which reported 25 confirmed cases. Liberia reported no confirmed cases over the same period.

:: In addition to an increase in case incidence in Guinea, the geographic area of transmission also increased. A total of 7 Guinean prefectures reported at least one confirmed case in the week to 29 March, compared with 3 the previous week. Two of the 7 prefectures that reported a new confirmed case, Fria and Siguiri, did so for the first time in over 50 days. Siguiri, which borders Mali, is the first prefecture outside the western area of Guinea to report a confirmed case for over 30 days...

:: A 45-day state of health emergency has been declared in the Guinean prefectures of Forecariah, Coyah, Dubreka, Boffa, and Kindia. The capital, Conakry, will also be subject to emergency measures, which include the restriction of movement in areas of transmission, the temporary closure and quarantine of private hospitals and clinics where EVD cases have been detected, and limitation of burial participation to close relatives only. All corpses will be tested for EVD during the 45-day emergency period...

COUNTRIES WITH WIDESPREAD AND INTENSE TRANSMISSION

:: There have been a total of 25,178 reported confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (table 1), with over 10,000 reported deaths (outcomes for many cases are unknown). A total of 57 new confirmed cases were reported in Guinea, 0 in Liberia, and 25 in Sierra Leone in the 7 days to 29 March...

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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 4 April 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases/Meetings Coverage

3 April 2015

SC/11850-AFR/3104

[Security Council Press Statement on Al-Shabaab Attack in Garissa, Kenya](#)

2 April 2015

SG/SM/16640-AFR/3102-PKO/476

[Receiving Report on Mali Violence, Secretary-General Condemns 'Excessive Use of Force' by Formed Police Unit](#)

Secretary-General

Press Release

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

The inquiry launched by the Secretary-General to determine the facts surrounding the violent demonstration that took place on 27 January 2015 in Gao, Mali, in front of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) Regional Headquarters has submitted its report.

The inquiry determined that members of a MINUSMA Formed Police Unit used unauthorized and excessive force on civilian protesters during the demonstration, resulting in the death by gunfire of three protesters and the wounding of four others.

The inquiry also established that some protesters and organizers of the demonstration bear responsibility for the violence of the protest, which included Molotov cocktails, stone throwing and attempts to breach the perimeter of the Regional MINUSMA Headquarters in Gao. The inquiry noted that MINUSMA security forces were left to face the protesters on their own in violation of the Status of Forces Agreement with the host country. Five MINUSMA police officers were wounded during the event.

The Secretary-General profoundly regrets the casualties among civilians resulting from the excessive use of force during this event by the MINUSMA personnel concerned. He condemns it as a violation of the MINUSMA Directive on the Use of Force. The Secretary-General is committed to ensuring that the responsible individuals are held fully accountable for their actions.

Steps are being taken in this regard with the authorities of Mali and the relevant police-contributing country. The Secretary-General encourages the Government of Mali to take the appropriate steps to prevent future such incidents. Communications, management and crisis procedures within MINUSMA will also be examined to prevent the recurrence of such acts.

The Secretary-General is committed to ensuring justice for the victims and their families according to local customs and appropriate United Nations procedures. MINUSMA is in contact with the local authorities and with the individuals and families concerned in this regard. On behalf of the United Nations, the Secretary-General expresses his deepest apologies to the victims and their families.

The United Nations and MINUSMA in particular remain committed to supporting the stabilization of Mali.

SG/A/1558

[Secretary-General Appoints High-Level Panel on Global Response to Health Crises](#)

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

SG/SM/16642

[Secretary-General Welcomes Iran Nuclear Framework, Looks for Comprehensive, Negotiated Solution by June](#)

GA/11632

[Adopting Nine Texts, General Assembly Establishes Nelson Mandela Prize Statute, Promotes Cooperation with Regional Organizations, Culture of Accountability](#)

The General Assembly today adopted without a vote eight resolutions and one decision, including one establishing the statute of the United Nations Nelson Mandela Prize and two on promoting cooperation with regional organizations.

1 April 2015

ECOSOC/6680

[Inclusive Wealth Creation, Not Just Growth, Vital in Post-2015 Period, Speakers Stress as Economic and Social Council Concludes Integration Session](#)

Speakers at the Economic and Social Council drew attention today to the multidimensional nature of the challenge of generating equitable and inclusive employment opportunities as part of achieving sustainable global development, as that body concluded its 2015 integration segment.

31 March 2015

ECOSOC/6679

[Economic and Social Council Tackles Challenges to Creating Decent Jobs as Solution for Climate Change, Global Income Inequality, Unemployment in Africa](#)

In three interactive panel discussions today, the Economic and Social Council looked at how climate change challenges could be met through creating decent jobs, how dignity and prosperity could become the norm for working people, and how policies could translate sustained economic growth in Africa into "broad-based and job-rich outcomes" towards inclusive sustainable development.

30 March 2015

SC/11846

[Security Council Members, in Monthly Wrap-Up, Gravely Concerned about 'New Brand' of Terrorism Targeting Ethnic, Religious Groups as Cross-Border Violence Spreads](#)

The situation in the Middle East, protection of children in armed conflict and crises in Africa dominated the Council's schedule, the Permanent Representative of France, President of the body for March, said in a monthly wrap-up meeting this afternoon.

SC/11845

[Top United Nations Officials Warn Security Council of Constrained Humanitarian 'Footprint' for Victims of Boko Haram's Attacks in Nigeria, Region](#)

Unless well-targeted humanitarian assistance reached those fleeing Boko Haram's increasingly brutal attacks, more than 3 million people in northern Nigeria would be unable to meet basic

food needs in the coming months and millions more would be affected, top United Nations officials said, briefing the Security Council on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

UN OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 4 April 2015]
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/media.aspx?IsMediaPage=true>
[UN Human Rights Chief alarmed by Thai Government's adoption of potentially unlimited and "draconian" powers](#)
4/2/2015

[Discrimination against autistic persons, the rule rather than the exception – UN rights experts](#)
4/1/2015

[Zeid warns of total collapse in Yemen, calls for urgent protection of civilians](#)
3/31/2015

SRSB/CAAC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict [to 4 April 2015]
<https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/virtual-library/press-release-archive/>
31 Mar 2015
[Yemen: UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict Condemns Rising Number of Child Casualties](#)

SRSB/SVC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict [to 4 April 2015]
<http://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/media/press-releases/>
31 Mar 2015
[DRC: Military Pledge Marks Milestone On Road to Ending Conflict-Related Sexual Violence](#)

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [to 4 April 2015]
<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/search?page=&comid=4a0950336&cid=49aea93a7d&scid=49aea93a40>
31 March 2015 [Third International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria. Remarks by António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Kuwait City, 31 March 2015](#)
[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

31 March 2015 [Joint Press Release: New competition aims to find creative solutions to education challenges in conflict zones](#)

UNOCHA [to 4 April 2015]
<http://www.unocha.org/media-resources/press-releases>
03 Apr 2015
- [Chad: Revue de Presse Humanitaire au Tchad, du 21 mars au 03 avril 2015](#)

- [Yemen: Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos Statement on Yemen](#)
- [Syrian Arab Republic: Syrian Arab Republic: Central Emergency Response Fund \(CERF\) OCHA , March 2015](#)
- [South Sudan: Statement by the Humanitarian Coordinator: "Freedom of Movement Vital During the Planting Season"](#)

01 Apr 2015

- [Lebanon: Lebanon receives \\$18 million to address the needs of the most vulnerable](#)
- [Iraq: The United Nations Brings Relief to al-Baghdadi \[EN/AR\]](#)
- [Yemen: Statement from the Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Johannes Van Der Klaauw](#)

31 Mar 2015

- [Syrian Arab Republic: Donors pledge \\$3.8 billion to help people affected by the constantly deteriorating Syria crisis](#)
- [Yemen: Statement of the Yemen Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Johannes van Der Klaauw](#)
- [Syrian Arab Republic: Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator; Valerie Amos, Remarks to the Third International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria](#)

30 Mar 2015

- [Assistant Secretary-General Kyung-Wha Kang: Briefing to the Security Council on Threats to International Peace and Security caused by terrorist acts \(Boko Haram\), 30 March 2015](#)
- [Under-Secretary-General Valerie Amos: Remarks to Third Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations Donors to the Syrian People, Kuwait City, 30 March 2015](#)
- [Vanuatu: Humanitarian Coordinator Warns of Secondary Emergency](#)
- [Third International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria - Concept Note](#)

UNISDR UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 4 April 2015]

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

[Pacific cyclones highlight existential threat of climate change](#)

The head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Margareta Wahlström, spoke today of her concerns about the future development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the face of extreme weather events.

2 Apr 2015

UNICEF [to 4 April 2015]

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

[UNICEF prepares response as Typhoon Maysak nears Philippines](#)

MANILA, Philippines, 1 April 2015 – The Philippines is bracing for Super Typhoon Maysak (local name Chedeng) which is expected to make landfall over the country's Eastern Bicol region within the coming days. UNICEF has prepositioned essential supplies and has staff on standby should a humanitarian response be needed.

[Myanmar peace agreement – UNICEF Statement](#)

NEW YORK, 31 March 2015 – "The successful conclusion of a National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) between the Government of Myanmar and representatives of 16 ethnic armed groups is welcome news for children in Myanmar, who have suffered from some of the longest-running civil conflicts in the world.

[Protect children from escalating violence in Yemen, UNICEF appeals](#)

NEW YORK/AMMAN, 31 March 2015 – At least 62 children have been killed and 30 injured during fighting in Yemen over the past week, according to UNICEF. The fighting is severely damaging basic health services and education, while violence and displacement are leaving children terrified.

[UNICEF education assistance to reach 30,000 school-aged children in Vanuatu](#)

PORT VILA, 31 March 2015 – As Vanuatu's schools officially reopen, UNICEF and its partners are supporting the Government of Vanuatu to provide assistance to 30,000 school-aged children from early childhood to secondary school level who have been affected by Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Pam. Early assessment data suggests that 50 per cent of the schools in Tafea, Torba, Penama, Malampa and Shefa provinces suffered damage to infrastructure, facilities and resources.

[Children killed and injured by landmines and unexploded ordnance in eastern Ukraine - UNICEF](#)

KYIV/GENEVA, 31 March 2015 –At least 109 children are reported to have been injured and 42 killed by landmines and unexploded ordnance in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of eastern Ukraine since March last year, UNICEF said today.

[New competition aims to find creative solutions to education challenges in conflict zones](#)

NEW YORK/GENEVA, 31 March 2015 – UNICEF and the UN Refugee Agency UNHCR today announced the launch of a new Amplify challenge – a call for ideas and innovations that could improve the delivery and quality of education for children and adults displaced by violent conflict.

UN Women [to 4 April 2015]

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

[Black Friday destroys village livelihoods in Vanuatu](#)

Date : April 2, 2015

In the wake of devastating Tropical Cyclone Pam, UN Women is working with market vendors, governments and donors to help affected market women restore their livelihoods and build resilience against future shocks.

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues [to 4 April 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

WHO & Regionals [to 4 April 2015]

:: [**Conflict in Yemen kills and injures hundreds, places major strain on health system**](#)

1 April 2015, Sana'a, Yemen – An escalation in conflict and violence in Yemen has resulted in hundreds dead and thousands injured, and placed immense strain on health facilities and humanitarian health care providers...

...WHO, in support of Yemen's Ministry of Public Health and Population, is working with the International Committee of the Red Cross, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF France and Spain) and other partner organizations to ensure that patients receive the treatment they urgently need and that health facilities are provided with sufficient medicines and medical supplies.

To date, WHO and partners have provided interagency emergency health kits for more than 80 000 beneficiaries, as well as blood bags, oxygen cylinders with regulators, and IV fluids. Urgently required medicines and other supplies that are available in the country are being procured locally. With the closure of all airports and ports to Yemen, WHO is coordinating with the World Food Programme and UN partners to explore alternative solutions for the provision of additional medicines and medical kits from its humanitarian hub in Dubai.

:: The [**Weekly Epidemiological Record \(WER\) 3 April 2015**](#), vol. 90, 14 (pp. 133–148) includes:

- Planning, requesting medicines and reporting for preventive chemotherapy
- UNICEF and WHO meet to strengthen reporting of anthelmintic treatment for preschool children.

:: [**GIN - March 2015 pdf, 1.87Mb**](#) 31 March 2015

:: **WHO Regional Offices**

WHO African Region AFRO

No new digest content identified.

WHO Region of the Americas PAHO

:: [**Experts Discuss Actions to Include Health in All Public Policies in the Countries of the Americas**](#) (03/30/2015)

WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO

:: • [**Make food safety a priority: WHO**](#) 31 March 2015

WHO European Region EURO

:: [**Complex food chain increases food safety risks**](#) 31-03-2015

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO

:: [**Conflict in Yemen kills and injures hundreds, places major strain on health system**](#)

1 April 2015, Sana'a, Yemen – An escalation in conflict and violence in Yemen has resulted in hundreds dead and thousands injured, and placed immense strain on health facilities and humanitarian health care providers

WHO Western Pacific Region

:: [Ensuring food in the Region is safe from farm to plate](#)

MANILA, 1 April 2015 – Diseases caused by unsafe food claim an estimated 2 million lives globally each year. The World Health Organization (WHO) in the Western Pacific Region marks World Health Day (7 April) this year by urging governments, the food industry and consumers to observe food safety to save lives and improve global health.

UNAIDS [to 4 April 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.[PDF](#)

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund [to 4 April 2015]

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

2 April 2015 - News

[Religious leaders pledge to fight maternal mortality in Kenya](#)

1 April 2015 - News

[Meeting reproductive health needs in the wake of Cyclone Pam](#)

31 March 2015 - News

[As Syrian crisis drags into fifth year, pregnant women caught in the middle](#)

UNDP United Nations Development Programme [to 4 April 2015]

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

02 Apr 2015

[The world celebrates the second International Day of Sport for Development and Peace](#)

On the 6th of April this year, the United Nations and the global sports community celebrates the second International Day of Sport for Development and Peace promoting the role of sport as a tool at the service of society and a universal tool for peace.

31 Mar 2015

[Helen Clark :Statement at the Third International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria](#)
Kuwait City, Kuwait

31 Mar 2015

[Donors pledge US\\$ 3.8 billion to help people affected by the constantly deteriorating Syria crisis](#)

In an expression of continued solidarity with the millions of children, women and men affected by the devastating crisis in Syria, now in its fifth year, international donors today pledged US\$3.8 billion at a conference hosted by the Amir of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

31 Mar 2015

[Liberians return from overseas to help get schools and hospitals back on track](#)

With the help of UNDP, Liberian expatriates will return to pass on their expertise and experience.

31 Mar 2015

[UNDP among first partners selected by Green Climate Fund](#)

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) Board has approved UNDP as the first UN agency that will be able to access the Fund's resources for developing countries, alongside six other entities from the public and private sector.

UN Division for Sustainable Development [to 4 April 2015]

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

Latest

- [Proposal for Programme for Joint Session between FfD and Post-2015 processes](#)
- [Proposed 6 themes for Interactive Dialogues during the Post-2015 United Nations Summit](#)

Post-2015 intergovernmental negotiations / 23 - 27 March 2015

- [Draft Programme](#)
- [Clarifications on draft programme from Co-Facilitators](#)
- [Targets in the proposed SDGs framework](#)
- [Side Events Preliminary Programme](#)
- [Technical report by the Bureau of the United Nations Statistical Commission \(UNSC\) on the process of the development of an indicator framework for the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda \(Working draft\)](#)
- [More information](#)

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme [to 4 April 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[Livelihoods Development Critical to Post-Conflict Peacebuilding and Economic Recovery - New Study](#)

03/04/2015

WASHINGTON, DC/GENEVA, April 3, 2015 – In the wake of armed conflict, rebuilding livelihoods is critical to peacebuilding and economic redevelopment, according to a new study launched today by the Environmental Law Institute (ELI), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the University of Tokyo, McGill University, and Tufts University.

According to the study, entitled Livelihoods, Natural Resources, and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding, reestablishing natural resource-based livelihoods following conflict can strengthen food security, provide employment, help reintegrate ex-combatants and other vulnerable groups, and offer opportunities for cooperation between formerly warring groups. *[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]*

[Secretary-General Appoints Elliott Harris of Trinidad and Tobago Assistant Secretary-General and Head of UNEP New York Office](#)

Mr. Harris has led and plays a central role in UNEP's contribution to the Post 2015 development agenda process and important inter-agency coordination mechanisms.
01/04/2015

[Renewables Re-energized: Green Energy Investments Worldwide Surge 17% to \\$270 Billion in 2014](#)

Driven by solar and wind, world investments reverse 2-year dip, brush aside challenge from sharply lower oil price; 103GW capacity added in 2014 is roughly that of all US nuclear plants
31/03/2015

[High-Level Delegates Meet in Nairobi to Set Parameters for Crucial UN Environment Assembly](#)

The first-ever UNEA was attended by a record number of high-level delegations from 160 UN Member and Observer States and stakeholders, and provided fresh impetus to a number of priority environmental issues.
30/03/2015

DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 4 April 2015]
<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news.html>

2 April 2015, New York

- [Top water and sanitation projects awarded at UN Headquarters](#)
- [ECOSOC to launch network tackling 'monumental' global employment challenge](#)

1 April 2015, New York

- [Investing ahead — for people and the planet](#)
- [ECOSOC talks green jobs, income inequality and unemployment](#)
- [Creating a successful interaction between social and gender development](#)

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 4 April 2015]
<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/allpress.html?ref=fp>

No new digest content identified.

UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme [to 4 April 2015]
<http://unhabitat.org/media-centre/press-releases/>

[Iraqi IDPs to get shelter and basic services, thanks to Japanese funding](#)

Baghdad 30 March 2015 - Through the support of the Government of [Japan](#), UN-Habitat launched a [project](#) in [Iraq](#) to support internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the country to enhance self-reliance and improve their living conditions through provision of prefabricated durable shelters and basic services in Baghdad, Dohuk and Kerbala Governorates...

FAO Food & Agriculture Organization [to 4 April 2015]
<http://www.fao.org/news/archive/news-by-date/2015/en/>

[Countries pledge to wipe out sheep and goat plague globally](#)

High-level authorities from 15 countries pledged on Thursday to collaborate on a global plan to wipe out forever the devastating animal disease known as 'Peste des petits ruminants' by

2030, a lethal plague for goats and sheep and the scourge of rural households in vast swathes of the developing world.

2-04-2015

[FAO food price index drops again in March driven by sugar's sharp slide](#)

A sharp fall in the price index for sugar - which reached its lowest level since February 2009, together with dipping prices for vegetable oils, cereals and meat, more than offset a rise in dairy prices and contributed to the lower index, which in March averaged 173.8 points.

2-04-2015

[Infographic](#)

Healthy soils are the foundation of the food system. Our soils are the basis for agriculture and the medium in which nearly all food-producing plants grow. Healthy soils produce healthy crops that in turn nourish people and animals. Indeed, soil quality is directly linked to food quality and quantity. With a global population that is projected to exceed 9 billion by 2050, compounded by competition for land and water resources and the impact of climate change, our current and future food security hinges on our ability to increase yields and food quality using the soils that are already under production today.

1-04-2015

[FAO and government team up to restore food security in northern Mali](#)

The government of Mali and FAO have launched the implementation phase of a \$5 million project aimed at restoring the livelihoods of households affected by the armed conflicts and climate change in the northern part of the country.

1-04-2015

[Targeting total eradication of a devastating livestock disease](#)

FAO and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) will outline a strategy for the total eradication of Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) by 2030 at an international conference starting today in Abidjan, the capital of Cote d'Ivoire, where so-called goat plague was first diagnosed in the 1940s.

31-03-2015

[FAO appeals for \\$121 million to support livelihoods affected by Syria crisis](#)

30-03-2015

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 4 April 2015]

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

31 March 2015: IFAD supports livestock marketing and climate resilience in Sudan

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

ILO International Labour Organization [to 4 April 2015]

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

Economic and Social Council 2015 Integration Summit

[Wanted: 600 million jobs!](#)

01 April 2015

The third and final day of the 2015 ECOSOC Integration Segment closed with a high-level panel on the challenge of creating 600 million jobs over the next decade while also promoting environmental sustainability. The day also included discussions on matching education and skills to market demands, and on financing for development and partnerships for Decent Work.

Labour inspection

[Technology lightens the load for factory inspector](#)

01 April 2015

'LISA' App on a tablet makes the job of a labour inspector in Colombo easier and helps monitor cases and ensure compliance with labour laws.

Economic and Social Council 2015 Integration Summit

[Making Dignity and Prosperity the Norm](#)

31 March 2015

The second day of the ECOSOC Integration Segment saw a keynote speech by ILO Director-General Guy Ryder on how international labour standards should form the basis for promoting a "high road" to economic growth. The discussions also focused on the link between climate change and decent job creation, the progress made on gender equality issues since the Beijing conference 20 years ago, and how job-rich growth can lead to inclusive and sustainable development in Africa.

Economic and Social Council 2015 Integration Summit

[Decent work takes centre stage at ECOSOC](#)

30 March 2015

Leaders from government, business, civil society and the United Nations met in New York on 30 March to kick off the Economic and Social Council 2015 Integration Segment. This year's event focused on "Achieving sustainable development through employment creation and decent work for all".

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization [to 4 April 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

IMO International Maritime Organization [to 4 April 2015]

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

[Six candidates for position of IMO Secretary-General](#)

01/04/2015

The election for the IMO Secretary-General will be held at the IMO Council, 114th session, 29 June to 3 July 2015

WMO World Meteorological Organization [to 4 April 2015]

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

[Papua New Guinea Holds National Climate Outlook Forum](#)

[30 March 2015](#)

Papua New Guinea has held its first successful National Climate Outlook Forum under a WMO-spearheaded initiative to strengthen and increase the provision of seasonal outlooks at both regional and national level. The programme, financed by Environment Canada, aims to ensure that weather and climate information are integrated into decision making for sectors such as agriculture, water management, health and disaster risk reduction.

The Forum, which was hosted by Papua New Guinea's Weather Service, brought together government and United Nations agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations, the private sector, and research and education institutions.

[Inauguration of the operational centre for ocean observation in Brest](#)

30 March 2015

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO inaugurated the new JCOMMOPS centre with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on 18 March 2015. The in situ Observing Platform Support Centre of the Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMMOPS), which monitors ocean observing networks, is thus moving its centre of gravity from Toulouse to Brest in order to be closer to the high concentration of ocean professionals on the French coast.

"There are 10,000 buoys, floats and ships with equipment that take the pulse of the ocean, in addition to satellites," explained the centre's director, Mathieu Belbéoch. They contribute to the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), the permanent global system for ocean observations over the long term. GOOS plays a vital role in improving the collection of data required for the development of climate forecasts and climate change detection.

The JCOMMOPS support centre assesses networks' performance while encouraging their harmonization and optimization. It also assists in the establishment and maintenance of several observation networks, such as Argo and DBCP, which require 2 000 deployments per year. This colossal global effort is facilitated by a dedicated team, in constant dialogue with the ocean community, and by stakeholders of all maritime fields that contribute to the deployment of equipment and to data collection...

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 4 April 2015]

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

[UNIDO and Developing Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation announce new institutional partnership](#)

Thursday, 02 April 2015

VIENNA, 2 April 2015 – The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Developing Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) will jointly promote and accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development in developing countries and economies in transition with a special focus on poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.

A Joint Declaration on this purpose was signed in Vienna today by LI Yong, the Director General of UNIDO, and Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, the Secretary-General of D-8.

As an inter-governmental organization D-8 focuses on economic cooperation within eight developing countries namely, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey. It pursues the objectives of improving Member States' positions in the world economy, diversifying and creating new opportunities in trade relations and providing better standards of living.

Joint UNIDO and D-8 activities are foreseen in the areas of trade capacity-building, including of small and medium-sized enterprises, and the promotion of entrepreneurship; in such sectors as ceramic and glass, cement, machinery, automotive, food, iron and steel, textile, garment and petrochemical; as well as in rural renewable energy and industrial energy efficiency; climate change and cleaner production; and in investments and technology promotion.

[Africa on path of inclusive and sustainable industrialization, says UNIDO Director General](#)

Tuesday, 31 March 2015

ADDIS ABABA, 31 March 2015 – The new industrial policy of the nineteen countries of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) holds the key to the economic growth of the entire region...

UNWTO World Tourism Organization [to 4 April 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

ITU International Telecommunications Union [to 4 April 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNESCO [to 4 April 2015]

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/for-the-press/press-releases/>
03.04.15

[Syrian journalist Mazen Darwish winner of UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize](#)

The winner of the 2015 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize is Syrian journalist and human rights activist, Mazen Darwish, currently imprisoned. The Prize will be awarded during the celebration of World Press Freedom Day, 3 May, which will this year be hosted by Latvia (National Library, Riga, 6 p.m.).

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization [to 4 April 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity [to 4 April 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

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USAID [to 4 April 2015]

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

[Research Shows that Simple Treatments Can Help Save the Lives of Babies Who Lack Access to Hospital Care](#)

April 1, 2015

New evidence shows that treating severe infections closer to home with fewer antibiotic injections could save lives by increasing access to care when hospitalization is not possible

Simple antibiotic regimens for newborns with severe infections - such as pneumonia and sepsis - in lower income countries is as effective as the standard course of twice daily injections and hospitalization over the course of a week, according to research conducted in Bangladesh, Nigeria, Kenya, and Democratic Republic of Congo...

DFID [to 4 April 2015]

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

[Funding for development research](#)

Updated 1 April 2015 Detailed guide DFID

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

Updated 31 March 2015 Statistics DFID

ECHO [to 4 April 2015]

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

[EU largest donor to Syria at international pledging conference](#)

31/03/2015

The EU significantly increased its funding in response to the Syria crisis at today's Third International Pledging Conference for Syria in Kuwait. Together, the European Commission and Member States pledged close to €1.1 billion – double the overall EU pledge at the 2014 conference. The EU continues to be the largest donor to the Syria crisis.

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African Union [to 4 April 2015]

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

Apr.02.2015 [The African Union strongly condemns the terrorist attack at Garissa, Kenya](#)

Apr.02.2015 [The African Union and the Conference of Constitutional Jurisdictions of Africa sign milestone Memorandum of Understanding to establish partnership](#)

Addis Ababa – 2 April 2015: the African Union and the Conference of Constitutional Jurisdictions of Africa (CCJA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will establish a partnership with the aim of increasing the effectiveness of both parties in their efforts to promote democracy, good governance, human and peoples' rights, constitutionalism, fair and free elections and rule of law in Africa.

Under the MOU the Commission and CCJA shall cooperate closely and undertake joint actions and activities to implement the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the 2002 African Union Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and other relevant instruments...

Apr.02.2015 [China supporting continent-wide efforts to strengthen disease surveillance, emergency preparedness and response](#)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2 April 2015- Ahead of the operationalisation of the African Centre for Disease Control and Prevention in July 2015 African and Chinese officials met from 26 to 28 March 2015 in Beijing, China to discuss strengthened health collaboration. The roundtable endorsed policy recommendations on disease control and prevention including ways to engage new partners and build strong health systems. The meeting particularly focused on ways to support the African CDC's continent-wide work in disease surveillance, emergency preparedness and response.

"We deliberated on a set of policy recommendations that we will consider at this year's ministerial gathering where we will call for strengthened dialogue between China and African countries" said Dr.

Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko, the Commissioner for Social Affairs at the African Union Commission, "the roundtable committed to tailoring Chinese support to African health priorities and increased Chinese and African investments in health" he added.

The key policy recommendations from the roundtable include strengthening health collaboration between China and Africa governments. The meeting further recommended collaboration in the development of resilient and sustainable health systems to support the goal to reach universal health coverage, provision of adequate healthcare and financial protection of all citizens. African and Chinese pharmaceutical companies and the China Chamber of Commerce for Imports and Export of Medicines and Health Products were urged to explore the means of collaboration including joint ventures, technology transfers and shared industrial parks...

Apr.01.2015 [Joint AUC/ECA Conference of the African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development ends in Addis Ababa](#)

Mar.31.2015 [Statement by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on the Official Election Results in the Federal Republic of Nigeria](#)

The African Development Bank Group [to 4 April 2015]

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

[Seychelles: AfDB Approves US\\$ 26 million for Mahe Water Project](#)

03/04/2015 - The African Development Bank Group (AfDB) has allocated a loan and a grant amounting to US\$ 25.995 million dollars to finance a water project in Mahe in the Seychelles.

[Progress made on the Africa Regional Integration Index presented to African Ministers](#)

02/04/2015 - The African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), recently in Addis-Ababa, presented preliminary data on the continent's Regional Integration Index to the 8th AU-ECA Conference of Ministers.

[AfDB Board approves US \\$123.77 million for Angola Urban Water Project](#)

01/04/2015 - The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 approved a US \$123.77-million loan to the Republic of Angola to finance the country's Institutional and Sustainability Support to Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Service Delivery Project.

[AfDB approves US \\$100-million Risk Participation Facility for FirstRand Bank S.A. to boost trade finance in Africa](#)

01/04/2015 - The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank (AfDB) approved on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 a US \$100-million unfunded Risk Participation Agreement (RPA) for FirstRand Bank Limited South Africa (FRB), under which the two banks will share the default risk on a portfolio of trade transactions originated by issuing banks in Africa and confirmed by FRB.

[Eight candidates in the running for the next AfDB Presidency submit their vision for the Bank and Africa](#)

30/03/2015 - The eight candidates in the running for the election of the next President of the African Development Bank have submitted their vision statements for the Bank and the continent. The vision statements have been published on each candidate's respective profile page on the African Development Bank website, AfDB.org, and may be accessed by clicking on the name of the candidate in the links provided below.

ASEAN [to 4 April 2015]

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

[Sec-Gen Minh Updates World Parliamentarians on ASEAN's Sustainable Development Efforts](#)

Wednesday, 01 April 2015.

HA NOI, 1 April 2015 – Viet Nam was in the centre of international attention over the weekend as it hosted the 132nd Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly which began on 28 March and concludes today. The Assembly comprises of a series of meetings and discussions covering issues of global concern, including international law, threats to peace and security, cyber security, and water resources under the common theme of "Sustainable Development Goals: Turning Words Into Actions."

UNCTAD [to 4 April 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

World Trade Organisation [to 4 April 2015]

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]

26 and 27 March 2015

SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES: FORMAL MEETING

[Food safety body agrees to e-working group "time out" on definition of private standards](#)

WTO members meeting as the committee dealing with food safety and animal and plant health have agreed to a time out in the efforts of an electronic working group to agree on a working definition of SPS-related private standards after failing to bridge their impasse on the issue.

24 March 2015

[Seychelles to become 161st WTO member](#)

On 24 March, the National Assembly of the Republic of Seychelles ratified, unanimously, the WTO Protocol of Accession of the Republic of Seychelles. On 25 March, President James Michel

signed the Instrument of Acceptance of the Accession Protocol, confirming its membership terms, at a plenary meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers in Mahé, Victoria, Seychelles. President Michel handed the Instrument to the Director of the WTO Accessions Division, who received it on behalf of WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo.

OECD [to 4 April 2015]

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

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

[Action is needed to secure future livelihoods in developed and emerging economies, says the OECD Development Centre](#)

31-March-2015

New global trend such as jobless growth, a rising youth population and resource scarcity threaten to undo much of the progress of recent decades in securing people's ability to make a living, according to a new report by the OECD Development Centre launched in Paris today at the OECD Global Forum on Development.

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

Group of 77

<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 Honourable Mr Ebrahim Patel, the South African Minister of Economic Development, at the [integration segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council](#)

(New York, 31 March 2015)

Remarks on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by Ambassador Kingsley J.N. Mamabolo, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations, Chair of the Group of 77, at the High-level Interactive Dialogue: [The International Decade for Action, "Water for Life": Progress Achieved and Lessons Learned for Sustainable Development](#)

(New York, 30 March 2015)

IMF [to 4 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]

No new digest content identified.

World Bank [to 4 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]

[Developing Common Principles for Tracking Climate Finance](#)

This week, more than two dozen of the world's largest development finance institutions – including multilateral development banks like the World Bank Group and regional and national development banks like Agence Française de Développement – agreed to a common set of principles that each will use to consistently track financial commitments that help reduce the drivers of climate change. Tracking climate mitigation finance is the first step. The group is also developing principles for tracking adaptation finance and the ability to leverage finance, with frameworks possible mid-year."

Date: April 3, 2015

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

Modern Credit Infrastructure Allows for Quicker Loans

Information a click away

Recent credit infrastructure modernization in the banking sector have made transactions easier to process, and have facilitated access to loans for small businesses such as Alam's. FMFB-A's deputy of the operations department, Nawid Rahyab, says: "Banks used to have lots of challenges in issuing loans as there was no organized online structure for assessing and managing risks. However, now it is very easy to access information to assess and manage risks." A key improvement was the establishment of the Collateral Registry (CR) and Public Credit Registry (PCR) systems, which has enabled FMFB-A to expedite the process of loan issuance, according to Rahyab. The core objectives and priorities of the CR and PCR systems are to provide secure loans and facilitate private sector access to much needed loans...

Date: April 2, 2015

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:: NGO/Collaborations/Initiatives Watch

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

Amref Health Africa [to 4 April 2015]

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

Gunmen Attack Kenyan University

April 2, 2015

An unknown number of armed gunmen this morning launched a deadly attack on the Garissa University in North Eastern Kenya. The attackers struck at 5.30am and began shooting indiscriminately. Kenyan military stationed near the university arrived soon afterwards and cordoned off the university, forcing the attackers to take refuge in the classrooms, where they are currently holed up, having taken hundreds of students hostage.

So far, 25 bodies have been retrieved from one of the classrooms, while 65 people are being treated at the Garissa General Hospital and other health facilities. Amref staff were the first to respond to the distress calls using one of the office vehicles to transport the injured to hospital. Amref Flying Doctors has also sent a medical team aboard three aircraft to Garissa – two King Lear and one Caravan – to help with managing the casualties and possible evacuation.

Amref Health Africa has 33 employees in Garissa, working in the Afya Plus Imarisha project. All staff and their families are safe and have been advised to work from home, while all travel by staff to the area has been halted until further notice.

This is a very sad situation indeed. Amref Health Africa sends our condolences to the families of those who have been affected and stand in solidarity with the people of Garissa at this time.

Aravind Eye Care System [to 4 April 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

BRAC [to 4 April 2015]

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

[Frugal innovation – the secret to scaling sustainably](#)

April 2, 2015 by [Farazeh Mahboob](#) and [Anjali Sarker](#)

In the changing landscape of development, long standing boundaries between non-profit and for profit models are merging while social enterprises are emerging. Even the most generous aid models are not enough to provide basic services to the 1.2 billion poor people living in middle income countries. In this context, the [third Frugal Innovation Forum](#) hosted by the [BRAC Social Innovation Lab](#) explored how we can serve millions in a sustainable manner. Under the theme 'pushing the boundaries of development', several speakers from the development sector, multinational corporations and social enterprises expressed that we need frugal innovations that can create more impact with less resources and institutions that can scale sustainably...

[WASH & CLEAN in the labour ward](#)

A knowledge dissemination workshop on 'WASH & CLEAN in the labour ward: A situation analysis in India and Bangladesh' was held on 25 March 2015 at BRAC Centre Auditorium. The Bangladesh part of this study is a collaboration between BRAC and the University of Aberdeen, UK with funding support from the Soapbox Collaborative, UK. In the workshop, findings of the study on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and infection prevention practices in maternity unit of hospital was shared with stakeholders working in the field of maternal health...

CARE International [to 4 April 2015]

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

[Yemen on the Brink of a Humanitarian Crisis, Warns CARE](#)

YEMEN

3 APRIL 2015

After a week of heavy fighting across parts of Yemen, an already dire humanitarian situation could turn into a major crisis if the violence continues, warns CARE.

[CARE Prepares to Respond to Typhoon Maysak in the Philippines](#)

PHILIPPINES

2 APRIL 2015

In the Philippines, CARE prepares for response as Category 4 storm, Typhoon Maysak, is expected to make landfall Saturday or Sunday.

[Cyclone Pam: Women the Backbone of Vanuatu's Disaster Recovery](#)

VANUATU

2 APRIL 2015

As the international relief effort in Vanuatu continues, aid organisation CARE says it is critical that international aid targets the needs of women and girls.

Danish Refugee Council [to 4 April 2015]

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

[DRC stays in Yemen despite current crisis](#)

(02.04.15)

Category: Press releases

The situation in Yemen continues to deteriorate with thousands of civilians forced to flee their homes because of the ongoing conflict. Refugees, migrants, and internally displaced persons in Yemen are finding themselves in an even more precarious situation and at risk of secondary displacement. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) continues to deliver life-saving services in the country amidst the fragile situation despite its recent evacuation of expatriate staff out of Yemen.

Casa Alianza [to 4 April 2015]

Covenant House [to 4 April 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

ECPAT [to 4 April 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Fountain House [to 4 April 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Handicap International [to 4 April 2015]

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

April 01, 2015

[Child casualties of mines too often deprived of an education](#)

Nearly half of all recorded civilian victims of mines and explosive remnants of war are children—and most do not return to school after their accidents. On April 4, the United Nations' "International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action," Handicap International calls on States to allocate the human and financial resources necessary to secure accessible education for all...

Heifer International [to 4 April 2015]

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

April 2, 2015

[Heifer Awarded \\$750,000 From Starbucks Foundation to Support Coffee Farmers in Tanzania](#)

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.

Heifer International was awarded a Starbucks Foundation grant of \$750,000 to help fund the Mbozi Farmer Livelihood Improvement Project in Tanzania, which will help improve livelihoods and quality of life for smallholder coffee growing communities in the East African country.

HelpAge International [to 4 April 2015]

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

[Project launch: EU joins HelpAge International in promoting and protecting older women's rights in Tanzania](#)

Project launch: EU joins HelpAge International in promoting and protecting older women's rights in Tanzania On 1st April 2015 HelpAge International will launch a two years project with funding from the European Union (EU) that aims at Promoting and Protecting Older women's Rights in Tanzania...

Posted: 01 April 2015

International Rescue Committee [to 4 April 2015]

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

[U.S. must meet the needs of vulnerable Syrian refugees for resettlement](#)

Posted by The IRC on April 3, 2015

The war in Syria has caused extreme trauma and suffering for survivors, especially children and youth. The IRC, along with other aid agencies responding to the crisis, spotlights the potential needs of the most vulnerable refugees, as the United States prepares to resettle some of them.

[Garissa Attack: Gripping eyewitness account from an IRC first responder](#)

Posted by The IRC on April 3, 2015

Reuben Nyaora was part of an IRC ambulance team that rushed from the Dadaab refugee camp to Garissa University College on April 2 when they heard that gunmen had attacked the campus, 50 miles away. Read Nyaora's gripping account from the scene.

[A call for more humanitarian aid in Afghanistan \[QUOTED\]](#)

Posted by The IRC on April 3, 2015

Responding to a recent New York Times editorial on Afghanistan's future, IRC president David Miliband says it is essential to provide assistance to the millions of Afghans uprooted and impoverished by 30 years of civil war.

[The IRC is providing medical care for students injured in Kenya attack](#)

Posted by The IRC on April 2, 2015

The IRC is providing immediate medical care for those who have been injured in the horrific attack on students at Garissa University College in Kenya.

[Cash helps Syrian refugees to survive](#)

Posted by The IRC on April 1, 2015

Most Syrian refugees in Lebanon can't afford rent, to buy food and fuel, or pay for schooling for their children. The IRC provides cash assistance, accessed through reloadable debit cards, to thousands of the most vulnerable.

[The IRC temporarily suspends its programs in Yemen due to escalating violence](#)

Posted by The IRC on March 31, 2015

NEW YORK—As the ongoing conflict in [Yemen](#) continues to escalate, the International Rescue Committee has been forced to temporarily suspend its programs in the south of the country. The IRC has been working in Yemen since 2012 providing water, health, nutrition, and other essential assistance to vulnerable Yemenis.

According to the United Nations, 267 people were killed and 994 injured between March 20-26. The UN also estimates that airstrikes in the capital Sana'a have forced 300 families to flee from their homes. Large numbers of people are seeking refuge with relatives outside the city.

The IRC's Yemen country director, Mohamed Elmontassir Hussei said:

"The decision to suspend IRC operations reinforces the need to end the violence in Yemen and resume the delivery of vital humanitarian aid to Yemen's most vulnerable. The new wave of violence is especially concerning, and we have no choice but to temporarily suspend our humanitarian relief programs in the south of the country," he said.

"We are considering contingency plans, which include responding to new emergency needs. We are in constant contact with our government partners and the health clusters at national and sub-national levels. Those parties have informed us that they are fast running out of medical supplies and we are therefore looking at how the IRC can assist as soon as possible."...

ICRC - International Committee of the Red Cross [to 4 April 2015]

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

[Yemen: Immediate 24-hour humanitarian pause needed to bring in medical help](#)

News release

04 April 2015

Sana'a / Geneva – The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is alarmed by the dire humanitarian situation in Yemen and calls for an immediate humanitarian pause. All air, land and sea routes must be opened without delay for at least 24 hours to enable help to reach people cut off after more than a week of intense air strikes and fierce ground fighting nationwide.

[Lebanon: providing life-saving knowledge](#)

News release

02 April 2015

In March 2015, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) launched refresher first-aid sessions for members of different factions in the Palestinian refugee camp in Ein El Helwe, in the Lebanese city of Sidon. The training is combined with information sessions on the rules of armed conflict as well as the importance of respecting healthcare personnel. The project was launched a year ago and has reached more than 170 people so far.

[Yemen: ICRC calls for unimpeded delivery of medical supplies as heavy conflict persists](#)

[News release](#)

31 March 2015

Sana'a/Geneva – The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on Tuesday called for the urgent removal of obstacles to the delivery to Yemen of vital medical supplies needed to treat casualties from a week of deadly clashes and air strikes.

[Iraq: Improving health care for detainees in Kurdistan Region](#)

News release

29 March 2015

Geneva / Erbil (ICRC) – A workshop on improving medical services in places of detention brought together over 30 officials and health professionals in Erbil on 29 and 30 March.

IRCT [to 4 April 2015]

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

Statements & declarations

[Fundamental rights in the EU: Where to next?](#)

30 March 2015

(This opinion piece was originally published in the EUobserver and signed by: AGE Platform Europe; European Disability Forum; European Network Against Racism; European Youth Forum; European Women's Lobby; ILGA-Europe - the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association; International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims; Save the Children EU Office and Social Platform. To read the article in the EUobserver [click here](#).)

The nomination – for the first time – of a Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of fundamental rights gave rise to high expectations among citizens and human rights organisations in the European Union. It triggered hopes that the European Union would finally make the respect of fundamental rights enshrined in the EU treaties a priority, not just outside the European Union but also within its borders. We hope the European Commission will live up to these expectations...

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières [to 4 April 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases/Field News

Press release

[MSF Medical Team Helps Treat More Than 70 Wounded in Kenya Garissa University Attack](#)

April 03, 2015

In response to the April 2 attack on Garissa University a Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) medical team is providing support to the Kenyan Ministry of Health at Garissa Hospital. Currently, MSF is treating survivors of the attack suffering from gunshot and blast wounds, as well as people who sustained cut injuries from shattered glass during their escape.

Field News

[Restoring Public Health Services in Liberia](#)

April 02, 2015

While the number of Ebola-infected patients in Liberia has steadily declined, MSF is assisting the local health system to safely restore medical services.

Press release

[Yemen: Medical Supplies and Personnel Unable to Reach Conflict Areas](#)

March 31, 2015

SANA'A/PARIS—More medical supplies and trained health personnel are urgently needed in Yemen as the violence there escalates, but with air and sea transport obstructed, it is currently impossible to bring in this essential support, the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said today.

Press release

[Yemen: MSF Treats 34 Wounded After Airstrike on Camp for Displaced People](#)

March 30, 2015

More than two dozen people injured in an airstrike today at a displaced persons camp in northern Yemen have been treated by the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the organization announced.

Mercy Corps [to 4 April 2015]

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

Press Releases

[Colombia: Mercy Corps Receives \\$750,000 Grant from Starbucks Foundation to Support Coffee Farmers in Rural Colombia](#)

April 2, 2015

Washington, DC — Global humanitarian organization Mercy Corps has received a \$750,000 grant from the Starbucks Foundation to boost food security, formalize property rights and improve sustainable water and land management for more than 1,000 coffee growing families in Southern Tolima, Colombia. Working with coffee farmers in Colombia since 2013, Mercy Corps will expand its reach and impact to an additional 5,000 people by 2016 thanks to support from Starbucks Foundation.

[Liberia: Mercy Corps: Public Health Campaign Helps Liberians Turn the Tide of Ebola Virus Outbreak](#)

March 31, 2015

Monrovia, Liberia — As Liberians mark one year since the first confirmed case of Ebola in their country, a community-based public-health education campaign is helping to bring the virus under control and setting the stage for Liberia's recovery. Led by the global humanitarian organization Mercy Corps, the massive campaign has successfully reached 2 million people in the past six months with lifesaving prevention practices and behaviors to reduce Ebola transmission.

Operation Smile [to 4 April 2015]

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

Upcoming Mission Schedule [Home page]

Apr 5 - 11 | Taganrog, Russia

Apr 6 - 10 | Hanoi, Vietnam

Apr 8 - 18 | Cape Coast, Ghana

OXFAM [to 4 April 2015]

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

[Billions in "out of control" IFC investments into third-parties causing human rights abuses around the world](#)

2 April 2015

IFC investment portfolio in financial intermediaries grows to \$36 billion in four years – three times as much as World Bank global education lending – needs urgent reform

The International Finance Corporation has little accountability for billions of dollars' worth of investments into banks, hedge funds and other financial intermediaries, resulting in projects that are causing human rights abuses around the world.

The claim is part of a new report by Oxfam International and other NGOs, released a week before the World Bank Spring meetings. "The Suffering of Others" says that the IFC (the World Bank's private sector lending arm) is failing to perform due diligence and to identify or effectively manage risk in many of its investments in third-party lenders...

[Oxfam calls for an immediate ceasefire in Yemen](#)

1 April 2015

A week of heavy airstrikes across much of Yemen, where more than 60 percent of the population are already reliant on aid, will result in food and fuel shortages and hasten Yemen's descent...

[Unilever takes top spot on Oxfam's Behind the Brands Scorecard](#)

31 March 2015

Eight of the "Big 10" international food and beverage companies have improved their overall scores in our "Behind the Brands" scorecard since February 2014 but French dairy producer Danone and the US based Coca-Cola Company have failed to improve.

[International appeals for Syria crisis less than 10% funded](#)

30 March 2015

Aid actors estimate that \$8.7 billion is needed in 2015 to support 18 million people in Syria and neighbouring countries, the equivalent to a little more than one US dollar per person per day.

Partners In Health [to 4 April 2015]

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

Apr 01, 2015

[PIH Mexico Expands to Two New Sites in Chiapas](#)

CES (Compañeros En Salud, PIH's sister organization in Mexico) partners with Mexico's Ministry of Health to recruit and train young doctors, who manage public clinics throughout Chiapas during their social service year. The first-year doctors, or pasantes, have conducted more than 45,000 patient visits in eight communities throughout the southeastern state since CES began providing services there in 2012. CES expanded to Letrero and Monterrey in February, pushing its reach farther into the surrounding Sierra Madre mountains.

Mar 30, 2015

[PIH Clinician Infected with Ebola Upgraded to Fair Condition](#)

The National Institutes for Health upgraded the clinical status of the PIH clinician infected with Ebola virus disease from serious to fair condition today.

PATH [to 4 April 2015]

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

Announcement | April 01, 2015

[Laos launches national Japanese encephalitis vaccination campaign](#)

National launch signifies PATH's decade-long work to bring a lifesaving vaccine to at-risk countries

Plan International [to 4 April 2015]

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

02/04/2015

[Plan International prepared to respond: Major typhoon headed toward Philippines](#)

Save The Children [to 4 April 2015]

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

[Kenya University Killings Fuel Growing Global Trend of Attacks on Education](#)

April 2, 2015

[Yemen Conflict: Children Under Fire](#)

April 2, 2015

[Simpler Treatment Options Could Help Millions of Newborns Who Lack Access to Hospital Care](#)

April 1, 2015

[Typhoon to Hit Philippines over Easter Weekend: Hundreds of Thousands of Children at Risk](#)

April 1, 2015

[Idleb-Syria Attacks Displaces Thousands](#)

March 31, 2015

SOS-Kinderdorf International [to 4 April 2015]

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

[Advocacy success: Child protection and care system reforms passed in Lithuania](#)

03.04.2015 - Through the Care for ME! campaign, SOS Children's Villages Lithuania has successfully advocated for child protection and care system reforms to better protect and promote the rights of Lithuanian children who have lost, or risk losing, parental care...

Tostan [to 4 April 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Women for Women International [to 4 April 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

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ChildFund Alliance [to 4 April 2015]

<http://childfundalliance.org/>

No new digest content identified.

Disasters Emergency Committee [to 4 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 4 April 2015]

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

[FUNDING ALERT! Call for Large Grant applications is open.](#)

The Humanitarian Innovation Fund supports organisations and individuals to identify, nurture and share innovative and scalable solutions to the challenges facing effective humanitarian assistance.

[Partnership Strengthening workshops announced](#)

ELRHA runs residential workshops to guide early stage partnerships between academics and practitioners through to longer term effective collaborations that will further understanding of, and responses to, humanitarian crises.

[UKCDS Ebola Research Database](#)

31.03.2015

The UKCDS Ebola Research Database contains information on all current academic research relevant to Ebola that we have been informed about.

END Fund [to 4 April 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

GAVI [to 4 April 2015]

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

01 April 2015

[Lao PDR to protect more than 1.5 million children from Japanese encephalitis](#)

Gavi supports national campaign to prevent mosquito-borne disease.

Global Fund [to 4 April 2015]

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

01 April 2015

[Global Fund Affirms Commitment to Resilient Health Systems](#)

GENEVA - Members of the Board of the Global Fund called for accelerated efforts to build resilient health systems that can contribute to ending AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as epidemics.

At a Board meeting, several members stressed the need to support countries in strengthening health systems, at a national level and also at a community level, with the entire Global Fund partnership working together to achieve resilience and sustainability in health systems...

There is broad recognition that the Ebola crisis in West Africa drew increased attention to the importance of health systems.

Prof. Onyebuchi Chukwu, former Minister of Health of Nigeria, spoke about how his country relied with great success on health systems that were built to respond to polio in combating Ebola. He also stressed the importance of community involvement and participation.

The Global Fund has been investing in health systems since its beginning, both in investments that are channelled through disease-specific grants as well as through grants that are solely on strengthening health systems.

Mark Dybul, Executive Director of the Global Fund, said more than a third of the Global Fund's investments go to strengthening health systems in the countries and communities where programs treat, prevent and care for those affected by HIV, TB and malaria. Dr. Dybul said that health systems will be best sustained and strengthened where investments are firmly anchored within communities.

At its two-day meeting which closed today, the Board also approved a framework for financing co-infections and co-morbidities of HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria...

[Global Fund Board Selects New Chair and Vice-Chair](#)

01 April 2015

GENEVA - The Board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria selected Norbert Hauser, a former Member of Parliament and international auditor from Germany, as its new Chair and also named Aida Kurtovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina as Vice-Chair. Both began serving a two-year term today...

Hilton Prize Laureates Collaborative [to 4 April 2015]

<http://hiltonprizelaureatescollaborative.net/>

No new digest content identified.

ODI [to 4 April 2015]

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

Press Releases

[International aid earmarked for saving forests in Brazil and Indonesia dwarfed by billions spent on subsidies for palm oil, soy and beef industries that cause deforestation - new report](#)

News - 30 March 2015

Research Reports and Studies

[Establishing a workable follow-up and review process for the Sustainable Development Goals](#)

Research reports and studies, April 2015

Shannon Kindornay and Sarah Twigg

This paper rounds up the current content and politics of the debate on accountability in the post-2015 agenda. <http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9588.pdf>

[Securing communities: redefining community policing to achieve results](#)

Research reports and studies, April 2015

Lisa Denney

This synthesis paper draws together findings from ODI's 'Securing communities' project, which attempted to map the diversity of practices that fall under the remit of community policing, examine how community policing is shaped in different contexts and probe the plausibility of many of the objectives ascribed to the approach.

[Doing legal empowerment differently: learning from pro-poor litigation in Bangladesh](#)

Research reports and studies, March 2015

Tam O'Neil, Craig Valters and Cynthia Farid

This study documents two cases of successful public interest litigation in Bangladesh in order to explore the conditions that favour, and constrain, pro-poor mobilisation. It forms part of ODI's ongoing efforts to document approaches and ways of working that make a difference in terms of achieving development results.

[The rising cost of a healthy diet: Changing relative prices of foods in high-income and emerging economies](#)

Research reports and studies, March 2015

Steve Wiggins and Sharada Keats with Euan Han, Satoru Shimokawa, Joel Alberto Vargas Hernández and Rafael Moreira Claro

This report investigates the prices of different foods in some of the rapidly-growing emerging economies, where incomes have risen notably in the last 20 years. We ask what effect this has had on growing rates of overweight and obesity and if policy changes, taxes and subsidies could reverse this trend.

[Jobs for the future](#)

Research reports and studies, March 2015

Claudia Pompa

This report deals with perhaps one of the most pressing issues facing employers and employees, students and teachers, politicians and experts today: what and where are tomorrow's jobs and what skills will they require?

The Sphere Project [to 4 April 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Start Network [to 4 April 2015]

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

[Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies]

[Start Fund provides £100,000 for Tanzania flood response](#)

March 30, 2015

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

Last week the Start Fund disbursed £100,000 for response to the recent flooding in Tanzania. A local project selection committee composed of Start Network member agency staff met in Dar es Salaam on Saturday 21 March and agreed to award the funds to Oxfam and World Vision, who will work together to help 3,573 crisis affected people.

The Start Fund was alerted on March 18 by World Vision, following heavy rain and storms in Tanzania earlier in the month which have severely affected the Northwest of the country. The [ACAPS briefing note](#) produced following the alert described how the floods have affected up to 5000 people in three villages in Kahama district, Shinyanga region...

Muslim Charities Forum [to 4 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.]

No new digest content identified.

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Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) [to 4 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

We are now looking to appoint an Executive Director who will lead this new organisation from its inception into the future. The new Alliance will aim, through its mission, to ensure respect for the rights and dignity of communities and people affected by crisis and enhance the effectiveness and impact of humanitarian action by building a culture of quality and accountability.

:: Humanitarian Practice Network (HPN) [to 4 April 2015]

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

[Humanitarian Innovation Fund - Call for large grant applications is open](#)

Thursday, 02 April 2015

by Beth Deverson, HIF Programme Officer/ELRHA Administrator , Enhancing Learning and Research for Humanitarian Assistance (ELRHA)

The Humanitarian Innovation Fund supports organisations and individuals to identify, nurture and share innovative and scalable solutions to the challenges facing effective humanitarian assistance.

:: People In Aid [to 4 April 2015]

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

[Agency preparation for staff working in insecure environments](#)

How a 'Personal Safety for Humanitarians' course effectively provided the building blocks to develop security skills.

(27 March 2015)

Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP) [to 4 April 2015]

<https://phap.org/>

[PHAP Extraordinary General Assembly](#)

An Extraordinary General Assembly will be held on 28 April, 2–4 p.m. GMT.

More information to follow.

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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 4 April 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Clinton Foundation [to 4 April 2015]

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

Press Release

[MEDIA ADVISORY: “Women’s Entrepreneurship: A No Ceilings Conversation” with Chelsea Clinton and Jack Dorsey](#)

April 2, 2015

Event to feature Beverly Daniel Tatum, President of Spelman College, Tina Wells, CEO of Buzz Marketing, and Cherita Kempson, Co-Founder of Endulge Cupcakes to discuss what works in women’s entrepreneurship...

Press Release

[Too Small to Fail Releases “Talking is Teaching Community Campaign Guide” to Activate and Enhance Local Word Gap Campaigns Nationwide](#)

April 1, 2015

New York — Too Small to Fail released today its “Talking is Teaching Community Campaign Guide,” a how-to roadmap for local leaders across the country to initiate and enhance on-the-ground efforts to help close the word gap and boost young children’s early brain ...

Ford Foundation [to 4 April 2015]

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

1 April 2015

[Millions of Lives Transformed: 50 Years of Head Start](#)

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Head Start, a government program designed to help break the cycle of poverty by addressing the needs of disadvantaged preschool children. To date, Head Start has served more than 32 million children in the 50 US states, the US territories, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. And every year the program continues to provide essential services for over a million Americans.

The Ford Foundation is proud to have been involved in the program’s creation. Our early-childhood initiatives in the 1960s helped inform the federal government’s thinking around early intervention, and Ford funding supported the Yale University researchers who helped design the Head Start program...

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation [to 4 April 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation [to 4 April 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Kellogg Foundation [to 4 April 2015]

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

[Applauding community-led efforts to improve oral health in New Mexico](#)

April 1, 2015

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. – Congratulations to the many voices of the people of New Mexico who play an important role in a community-driven effort to improve the oral health of all those in the state who cannot get dental care in their communities.

We are honored to recognize New Mexico’s community coalitions – of dentists, hygienists, faith-based leaders, Tribes, businesses and the many others who have worked tirelessly to explore bringing a new mid-level dental provider to New Mexico. Community voice has led the charge for keeping dental care a priority for decision makers throughout the state, where unfortunately, today, too many people can’t get dental care where they live...

MacArthur Foundation [to 4 April 2015]

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

Publication

[Report Explores States’ Role in Treating Substance Abuse](#)

Published April 1, 2015

State and local governments spent \$7.6 billion to combat substance abuse disorders in 2009 — the latest year for which data is available — with most of that spending coming from public sources such as Medicaid and Medicare, according to a [report](#). Researchers at the [State Health Care Spending Project](#), a collaboration between [The Pew Charitable Trusts](#) and MacArthur, sought to examine the role states play in treating substance abuse to better understand the challenges states face in addressing the issue. The report found that more than 21 million Americans aged 12 and older had a substance abuse disorder in 2013, with only 18 percent of them receiving treatment.

Open Society Foundation [to 4 April 2015]

[http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/termsearch/8175/listing?f\[0\]=type%3Anews](http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/termsearch/8175/listing?f[0]=type%3Anews)
[An Action Plan to Strengthen the Execution of European Human Rights Rulings](#)

March 27, 2015 *News*

NEW YORK—Six civil society groups, including the Open Society Justice Initiative, have set out an action plan for member states of the Council of Europe (CoE), aimed at improving how they carry out the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR).

The action plan, with ten specific proposals, was issued after a high-level meeting of CoE member states in Brussels which set a deadline of June 2016 to improve the execution of ECHR judgments....

David and Lucile Packard Foundation [to 4 April 2015]

<http://www.packard.org/news/>
No new digest content identified.

Rockefeller Foundation [to 4 April 2015]

<http://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/newsroom>
No new digest content identified.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [to 4 April 2015]

<http://www.rwjf.org/en/about-rwjf/newsroom/news-releases.html>
[Data to Improve Health: Panel Offers Recommendations](#)

April 2, 2015

New technology track our sleep, exercise, and other behaviors. Researchers use the data to improve population health, but privacy concerns remain a barrier to real progress. See the insights and recommendations from an independent committee.

[Future of Nursing Scholars Program Selects Schools of Nursing to Receive Grants](#)

March 31, 2015

RWJF Future of Nursing Scholars program selects 25 schools of nursing to receive grants to provide scholarships to help nurses get their PhDs. PhD-prepared nurses conduct research, become nurse leaders, and prepare the next generation of nurses.

Skoll Foundation [to 4 April 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Wellcome Trust [to 4 April 2015]

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

[Consortium signs deal with Basilea to develop resistance-busting cancer drugs](#)

A group of academic organisations and funders has entered an agreement with biopharmaceutical company Basilea Pharmaceutica Ltd. to progress a new family of cancer drugs designed to block several key cancer-causing proteins at once.

The consortium, including [The Institute of Cancer Research](#) (ICR), London, the Wellcome Trust, [Cancer Research Technology](#) (CRT) and [The University of Manchester](#), has granted Basilea exclusive worldwide rights to develop, manufacture and commercialise novel panRAF inhibitors.

The new drug class originated from research at ICR funded by Wellcome Trust and Cancer Research UK.

1 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>

[Handling Europe's first Ebola case: Internal hospital communication experience](#)

Margarita Mosquera, MD, PhD, MPH, [Victoria Melendez](#), PhD, [Pello Latasa](#), MD, MPH

Published Online: February 24, 2015

Highlights

- Media communication plays an important role in a public health crisis to alarm or reassure the population.
- Internal hospital communication needs to be clear, science-based, and understandable.
- Health care workers are benchmarks for the rest of the population as a trusted source.

- Institutional communication preparedness reducing crisis response time will help social media and networks to convey reassuring coverage.

Abstract

Europe's first Ebola virus disease (EVD) case was diagnosed in our hospital. There was an unjustified panic in the population because of an imbalance of credibility assigned to the media as opposed to scientific information. A reinforcement of hospital internal communication was needed to keep health care workers informed with up-to-date scientific EVD information. The proactive management of information flow to both internal and external actors is required to reduce unjustified fear within the public.

Disinfecting personal protective equipment with pulsed xenon ultraviolet as a risk mitigation strategy for health care workers

Chetan Jinadatha, MD, MPH, Sarah Simmons, BS, MPH, Charles Dale, BA, Nagaraja Ganachari-Mallappa, PhD, Frank Charles Villamaria, MPH, Nicole Goulding, BS, Benjamin Tanner, PhD, Julie Stachowiak, PhD, Mark Stibich, MHS, PhD

Open Access

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2015.01.013>

Highlights

- We determined the effectiveness of pulsed xenon ultraviolet against an Ebola surrogate virus on a dry inanimate surface.
- We determined the effectiveness of pulsed xenon ultraviolet against personal protective equipment material inoculated with an Ebola surrogate virus.
- We determined the level of ultraviolet exposure for a person wearing personal protective equipment.
- We described the distribution of germicidal light coverage on personal protective equipment.

Abstract

The doffing of personal protective equipment (PPE) after contamination with pathogens such as Ebola poses a risk to health care workers. Pulsed xenon ultraviolet (PX-UV) disinfection has been used to disinfect surfaces in hospital settings. This study examined the impact of PX-UV disinfection on an Ebola surrogate virus on glass carriers and PPE material to examine the potential benefits of using PX-UV to decontaminate PPE while worn, thereby reducing the pathogen load prior to doffing. Ultraviolet (UV) safety and coverage tests were also conducted. PX-UV exposure resulted in a significant reduction in viral load on glass carriers and PPE materials. Occupational Safety and Health Administration-defined UV exposure limits were not exceeded during PPE disinfection. Predoffing disinfection with PX-UV has potential as an additive measure to the doffing practice guidelines. The PX-UV disinfection should not be considered sterilization; all PPE should still be considered contaminated and doffed and disposed of according to established protocols.

American Journal of Preventive Medicine

April 2015 Volume 48, Issue 4, p365-490

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

[New issue; No relevant content]

American Journal of Public Health

Volume 105, Issue S2 (April 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

April 2015; 92 (4)

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

Direct Killing of Patients in Humanitarian Situations and Armed Conflicts: The Profession of Medicine is Losing Its Meaning

Ramin Asgary*

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Author Notes

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Abstract

During armed conflicts over the past several years, attacks on humanitarian workers and patients have increased, including the most recent overt killing of patients in their hospital beds in South Sudan and Central African Republic, and bombardments of hospitals in Iraq, Syria, and other countries. Direct attacks on patients inside hospitals, as well as social structural dynamics that undermine patient safety and security, are met with apparent indifference by international and medical communities. How can the medical profession remain silent and stand by while these factors render its core mission futile? In this article, I aim to shed light on this issue, and its implications for the future of the neutral and impartial provision of medical care; provide an analysis of underlying and contributing factors; discuss current international strategies; reflect on the responsibility of health providers; explore ways to strengthen our roles as physician advocates; and call for the medical profession to do more to protect medicine's core values.

Costs of Dengue to the Health System and Individuals in Colombia from 2010 to 2012

Raul Castro Rodriguez*, Katia Galera-Gelvez, Juan Guillermo López Yescas and Jorge A. Rueda-Gallardo

Author Affiliations

Department of Economics, Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia; Sanofi Pasteur Latin America, Mexico DF, Mexico

Abstract.

Dengue fever (DF) is an important health issue in Colombia, but detailed information on economic costs to the healthcare system is lacking. Using information from official databases (2010–2012) and a face-to-face survey of 1,483 households with DF and dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) patients, we estimated the average cost per case. In 2010, the mean direct medical costs to the healthcare system per case of ambulatory DF, hospitalized DF, and DHF (in Colombian pesos converted to US dollars using the average exchange rate for 2012) were \$52.8, \$235.8, and \$1,512.2, respectively. The mean direct non-medical costs to patients were greater (\$29.7, \$46.7, and \$62.6, respectively) than the mean household direct medical costs (\$13.3, \$34.8, and \$57.3, respectively). The average direct medical cost to the healthcare system of a case of ambulatory DF in 2010 was 57% of that in 2011. Our results highlight the high economic burden of the disease and could be useful for assigning limited health resources.

The “Performance of Rotavirus and Oral Polio Vaccines in Developing Countries” (PROVIDE) Study: Description of Methods of an Interventional Study Designed to Explore Complex Biologic Problems

Beth D. Kirkpatrick*, E. Ross Colgate, Josyf C. Mychaleckyj, Rashidul Haque, Dorothy M. Dickson, Marya P. Carmolli, Uma Nayak, Mami Taniuchi, Caitlin Naylor, Firdausi Qadri, Jennie Z. Ma, Masud Alam, Mary Claire Walsh, Sean A. Diehl, the PROVIDE Study Teams and William A. Petri Jr.

Author Affiliations

Department of Medicine and Vaccine Testing Center, The University of Vermont College of Medicine, Burlington, Vermont; Departments of Medicine, The University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia; The icddr,b, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Abstract.

Oral vaccines appear less effective in children in the developing world. Proposed biologic reasons include concurrent enteric infections, malnutrition, breast milk interference, and environmental enteropathy (EE). Rigorous study design and careful data management are essential to begin to understand this complex problem while assuring research subject safety. Herein, we describe the methodology and lessons learned in the PROVIDE study (Dhaka, Bangladesh). A randomized clinical trial platform evaluated the efficacy of delayed-dose oral rotavirus vaccine as well as the benefit of an injectable polio vaccine replacing one dose of oral polio vaccine. This rigorous infrastructure supported the additional examination of hypotheses of vaccine underperformance. Primary and secondary efficacy and immunogenicity measures for rotavirus and polio vaccines were measured, as well as the impact of EE and additional exploratory variables. Methods for the enrollment and 2-year follow-up of a 700 child birth cohort are described, including core laboratory, safety, regulatory, and data management practices. Intense efforts to standardize clinical, laboratory, and data management procedures in a developing world setting provide clinical trials rigor to all outcomes. Although this study infrastructure requires extensive time and effort, it allows optimized safety and confidence in the validity of data gathered in complex, developing country settings.

Geographic Variation of Female Genital Mutilation and Legal Enforcement in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Case Study of Senegal

Ngianga-Bakwin Kandala* and Paul N. Komba

Author Affiliations

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Abstract.

This paper draws on household data to examine the prevalence of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Senegal and the effectiveness of the country's anti-FGM law in dealing with actual breaches and providing protection to the victims. The 2010–2011 Senegal Demographic Health Survey and Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (SDHS-MICS) covers 14,228 women and their daughters. Logistic regression was used to investigate the geographic distribution of FGM across regions. For the enforceability of anti-FGM, desk research was used. Overall prevalence among women and daughters was 28.1% and 6.2%, respectively. Significant factors were sociodemographics, ethnicity, and region. This analysis shows both advantages and vulnerabilities of the anti-FGM law in relation to the issue of enforcement. It indicates that the law falls short of offering adequate protection to potential victims. FGM is a cultural and social norm imbedded predominantly in rural settings and as such, drives resistance to jettisoning FGM. Legislation has been one of the driving forces behind the eradication of the practice.

BMC Health Services Research

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

(Accessed 4 April 2015)

Research article

Can smartphones and tablets improve the management of childhood illness in Tanzania? A qualitative study from a primary health care worker's perspective

Amani Flexson Shao^{123*}, Clotilde Rambaud-Althaus¹², Ndeniria Swai⁴, Judith Kahama-Maró⁴, Blaise Genton¹²⁵, Valerie D'Acremont¹²⁵ and Constanze Pfeiffer¹²

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Author Affiliations

BMC Health Services Research 2015, 15:135 doi:10.1186/s12913-015-0805-4

Published: 2 April 2015

Abstract (provisional)

Background

The impact of the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) strategy has been less than anticipated because of poor uptake. Electronic algorithms have the potential to improve quality of health care in children. However, feasibility studies about the use of electronic protocols on mobile devices over time are limited. This study investigated constraining as well as facilitating factors that influence the uptake of a new electronic Algorithm for Management of Childhood Illness (ALMANACH) among primary health workers in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Methods

A qualitative approach was applied using in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with altogether 40 primary health care workers from 6 public primary health facilities in the three municipalities of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Health worker's perceptions related to factors facilitating or constraining the uptake of the electronic ALMANACH were identified.

Results

In general, the ALMANACH was assessed positively. The majority of the respondents felt comfortable to use the devices and stated that patient's trust was not affected. Most health workers said that the ALMANACH simplified their work, reduced antibiotic prescription and gave correct classification and treatment for common causes of childhood illnesses. Few HWs reported technical challenges using the devices and complained about having had difficulties in typing. Majority of the respondents stated that the devices increased the consultation duration compared to routine practice. In addition, health system barriers such as lack of staff, lack of

medicine and lack of financial motivation were identified as key reasons for the low uptake of the devices.

Conclusions

The ALMANACH built on electronic devices was perceived to be a powerful and useful tool. However, health system challenges influenced the uptake of the devices in the selected health facilities.

Research article

Cost of installing and operating an electronic clinical decision support system for maternal health care: case of Tanzania rural primary health centres

Happiness Pius Saronga^{14*}, Maxwell Ayindenaba Dalaba²⁴, Hengjin Dong³, Melkizedeck Leshabari¹, Rainer Sauerborn⁴, Felix Sukums¹⁴, Antje Blank⁴, Jens Kaltschmidt⁴ and Svetla Loukanova⁴

Author Affiliations

BMC Health Services Research 2015, 15:132 doi:10.1186/s12913-015-0780-9

Published: 2 April 2015

Abstract (provisional)

Background

Poor quality of care is among the causes of high maternal and newborn disease burden in Tanzania. Potential reason for poor quality of care is the existence of a “know-do gap” where by health workers do not perform to the best of their knowledge. An electronic clinical decision support system (CDSS) for maternal health care was piloted in six rural primary health centers of Tanzania to improve performance of health workers by facilitating adherence to World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines and ultimately improve quality of maternal health care. This study aimed at assessing the cost of installing and operating the system in the health centers.

Methods

This retrospective study was conducted in Lindi, Tanzania. Costs incurred by the project were analyzed using Ingredients approach. These costs broadly included vehicle, computers, furniture, facility, CDSS software, transport, personnel, training, supplies and communication. These were grouped into installation and operation cost; recurrent and capital cost; and fixed and variable cost. We assessed the CDSS in terms of its financial and economic cost implications. We also conducted a sensitivity analysis on the estimations.

Results

Total financial cost of CDSS intervention amounted to 185,927.78 USD. 77% of these costs were incurred in the installation phase and included all the activities in preparation for the actual operation of the system for client care. Generally, training made the largest share of costs (33% of total cost and more than half of the recurrent cost) followed by CDSS software- 32% of total cost. There was a difference of 31.4% between the economic and financial costs. 92.5% of economic costs were fixed costs consisting of inputs whose costs do not vary with the volume of activity within a given range. Economic cost per CDSS contact was 52.7 USD but sensitive to discount rate, asset useful life and input cost variations.

Conclusions

Our study presents financial and economic cost estimates of installing and operating an electronic CDSS for maternal health care in six rural health centres. From these findings one can understand exactly what goes into a similar investment and thus determine sorts of input modification needed to fit their context.

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

(Accessed 4 April 2015)

[No new relevant content]

BMC Medical Ethics

(Accessed 4 April 2015)

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

[No new relevant content]

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

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

(Accessed 4 April 2015)

[No new relevant content]

BMC Public Health

(Accessed 4 April 2015)

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

[No new relevant content]

BMC Research Notes

(Accessed 4 April 2015)

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

[No new relevant content]

British Medical Journal

04 April 2015(vol 350, issue 8002)

<http://www.bmj.com/content/350/8002>

Research

[Avoidable waste of research related to inadequate methods in clinical trials](#)

BMJ 2015; 350 doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.h809> (Published 24 March 2015) Cite this as:
BMJ 2015;350:h809

Youri Yordanov, physician and PhD student¹², Agnes Dechartres, researcher¹³⁴, Raphaël Porcher, associate professor¹³⁴, Isabelle Boutron, professor¹³⁴⁵, Douglas G Altman, professor and director⁶, Philippe Ravaud, professor and director¹³⁴⁵⁷

Author affiliations

Abstract

Objective

To assess the waste of research related to inadequate methods in trials included in Cochrane reviews and to examine to what extent this waste could be avoided. A secondary objective was to perform a simulation study to re-estimate this avoidable waste if all trials were adequately reported.

Design

Methodological review and simulation study.

Data sources

Trials included in the meta-analysis of the primary outcome of Cochrane reviews published between April 2012 and March 2013.

Data extraction and synthesis

We collected the risk of bias assessment made by the review authors for each trial. For a random sample of 200 trials with at least one domain at high risk of bias, we re-assessed risk of bias and identified all related methodological problems. For each problem, possible adjustments were proposed that were then validated by an expert panel also evaluating their feasibility (easy or not) and cost. Avoidable waste was defined as trials with at least one domain at high risk of bias for which easy adjustments with no or minor cost could change all domains to low risk. In the simulation study, after extrapolating our re-assessment of risk of bias to all trials, we considered each domain rated as unclear risk of bias as missing data and used multiple imputations to determine whether they were at high or low risk.

Results

Of 1286 trials from 205 meta-analyses, 556 (43%) had at least one domain at high risk of bias. Among the sample of 200 of these trials, 142 were confirmed as high risk; in these, we identified 25 types of methodological problem. Adjustments were possible in 136 trials (96%). Easy adjustments with no or minor cost could be applied in 71 trials (50%), resulting in 17 trials (12%) changing to low risk for all domains. So the avoidable waste represented 12% (95% CI 7% to 18%) of trials with at least one domain at high risk. After correcting for incomplete reporting, avoidable waste due to inadequate methods was estimated at 42% (95% CI 36% to 49%).

Conclusions

An important burden of wasted research is related to inadequate methods. This waste could be partly avoided by simple and inexpensive adjustments.

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/>

Editorials

[Lack of toilets and safe water in health-care facilities](#)

Jamie Bartram a, Ryan Cronk a, Maggie Montgomery b, Bruce Gordon b, Maria Neira b, Edward Kelley c & Yael Velleman d

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d. WaterAid, London, England.

Bulletin of the World Health Organization 2015;93:210. doi:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.15.154609>

[Initial text]

In March 2015, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) released a report¹ on the status of water and sanitation in health-care facilities from 54 low- and middle-income countries. Data representing 66 000 health facilities show that water was not readily available in about 40%.¹ Over a third of facilities lacked soap for hand washing and a fifth lacked toilets. In many countries, in facilities where water is available, there is no guarantee that it is safe for consumption.²

This is a major embarrassment for the health sector: health facilities serve as foci for infection and patients seeking treatment fall ill and may die, for the lack of the most basic requirements for good hygiene – safe, reliable water supplies and adequate sanitation...

WHO's first global health treaty: 10 years in force

Haik Nikogosian & Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva

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Bulletin of the World Health Organization 2015;93:211. doi:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.15.154823>

[Initial text]

It is 10 years since the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control entered into force.¹ This binding treaty, the first to be negotiated under the auspices of WHO, is widely recognized as a major milestone in global health.

Although challenges in fully implementing the treaty remain, it has been successful as a novel public health instrument. It has been ratified by 180 Parties – representing 90% of the global population – making it one of the most rapidly embraced treaties in the United Nations system...

Data-driven methods for imputing national-level incidence in global burden of disease studies

Scott A McDonald, Brecht Devleesschauwer, Niko Speybroeck, Niel Hens, Nicolas Praet, Paul R Torgerson, Arie H Havelaar, Felicia Wu, Marlène Tremblay, Ermias W Amene & Dörte Döpfer

Abstract

Objective

To develop transparent and reproducible methods for imputing missing data on disease incidence at national-level for the year 2005.

Methods

We compared several models for imputing missing country-level incidence rates for two foodborne diseases – congenital toxoplasmosis and aflatoxin-related hepatocellular carcinoma. Missing values were assumed to be missing at random. Predictor variables were selected using least absolute shrinkage and selection operator regression. We compared the predictive performance of naive extrapolation approaches and Bayesian random and mixed-effects regression models. Leave-one-out cross-validation was used to evaluate model accuracy.

Findings

The predictive accuracy of the Bayesian mixed-effects models was significantly better than that of the naive extrapolation method for one of the two disease models. However, Bayesian mixed-effects models produced wider prediction intervals for both data sets.

Conclusion

Several approaches are available for imputing missing data at national level. Strengths of a hierarchical regression approach for this type of task are the ability to derive estimates from other similar countries, transparency, computational efficiency and ease of interpretation. The inclusion of informative covariates may improve model performance, but results should be appraised carefully.

The Global Drug Facility as an intervention in the market for tuberculosis drugs

Nimalan Arinaminpathy, Thierry Cordier-Lassalle, Kaspars Lunte & Christopher Dye

Abstract

Objective

To investigate funding for the Global Drug Facility since 2001 and to analyse the facility's influence on the price of high-quality tuberculosis drugs.

Methods

Data on the price of tuberculosis drugs were obtained from the Global Drug Facility for 2001 to 2012 and, for the private sector in 15 countries, from IMS Health for 2002 to 2012. Data on funding of the facility were also collected.

Findings

Quality-assured tuberculosis drugs supplied by the Global Drug Facility were generally priced lower than drugs purchased in the private sector. In 2012, just three manufacturers accounted for 29.9 million United States dollars (US\$) of US\$ 44.5 million by value of first-line drugs supplied. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria provided 73% (US\$ 32.5 million of US\$ 44.5 million) and 89% (US\$ 57.8 million of US\$ 65.2 million) of funds for first- and second-line drugs, respectively. Between 2010 and 2012, the facility's market share of second-line tuberculosis drugs increased from 26.1% to 42.9%, while prices decreased by as much as 24% (from US\$ 1231 to US\$ 939). Conversely, the facility's market share of first-line drugs fell from 37.2% to 19.2% during this time, while prices increased from US\$ 9.53 to US\$ 10.2.

Conclusion

The price of tuberculosis drugs supplied through the facility was generally less than that on the private market. However, to realize its full potential and meet the needs of more tuberculosis patients, the facility requires more diverse and stable public funding and greater flexibility to participate in the private market.

SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS

Inequities in postnatal care in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Étienne V Langlois, Malgorzata Miszkurka, Maria Victoria Zunzunegui, Abdul Ghaffar, Daniela Ziegler & Igor Karp

Abstract

Objective

To assess the socioeconomic, geographical and demographic inequities in the use of postnatal health-care services in low- and middle-income countries.

Methods

We searched Medline, Embase and Cochrane Central databases and grey literature for experimental, quasi-experimental and observational studies that had been conducted in low- and middle-income countries. We summarized the relevant studies qualitatively and performed meta-analyses of the use of postnatal care services according to selected indicators of socioeconomic status and residence in an urban or rural setting.

Findings

A total of 36 studies were included in the narrative synthesis and 10 of them were used for the meta-analyses. Compared with women in the lowest quintile of socioeconomic status, the pooled odds ratios for use of postnatal care by women in the second, third, fourth and fifth quintiles were: 1.14 (95% confidence interval, CI : 0.96–1.34), 1.32 (95% CI: 1.12–1.55), 1.60 (95% CI: 1.30–1.98) and 2.27 (95% CI: 1.75–2.93) respectively. Compared to women living in rural settings, the pooled odds ratio for the use of postnatal care by women living in urban

settings was 1.36 (95% CI: 1.01–1.81). A qualitative assessment of the relevant published data also indicated that use of postnatal care services increased with increasing level of education.

Conclusion

In low- and middle-income countries, use of postnatal care services remains highly inequitable and varies markedly with socioeconomic status and between urban and rural residents.

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 4 April 2015]

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

Research

Neuropsychiatric disorders among Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Jordan: a retrospective cohort study 2012–2013

Erica D McKenzie¹², Paul Spiegel³, Adam Khalifa⁴ and Farrah J Mateen^{15*}

* Corresponding author: Farrah J Mateen

Author Affiliations

Conflict and Health 2015, 9:10 doi:10.1186/s13031-015-0038-5

Published: 29 March 2015

Abstract (provisional)

Background

The burden of neuropsychiatric disorders in refugees is likely high, but little has been reported on the neuropsychiatric disorders that affect Syrian and Iraqi refugees in a country of first asylum. This analysis aimed to study the cost and burden of neuropsychiatric disorders among refugees from Syria and Iraq requiring exceptional, United Nations-funded care in a country of first asylum.

Methods

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees works with multi-disciplinary, in-country exceptional care committees to review refugees' applications for emergency or exceptional medical care. Neuropsychiatric diagnoses among refugee applicants were identified through a retrospective review of applications to the Jordanian Exceptional Care Committee (2012–2013). Diagnoses were made using International Classification of Disease-10th edition codes rendered by treating physicians.

Results

Neuropsychiatric applications accounted for 11% (264/2526) of all Exceptional Care Committee applications, representing 223 refugees (40% female; median age 35 years; 57% Syrian, 36% Iraqi, 7% other countries of origin). Two-thirds of neuropsychiatric cases were for emergency care. The total amount requested for neuropsychiatric disorders was 925,674 USD. Syrian refugees were significantly more likely to request neurotrauma care than Iraqis (18/128 vs. 3/80, $p = 0.03$). The most expensive care per person was for brain tumor (7,905 USD), multiple sclerosis (7,502 USD), and nervous system trauma (6,466 USD), although stroke was the most frequent diagnosis. Schizophrenia was the most costly and frequent diagnosis among the psychiatric disorders (2,269 USD per person, 27,226 USD total).

Conclusions

Neuropsychiatric disorders, including those traditionally considered outside the purview of refugee health, are an important burden to health among Iraqi and Syrian refugees. Possible interventions could include stroke risk factor reduction and targeted medication donations for multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, and schizophrenia.

Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation

(Accessed 4 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 2, 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>

[New issue; No relevant content]

Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness

Volume 9 - Issue 01 - February 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>

Editorial

[A moral or an ethical issue?](#)

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Accepted 6 October 2014

Published Online First 31 October 2014

[Extract]

Emergency care by its very nature is challenging where questions of ethics commonly arise. Issues such as crowding, access, urgency, sick patients and threat to life all combine to create uniquely fertile grounds for ethical dilemmas.^{1–4} Ethics in healthcare means doing the right thing for the patient, doing no harm, providing care and treatment that benefits the patient while at the same time respecting the patient's autonomy and right to self-determination. Our sense of right and wrong and the duty of care we owe our patients are central to this.

Determining the right course of action in complex circumstances can be difficult and ethical decision making demands much more than a decision of what is right or wrong; it requires critical reflection. Beauchamp and Childress suggest that this reflection needs to guide what we ought to do in a specific situation by asking us to consider and reconsider ordinary actions, the rationales for those actions and the judgements we make.⁵

Such an ethical debate in clinical settings can be positive, instructive and can contribute to quality patient care, but moral issues that often arise simultaneously can muddy the waters. A person's moral code is usually constant, but the ethical codes governing practice may be dependent on the context and setting and be at odds with moral feelings. In the great diversity that is healthcare and the limitations of our working environment it is often moral rather than ethical issues that give rise to angst and disequilibrium. The difference between ethics and morals is subtle, ...

Original article

Moral experience and ethical challenges in an emergency department in Pakistan: emergency physicians' perspectives

Waleed Zafar

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Published Online First 18 September 2014

Abstract

Introduction

Emergency departments (ED) are often stressful environments posing unique ethical challenges—issues that primarily raise moral rather than clinical concerns—in patient care. Despite this, there are very few reports of what emergency physicians find ethically challenging in their everyday work. Emergency medicine (EM) is a relatively young but rapidly growing specialty that is gaining acceptance worldwide. The aim of this study was to explore the perspectives of EM residents and physicians regarding the common ethical challenges they face during patient care in one of only two academic EM departments in Pakistan. These challenges could then be addressed in residents' training and departmental practice guidelines.

Methods

A qualitative research design was employed and in-depth interviews were conducted with ED physicians. Participants were encouraged to think of specific examples from their work, to highlight the particular ethical concerns raised and to describe in detail the process by which

those concerns were addressed or left unresolved. Transcripts were analysed using grounded theory methods.

Results

Thirteen participants were interviewed and they described four key challenges: how to provide highest quality care with limited resources; how to be truthful to patients; what to do when it is not possible to provide or continue treatment to patients; and when (and when not) to offer life-sustaining treatments. Participants' accounts provided important insights into how physicians tried to resolve these challenges in the 'local moral world' of an ED in Pakistan.

Conclusions

The study highlights the need for developing systematic and contextually appropriate mechanisms for resolving common ethical challenges in the EDs and for training residents in moral problem solving.

Epidemics

Volume 11, In Progress (June 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

End of Life Journal

Summer 2014 Vol 4 Issue 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

The European Journal of Public Health

Volume 25, Issue 2, 01 April 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Food Policy

Volume 52, In Progress (April 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Food Security

Volume 7, Issue 1, February 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Forum for Development Studies

Volume 42, Issue 1, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 9, Number 1 /2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Global Health: Science and Practice (GHSP)

March 2015 | Volume 3 | Issue 1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Global Health Governance

[Accessed 4 April 2015]

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[No new relevant content]

Global Public Health

Volume 10, Issue 4, 2015

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[Reviewed earlier]

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[Accessed 4 April 2015]

[No new relevant content]

Health Affairs

March 2015; Volume 34, Issue 3

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Health and Human Rights

Volume 16, Issue 2 December 2014

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

Papers in Press: Special Issue on Health Rights Litigation

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Economics, Policy and Law

Volume 10 - Issue 02 - April 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Policy and Planning

Volume 30 Issue 3 April 2015

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

An analysis of government immunization program expenditures in lower and lower middle income countries 2006–12

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²World Health Organization, 20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland

Accepted December 31, 2013.

Abstract

Financing is becoming increasingly important as the cost of immunizing the world's children continues to rise. By 2015, that cost will likely exceed US\$60 per infant as new vaccines are introduced into national immunization programs. In 2006, 51 lower and lower middle income countries reported spending a mean US\$12 per surviving infant on routine immunization. By 2012, the figure had risen to \$20, a 67% increase. This study tests the hypothesis that lower and lower middle income countries will spend more on their routine immunization programs as their economies grow. A panel data regression approach is used. Expenditures reported by governments annually (2006–12) through the World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Reporting Form are regressed on lagged annual per capita gross national income (GNI), controlling for prevailing mortality levels, immunization program performance, corruption control efforts, geographical region and correct reporting. Results show the expenditures increased with GNI. Expressed as an elasticity, the countries spent approximately \$6.32 on immunization for every \$100 in GNI increase from 2006 to 2012. Projecting forward and assuming continued annual GNI growth rates of 10.65%, countries could be spending \$60 per infant by 2020 if national investment functions increase 4-fold. Given the political will, this result implies countries could fully finance their routine immunization programs without cutting funding for other programs.

Drivers of routine immunization coverage improvement in Africa: findings from district-level case studies

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Author Affiliations

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Accepted January 28, 2014.

Abstract

There is limited understanding of why routine immunization (RI) coverage improves in some settings in Africa and not in others. Using a grounded theory approach, we conducted in-depth case studies to understand pathways to coverage improvement by comparing immunization programme experience in 12 districts in three countries (Ethiopia, Cameroon and Ghana). Drawing on positive deviance or assets model techniques we compared the experience of

districts where diphtheria–tetanus–pertussis (DTP3)/pentavalent3 (Penta3) coverage improved with districts where DTP3/Penta3 coverage remained unchanged (or steady) over the same period, focusing on basic readiness to deliver immunization services and drivers of coverage improvement. The results informed a model for immunization coverage improvement that emphasizes the dynamics of immunization systems at district level. In all districts, whether improving or steady, we found that a set of basic RI system resources were in place from 2006 to 2010 and did not observe major differences in infrastructure. We found that the differences in coverage trends were due to factors other than basic RI system capacity or service readiness. We identified six common drivers of RI coverage performance improvement—four direct drivers and two enabling drivers—that were present in well-performing districts and weaker or absent in steady coverage districts, and map the pathways from driver to improved supply, demand and coverage. Findings emphasize the critical role of implementation strategies and the need for locally skilled managers that are capable of tailoring strategies to specific settings and community needs. The case studies are unique in their focus on the positive drivers of change and the identification of pathways to coverage improvement, an approach that should be considered in future studies and routine assessments of district-level immunization system performance.

Tackling the tensions in evaluating capacity strengthening for health research in low- and middle-income countries

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Author Affiliations

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Accepted February 13, 2014.

Abstract

Strengthening research capacity in low- and middle-income countries is one of the most effective ways of advancing their health and development but the complexity and heterogeneity of health research capacity strengthening (RCS) initiatives means it is difficult to evaluate their effectiveness. Our study aimed to enhance understanding about these difficulties and to make recommendations about how to make health RCS evaluations more effective. Through discussions and surveys of health RCS funders, including the ESSENCE on Health Research initiative, we identified themes that were important to health RCS funders and used these to guide a systematic analysis of their evaluation reports. Eighteen reports, produced between 2000 and 2013, representing 12 evaluations, were purposefully selected from 54 reports provided by the funders to provide maximum variety. Text from the reports was extracted independently by two authors against a pre-designed framework. Information about the health RCS approaches, tensions and suggested solutions was re-constructed into a narrative. Throughout the process contacts in the health RCS funder agencies were involved in helping us to validate and interpret our results. The focus of the health RCS evaluations ranged from individuals and institutions to national, regional and global levels. Our analysis identified tensions around how much stakeholders should participate in an evaluation, the appropriate balance between measuring and learning and between a focus on short-term processes vs longer-term impact and sustainability. Suggested solutions to these tensions included early and ongoing stakeholder engagement in planning and evaluating health RCS, modelling of impact pathways and rapid assimilation of lessons learned for continuous improvement of decision making and programming. The use of developmental approaches could improve health RCS

evaluations by addressing common tensions and promoting sustainability. Sharing learning about how to do robust and useful health RCS evaluations should happen alongside, not after, health RCS efforts.

Health Research Policy and Systems

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

[Accessed 4 April 2015]

[No new relevant content]

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Volume 37, Number 1, February 2015

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[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 39, Issue 1, 2015

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

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Humanitarian Exchange Magazine

ISSUE 63 January 2015

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

The Typhoon Haiyan response

[Reviewed earlier]

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Vol 4, No 2 (2014)

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[Accessed 4 April 2015]

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

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Volume 7 Issue 2 March 2015

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

Special issue: Digital methods in epidemiology

[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 6 Issue 1

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

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Volume 11, Pages 1-78 (March 2015)

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

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April 2015 Volume 33, p1

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November 2014 (VOL. 32, NO. 3)

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Volume 22, Issue 2, 2015

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

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

[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>

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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>

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[Reviewed earlier]

JAMA

March 24/31, 2015, Vol 313, No. 12

<http://jama.jamanetwork.com/issue.aspx>
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March 2015, Vol 169, No. 3
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[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 40, Issue 2, April 2015
<http://link.springer.com/journal/10900/40/2/page/1>
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Volume 114, *In Progress* (May 2015)
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/03043878/114>
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April 2015, Volume 69, Issue 4
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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
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[Reviewed earlier]

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

Volume 26, Number 1, February 2015
[http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal of health care for the poor and underserved/toc/hpu.26.1.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal%20of%20health%20care%20for%20the%20poor%20and%20underserved/toc/hpu.26.1.html)
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Volume 4 Issue 2 2014

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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 8 April 15, 2015

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Journal of International Development

March 2015 Volume 27, Issue 2 Pages 155–312

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jid.v27.2/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics

Spring 2015 Volume 43, Issue 1 Pages 6–166

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jlme.2015.43.issue-1/issuetoc>

Global Justice and Health Systems Research in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Bridget Pratt¹ and Adnan A. Hyder²

Article first published online: 2 APR 2015

DOI: 10.1111/jlme.12202

Abstract

Scholarship focusing on how international research can contribute to justice in global health has primarily explored requirements for the conduct of clinical trials. Yet health systems research in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) has increasingly been identified as vital to the reduction of health disparities between and within countries. This paper expands an existing ethical framework based on the health capability paradigm – research for health justice – to externally-funded health systems research in LMICs. It argues that a specific form of health systems research in LMICs is required if the enterprise is to advance global health equity. “Research for health justice” requirements for priority setting, research capacity strengthening,

and post-study benefits in health systems research are derived in light of the field's distinctive characteristics. Specific obligations are established for external research actors, including governments, funders, sponsors, and investigators. How these framework requirements differ from those for international clinical research is discussed.

Journal of Medical Ethics

April 2015, Volume 41, Issue 4

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[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (JPIDS)

Volume 4 Issue 1 March 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Public Health Policy

Volume 36, Issue 1 (February 2015)

<http://www.palgrave-journals.com/jphp/journal/v36/n1/index.html>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of the Royal Society – Interface

06 April 2015; volume 12, issue 105

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

[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

Apr 04, 2015 Volume 385 Number 9975 p1261-1364 e25-e37

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

Editorial

[China-Africa Health Collaboration](#)

The Lancet

Summary

The 5th International Roundtable on China-Africa Health Collaboration: Contributing to Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Expanding Access to Essential Medicines, convened by Tsinghua University and the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Medicines and Health Products, took place in Beijing last week (March 26–28). The roundtable was attended by 350 Chinese, African, and international health delegates, including Chinese drug

companies. The roundtable endorsed the Beijing Policy Recommendations 2015—calling for collaboration to reflect local country priorities, enhanced production and access to new health commodities, increased accountability, and investments in research, development, and health financing.

Comment

Achieving universal health coverage is a moral imperative

Carissa F Etienne

Published Online: 15 October 2014

Summary

In the past few decades, important policies and strategic initiatives in health and development have been embraced by Latin America, with the active participation and support of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), WHO, and other partners. As democratic processes in the region are consolidated, with increasing decentralisation and greater social inclusion in decision making, there is an increasingly large and structured social demand for equity in access to health care, consistent with the principles of the WHO Constitution of 1948: “the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being...”.

Towards universal health coverage: applying a gender lens

Michelle Bachelet

e25

Human-rights-based approaches to health in Latin America

Alicia Ely Yamin, Ariel Frisancho

e26

Health protection as a citizen's right

Alicia Bárcena

e29

Latin America: priorities for universal health coverage

Jeanette Vega, Patricia Frenz

e31

Conditional cash transfers and health in Latin America

Simone Cecchini, Fábio Veras Soares

e32

The right to health: what model for Latin America?

Nila Heredia, Asa Cristina Laurell, Oscar Feo, José Noronha, Rafael González-Guzmán, Mauricio Torres-Tovar

e34

Articles

Effect of early neonatal vitamin A supplementation on mortality during infancy in Ghana (Neovita): a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial

Karen M Edmond, Sam Newton, Caitlin Shannon, Maureen O'Leary, Lisa Hurt, Gyan Thomas, Seeba Amenga-Etego, Charlotte Tawiah-Agyemang, Lu Gram, Chris N Hurt, Rajiv Bahl, Seth Owusu-Agyei, Betty R Kirkwood

1315

Effect of neonatal vitamin A supplementation on mortality in infants in Tanzania (Neovita): a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial

Honorati Masanja, Emily R Smith, Alfa Muhihi, Christina Briegleb, Salum Mshamu, Julia Ruben, Ramadhani Abdallah Noor, Polyna Khudyakov, Sachiyo Yoshida, Jose Martines, Rajiv Bahl, Wafaie W Fawzi, for the Neovita Tanzania Study Group

1324

Efficacy of early neonatal supplementation with vitamin A to reduce mortality in infancy in Haryana, India (Neovita): a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial

Sarmila Mazumder, Sunita Taneja, Kiran Bhatia, Sachiyo Yoshida, Jasmine Kaur, Brinda Dube, G S Toteja, Rajiv Bahl, Olivier Fontaine, Jose Martinez, Nita Bhandari, for the Neovita India Study Group
1333

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Apr 2015 Volume 3 Number 4 e178-e239
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/issue/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

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Apr 2015 Volume 15 Number 4 p361-486
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/issue/current>
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Volume 19, Issue 4, April 2015
<http://link.springer.com/journal/10995/19/4/page/1>
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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)
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Nature

Volume 520 Number 7545 pp5-126 2 April 2015
http://www.nature.com/nature/current_issue.html

Articles

Global effects of land use on local terrestrial biodiversity

Tim Newbold, Lawrence N. Hudson, Samantha L. L. Hill, Sara Contu, Igor Lysenko
+ et al.

Analysis of a global data set of local biodiversity comparisons reveals an average 13.6% reduction in species richness and 10.7% reduction in abundance as a result of past human land use, and projections based on these data under a business-as-usual land-use scenario predict further substantial loss this century, unless strong mitigation efforts are undertaken to reverse the effects.

New England Journal of Medicine

April 2, 2015 Vol. 372 No. 14

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

International Health Care Systems: Lessons from the East — China's Rapidly Evolving Health Care System

D. Blumenthal and W. Hsiao

Free Full Text

At first glance, China might seem unlikely to offer useful health care lessons to many other countries. Its health system exists within a unique geopolitical context: a country of more than 1.3 billion people, occupying a huge, diverse landmass, living under authoritarian single-party rule, and making an extraordinarily rapid transition from a Third-World to a First-World economy.

But first impressions can be misleading. Since its birth in 1949, the People's Republic of China has undertaken a series of remarkable health system experiments that are instructive at many levels. One of the most interesting lessons from the Chinese experience concerns the value of an institution that many countries take for granted: medical professionalism....

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>

Article

Government Health Care Spending and Child Mortality

Mahiben Maruthappu, MA, BM BCh^a, Ka Ying Bonnie Ng, BMedSci, MBChB^{a,b}, Callum Williams, BA^{c,d}, Rifat Atun, FRCP, MBA, FFPH^{a,e}, and Thomas Zeltner, MD, LL^{m,f,g}

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^bObstetrics and Gynaecology Department, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London, United Kingdom;

^cThe Economist, London, United Kingdom;

^dFaculty of History, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom;

^eHarvard School of Public Health, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts;

^fWorld Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland; and

^gUniversity of Bern, Bern, Switzerland.

Abstract

BACKGROUND: Government health care spending (GHS) is of increasing importance to child health. Our study determined the relationship between reductions in GHS and child mortality rates in high- and low-income countries.

METHODS: The authors used comparative country-level data for 176 countries covering the years 1981 to 2010, obtained from the World Bank and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. Multivariate regression analysis was used to determine the association between changes in GHS and child mortality, controlling for differences in infrastructure and demographics.

RESULTS: Data were available for 176 countries, equating to a population of ~5.8 billion as of 2010. A 1% decrease in GHS was associated with a significant increase in 4 child mortality measures: neonatal (regression coefficient [R] 0.0899, $P = .0001$, 95% confidence interval [CI] 0.0440–0.1358), postneonatal ($R = 0.1354$, $P = .0001$, 95% CI 0.0678–0.2030), 1- to 5-year ($R = 0.3501$, $P < .0001$, 95% CI 0.2318–0.4685), and under 5-year ($R = 0.5207$, $P < .0001$, 95% CI 0.3168–0.7247) mortality rates. The effect was evident up to 5 years after the reduction in GHS ($P < .0001$). Compared with high-income countries, low-income countries experienced greater deteriorations of ~1.31 times neonatal mortality, 2.81 times postneonatal mortality, 8.08 times 1- to 5-year child mortality, and 2.85 times under 5-year mortality.

CONCLUSIONS: Reductions in GHS are associated with significant increases in child mortality, with the largest increases occurring in low-income countries.

Article

Medical Providers' Understanding of Sex Trafficking and Their Experience With At-Risk Patients

Megan E. Beck, BSA, Megan M. Lineer, BSA, Marlene Melzer-Lange, MDA,b, Pippa Simpson, PhDa,c, Melodee Nugent, MAa,c, and Angela Rabbitt, DOa,d

Author Affiliations

aDepartment of Pediatrics, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin;

bDepartment of Emergency Medicine,

cDepartment of Pediatrics, and

dChild Advocacy and Protection Services, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Abstract

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES: Sex trafficking (ST) victims have unique medical and mental health needs and are often difficult to identify. Our objectives were to evaluate knowledge gaps and training needs of medical providers, to demonstrate the importance of provider training to meet the pediatric ST victim's specific needs, and to highlight barriers to the identification of and response to victims.

METHODS: A survey was sent to providers in specialties that would be most likely to encounter victims of ST. Participants included physicians, nurses, physician assistants, social workers, and patient and family advocates at multiple hospitals and medical clinics in urban, suburban, and rural locations.

RESULTS: Of ~500 survey recipients, 168 participants responded. In 2 clinical vignettes, 48% correctly classified a minor as an ST victim, and 42% correctly distinguished an ST victim from a child abuse victim. In all, 63% of respondents said that they had never received training on how to identify ST victims. Those with training were more likely to report ST as a major problem locally ($P \leq .001$), to have encountered a victim in their practice ($P \leq .001$), and to have greater confidence in their ability to identify victims ($P \leq .001$). The greatest barriers to identification of victims reported were a lack of training (34%) and awareness (22%) of ST.

CONCLUSIONS: Health care providers demonstrate gaps in knowledge and awareness of ST, specifically of pediatric victims, that correlate with their limited experience and training. Training is crucial to improve identification of these victims and provide appropriate care for their specific needs.

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

(Accessed 4 April 2015)

[No new relevant content]

PLoS One

[Accessed 4 April 2015]

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

Research Article

Can Reproductive Health Voucher Programs Improve Quality of Postnatal Care? A Quasi-Experimental Evaluation of Kenya's Safe Motherhood Voucher Scheme

Claire Watt, Timothy Abuya, Charlotte E. Warren, Francis Obare, Lucy Kanya, Ben Bellows

Published: April 2, 2015

DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0122828

Abstract

This study tests the group-level causal relationship between the expansion of Kenya's Safe Motherhood voucher program and changes in quality of postnatal care (PNC) provided at voucher-contracted facilities. We compare facilities accredited since program inception in 2006 (phase I) and facilities accredited since 2010-2011 (phase II) relative to comparable non-voucher facilities. PNC quality is assessed using observed clinical content processes, as well as client-reported outcome measures. Two-tailed unpaired t-tests are used to identify differences in mean process quality scores and client-reported outcome measures, comparing changes between intervention and comparison groups at the 2010 and 2012 data collection periods.

Difference-in-differences analysis is used to estimate the reproductive health (RH) voucher program's causal effect on quality of care by exploiting group-level differences between voucher-accredited and non-accredited facilities in 2010 and 2012. Participation in the voucher scheme since 2006 significantly improves overall quality of postnatal care by 39% ($p=0.02$), where quality is defined as the observable processes or components of service provision that occur during a PNC consultation. Program participation since phase I is estimated to improve the quality of observed maternal postnatal care by 86% ($p=0.02$), with the largest quality improvements in counseling on family planning methods (IRR 5.0; $p=0.01$) and return to fertility (IRR 2.6; $p=0.01$). Despite improvements in maternal aspects of PNC, we find a high proportion of mothers who seek PNC are not being checked by any provider after delivery. Additional strategies will be necessary to standardize provision of packaged postnatal interventions to both mother and newborn. This study addresses an important gap in the existing RH literature by using a strong evaluation design to assess RH voucher program effectiveness on quality improvement.

Research Article

Determinants of Performance of Health Systems Concerning Maternal and Child Health: A Global Approach

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Abstract

Aims

To assess the association of social determinants on the performance of health systems around the world.

Methods

A transnational ecological study was conducted with an observation level focused on the country. In order to research on the strength of the association between the annual maternal and child mortality in 154 countries and social determinants: corruption, democratization, income inequality and cultural fragmentation, we used a mixed linear regression model for repeated measures with random intercepts and a conglomerate-based geographical analysis, between 2000 and 2010.

Results

Health determinants with a significant association on child mortality(<1year): higher access to water (β a Quartile 4(Q4) vs Quartile 1(Q1) = -6,14; 95%CI: -11,63 to -0,73), sanitation systems, (Q4 vs Q1 = -25,58; 95%CI: -31,91 to -19,25), % measles vaccination coverage (Q4 vs Q1 = -7.35; 95%CI: -10,18 to -4,52), % of births attended by a healthcare professional (Q4 vs Q1 = -7,91; 95%CI: -11,36 to -4,52) and a % of the total health expenditure (Q3 vs Q1 = -2,85; 95%CI: -4,93 to -0,7). Ethnic fragmentation (Q4 vs Q1 = 9,93; 95%CI: -0.03 to 19.89) had a marginal effect. For child mortality<5 years, an association was found for these variables and democratization (not free vs free = 11,23; 95%CI: -0,82 to 23,29), out-of-pocket expenditure (Q1 vs Q4 = 17,71; 95%CI: 5,86 to 29,56). For MMR (Maternal mortality ratio), % of access to water for all the quartiles, % of access to sanitation systems, (Q3 vs Q1 = -171,15; 95%CI: -281,29 to -61), birth attention by a healthcare professional (Q4 vs Q1 = -231,23; 95%CI: -349,32 to -113,15), and having corrupt government (Q3 vs Q1 = 83,05; 95%CI: 33,10 to 133).

Conclusions

Improving access to water and sanitation systems, decreasing corruption in the health sector must become priorities in health systems. The ethno-linguistic cultural fragmentation and the detriment of democracy turn out to be two factors related to health results.

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Editorial

[A community for disaster science](#)

Marcia McNutt

Marcia McNutt Editor-in-Chief Science Journals

During disasters such as the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, engaging the expertise of the academic community helped responders make critical decisions. A major barrier to such engagement, however, is the cultural gap between academia's reward system and that which prevails in the disaster response community. Given the importance of developing smart approaches to disasters, whether natural or human-caused, we need to bridge this gap.

Infectious Diseases

[As Ebola wanes, trials jockey for patients](#)

Kai Kupferschmidt

The Ebola epidemic in West Africa has caused enormous suffering, but scientists also see it as a chance to test experimental therapies that could save lives in the future. With declining case numbers, however, it is becoming less likely that all the drug tests will reach a conclusion. Now, scientists are debating whether some trials should be stopped so that tests of more promising therapies that have only now become available have a better chance of reaching a conclusion. An expert panel at the World Health Organization has given ZMapp and TKM-Ebola highest priority but in a recent meeting did not call for ongoing studies of favipiravir and convalescent blood to be stopped. The experts did convince a group of Italian doctors to test ZMapp instead of the heart drug amiodarone and criticized an interferon trial that has now started in Guinea.

Policy Forum

Vaccine Testing

[Ebola and beyond](#)

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Many epidemic-prone infectious diseases present challenges that the current West African Ebola outbreak brings into sharp relief. Specifically, the urgency to evaluate vaccines, initially limited vaccine supplies, and large and unpredictable spatial and temporal fluctuations in incidence have presented huge logistical, ethical, and statistical challenges to trial design.

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