

The Sentinel

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

16 May 2015

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

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

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

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

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:: Week in Review

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

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Migration

Managing migration better in all aspects: A European Agenda on Migration

European Commission - Press release

Brussels, 13 May 2015

Today, the European Commission presented a European Agenda on Migration outlining the immediate measures that will be taken in order to respond to the crisis situation in the Mediterranean as well as the steps to be taken in the coming years to better manage migration in all its aspects.

The plight of thousands of migrants putting their lives in peril to cross the Mediterranean has shocked and it has become clear that no Member State can or should be left alone to address huge migratory pressures. This Agenda sets out a European response, combining internal and external policies, making best use of EU agencies and tools, and involving all actors: Member States, EU institutions, International Organisations, civil society, local authorities and third countries....

Immediate Action

There is political consensus in the European Parliament and the European Council following the recent tragedies in the Mediterranean to mobilise all efforts and tools at our disposal to take immediate action to prevent more people from dying at sea. Today the Commission has set out the concrete and immediate actions it will take, including:

- :: Tripling the capacities and assets for the Frontex joint operations Triton and Poseidon in 2015 and 2016. An amending budget for 2015 was adopted today to secure the necessary funds – a total of €89 million, including €57 million in AMIF and €5 million in ISF emergency funding for frontline Member States – and the new Triton Operational Plan will be presented by the end of May;

- :: Proposing the first ever activation of the emergency mechanism to help Member states confronted with a sudden influx of migrants under Article 78(3) TFEU. By the end of May, the Commission will propose a temporary distribution mechanism for persons in clear need of international protection within the EU. A proposal for a permanent EU system for relocation in emergency situations of mass influxes will follow by the end of 2015;

- :: Proposing, by the end of May, an EU-wide resettlement scheme to offer 20,000 places distributed in all Member States to displaced persons in clear need of international protection in Europe with a dedicated extra funding of €50 million for 2015 and 2016;

- :: Working on a possible Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) operation in the Mediterranean to dismantle traffickers' networks and fight smuggling of people, in accordance with international law.

The Way Forward: Four pillars to manage migration better

The migration crisis in the Mediterranean has put the spotlight on immediate needs. But it has also revealed that our collective EU migration policy has fallen short. Looking forward, the European Agenda on Migration develops President Juncker's Political Guidelines into a set of mutually coherent and reinforcing initiatives, based around four pillars, to manage migration better in all its aspects (see also Annex).

The four pillars of the new Agenda on Migration are:

- :: Reducing the incentives for irregular migration, notably by seconding European migration liaison officers to EU Delegations in key third countries; amending the Frontex legal basis to strengthen its role on return; a new action plan with measures that aim to transform people

smuggling into high risk, low return criminal activity and addressing the root causes through development cooperation and humanitarian assistance;

:: Border management – saving lives and securing external borders, notably by strengthening the role and capacity of Frontex; helping strengthen the capacity of third countries to manage their borders; pooling further, where necessary, certain coast guard functions at EU level;

:: Europe's duty to protect: a strong common asylum policy: The priority is to ensure a full and coherent implementation of the Common European Asylum System, notably by promoting systematic identification and fingerprinting and with efforts to reduce its abuses by strengthening the Safe Country of Origin provisions of the Asylum Procedure Directive; evaluating and possibly revising the Dublin Regulation in 2016;

:: A new policy on legal migration: The focus is on maintaining a Europe in demographic decline as an attractive destination for migrants, notably by modernising and overhauling the Blue Card scheme, by reprioritising our integration policies, and by maximising the benefits of migration policy to individuals and countries of origin, including by facilitating cheaper, faster and safer remittance transfers.

UNHCR hails today's EU proposed Agenda on Migration as breakthrough, urges speedy adoption

15 May 2015

Press Releases, 13 May 2015

UNHCR applauds the European Commission's proposals, announced earlier today, for dealing with the thousands of refugees and migrants arriving in Europe via the Mediterranean.

The proposals include strengthened measures to save lives at sea, and improved mechanisms for allowing legal entry into the EU for people fleeing war, and providing for a fair redistribution of refugees. They also contain measures to address some of the factors that are driving people into the hands of smugglers, including the desperate conditions many refugees face in countries of first-asylum and transit...

..."The EU's proposals represent a great breakthrough in terms of managing refugee flows and migration," said Volker Türk, UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection. "It is now enormously important, and vital for the urgent purpose of saving lives, that these proposals be embraced quickly and fully implemented."

More details on UNHCR's response to the EU proposals can be found here:

<http://www.unhcr.org/55537b166.html>

UNHCR alarmed at reports of boat pushbacks in South-east Asia

Press Releases, 13 May 2015

The UN refugee agency is extremely alarmed at reports suggesting that Indonesia and Malaysia may have pushed back boats carrying vulnerable people from Myanmar and Bangladesh.

On Monday the Indonesian navy stated that it had escorted a boat out to sea, although it is not clear if this represents a change in the government's policy. Yesterday Malaysia's Maritime Enforcement Agency announced that it would not let foreign ships dock unless they are unseaworthy and sinking.

As conflicts and persecution force more and more people to seek safety beyond international borders, UNHCR has been emphasizing the importance of saving lives on the high seas.

"The first priority is to save lives. Instead of competing to avoid responsibility, it is key for States to share the responsibility to disembark these people immediately," said Volker Türk, UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection.

"Sea crossings are a symptom of desperation as people are left with no other choice but to risk their lives," Mr Türk said. He reiterated the agency's global call for legal alternatives to access protection and safety, "Nobody should have to put their lives into the hands of ruthless smugglers."...

Migrants: "EU's resettlement proposal is a good start but remains woefully inadequate" – UN expert

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

GENEVA (15 May 2015) – The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, François Crépeau, expressed both hope and disappointment at the new European Agenda on Migration unveiled by the European Commission for dealing with Europe's migration crisis.

"The EU's resettlement proposal is good in principle but woefully inadequate in its scale," the human rights expert said. The plan includes quotas for the resettlement of refugees, an initiative that Mr. Crépeau has been calling for since September 2014.

"The number of resettlement places initially envisaged seems utterly insufficient," he stressed. "20,000 places in the EU regional block is not an adequate response to the current crisis which in 2014 saw over 200,000 irregular migrants – a majority of whom were asylum seekers – arrived in Europe by boat."

The Special Rapporteur recalled that over 60,000 irregular migrants-many of whom are asylum seekers- have already been rescued this year. "For a continental union of over 500 million inhabitants, 20,000 persons represent 0.004% of its population," he stressed.

The EU also proposed a relocation plan for the asylum seekers who enter the common territory in order to relief frontline States. "It is good that a mandatory EU-wide relocation system, with an appropriate distribution key, will be presented for adoption by all EU member states," he said. "However, such a system must be based on the wishes of the asylum seekers, an increase in mobility throughout the common EU territory, and on numbers of relocated asylum seekers that actually match the number of arrivals."...

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Humanitarian assistance from non-state donors: Latest trends

Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA)

Briefing Paper

Author: Chloe Stirk

May 2015 :: 20 pages

Pdf: http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Private-Funding-2015_May2015.pdf

Report Synopsis

Humanitarian needs around the world continue to increase but traditional funding from governments and institutional donors is not keeping pace. As part of efforts to leverage new

and alternative forms of assistance, aid agencies continue to look to a diverse and growing range of funding sources to fill the gap.

Humanitarian assistance from non-state donors is playing a growing role in supporting the international humanitarian response but it remains under-reported. This report looks at the role non-state donors play in the provision of humanitarian assistance – measuring funding from individuals, trusts and foundations, and companies and corporations – and assesses where the money comes from, who raises it, and where it is spent. The research draws on a broad set of data sourced directly from humanitarian agencies and covers the period from 2009 to 2013. Private assistance continues to be an important source of funding for humanitarian crises.

The number, scale and severity of humanitarian crises are outstripping resources. While international humanitarian assistance continues to increase, reaching record levels in 2013 (US\$21.8 billion), it is still not enough to fully meet needs. Non-state or private donors have long played an important role in supporting the international humanitarian response, and there is currently significant attention being paid to further building the role of these actors.

The report finds that the volume of private humanitarian assistance given has grown from US\$5 billion in 2012 to US\$5.4 billion in 2013. However, from 2012 to 2013 the proportion of total international humanitarian assistance from private donors fell from 27% to 25%.

Individuals provide the majority of private funding

Individuals continue to contribute the overwhelming majority of private funding, providing an estimated 72% (US\$3.9 billion) of the total in 2013. Individuals have long been major donors of humanitarian funding, providing an estimated 19% of the total international humanitarian response between 2009 and 2013. One potentially significant area of charitable giving from individuals that has received less attention in discussions around the current humanitarian financing crisis is faith-based giving, and Islamic social finance in particular.

NGOs are the largest recipients of private humanitarian assistance, but UN agencies and the International Red Cross Red Crescent movement are receiving an increasing proportion

Non-governmental organisations continue to receive by far the largest proportion of private assistance, raising an estimated US\$ 4.7 billion in 2013 and US\$22.7 billion in the five years between 2009 and 2013. However, from 2012 to 2013 the proportion of total private humanitarian assistance received by UN agencies rose from 5% to 9% and from 3% to 4% for the International Red Cross Red Crescent movement.

Different expenditure patterns exist between government and private funding

Our data shows different expenditure patterns between government and private funding for different countries. For example, in 2013 Haiti was the third largest recipient of private funding but was only the 17th largest recipient of government funding. On the other hand, the occupied Palestinian territory was the 3rd largest recipient of bilateral government funding in 2013, but was only the 33rd largest recipient of funding from private donors.

As our 2014 report Humanitarian assistance from non-state donors: what is it worth? also showed, while all crises are dependent on donor governments for the majority of humanitarian funding, rapid-onset natural disasters tend to attract a greater proportion of funding from private donors than chronic and conflict-related crises.

Private donors are diversifying the range of assistance they provide

Private donors, in particular the private sector, are diversifying the type of support they offer beyond merely financial assistance to include new and innovative forms of in-kind assistance. In 2013 private companies and corporations provided an estimated US\$385.4 million in humanitarian funding. Many private sector actors are now moving beyond a direct donorship role towards a 'corporate partnership' approach, providing a range of skills and resources, the financial value of which is often unknown.

The need for timely and comprehensive data

Funding from private donors is currently under-reported and there is little information, data or research available on it. Due to this widespread lack of transparency, it is difficult to judge precisely how much is available, where it comes from, who is spending it, on what, or where.

As the profile, scale and diversity of private contributions to humanitarian assistance grows, so does the importance of being able to track all sources of available funding in order to coordinate the design and delivery of a comprehensive response. Improved and standardised reporting of all forms of assistance – cash and in-kind, private and government funding – will help to ensure the transparency, accountability and effective coordination of humanitarian assistance in this new and continually changing landscape.

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Global Partnership for Social Accountability Continues to Grow, with New Contributions from Dominican Republic, Ford Foundation

World Bank

PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 13, 2015—The Dominican Republic has become the first country in the global South to join the group of donors who are funding the Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA), a program launched by the World Bank Group in 2012 to strengthen public-sector performance and meet governance challenges in developing countries.

The Government of the Dominican Republic has joined such GPSA donors as the Ford Foundation, the Open Society Foundations and the Aga Khan Foundation USA, in a reflection of the government's commitment to create stronger social accountability mechanisms and to pursue governance reforms as a means to end poverty.

The GPSA is already active in the Dominican Republic, supporting a \$730,000 project by Intermon Oxfam working to coordinate and scale up social accountability processes aimed at improving budget accountability in the education, agriculture, water and sanitation, and public housing sectors. Using locally driven social accountability processes that target issues and problems in specific sectors of the economy and society, the project aims to generate evidence-based and continuous feedback to be used by national authorities focusing on budget priorities and service delivery...

...In addition, the Ford Foundation has announced a new contribution of US\$1 million thereby renewing its commitment of support to the program. In 2012, after the World Bank's initial investment of \$20 million, the Ford Foundation made a commitment to the GPSA Trust Fund of

\$3 million. To date, the funds have been allocated toward GPSA's grants portfolio, as well as toward the knowledge and capacity-building components of the GPSA...

...44 countries have now opted into the GPSA to date. To see all the countries where the GPSA's funding component operates, visit [Where We Operate](#). In these countries, the GPSA is launching its 3rd Call for Proposals on May 13, 2015. Civil society organizations from these countries wishing to apply, should consult the [GPSA website](#).

About the GPSA

Launched in 2012 with a \$20 million commitment from the World Bank Group, the GPSA is currently supporting 23 social accountability projects in 17 countries, helping civil society and governments work together to solve critical governance challenges and strengthen public-sector performance. Governments of 44 countries have now joined the program, which allows civil society organization in those countries to gain access to GPSA grants. In addition, the GPSA has developed an extensive knowledge and learning agenda. GPSA grantees and other stakeholders in the field are supported by a strong capacity-building program to enhance the implementation of projects that promote social accountability. The GPSA's network of partners includes over 250 organizations from civil society, foundations, private sector, academia and think tanks, as well as multilateral and bilateral institutions.

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Expanding Opportunities for the Next Generation, Early Childhood Development in the Middle East and North Africa – *Directions in development; human development*

World Bank Group

May 07, 2015 :: 343 pages

Authors: [El-Kogali, Safaa El Tayeb](#); [Krafft, Caroline Gould](#);

Pdf:

<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2015/01/23811898/expanding-opportunities-next-generation-early-childhood-development-middle-east-north-africa>

The report fills a critical research gap by providing the first comprehensive analysis of the state of early childhood development (ECD) in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

Abstract

Early childhood is the most important stage of human development. In the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), there is little research and inadequate investment in this crucial stage of life. This book assesses the state of early childhood development (ECD) in MENA from before birth through age five, examining multiple dimensions of early development including health, nutrition, socio-emotional development, early learning, and early work. The book begins with a discussion of the importance of ECD as a critical foundation for later development, and also as a stage of life when inequality and social exclusion begin. ECD in MENA is set in a global context, and then countries within MENA are compared, with chapters on ECD in Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, West Bank and Gaza, and Yemen. As well as illustrating the state of ECD, the chapters assess risk and protective factors for early development and the extent of inequality in early childhood. A discussion of policies and programs that can enhance ECD illustrates how inequality and shortfalls in early development can be effectively addressed. This book will be of interest to anyone interested in the state of human development and inequality in MENA.

Contents Overview

The first chapter offers an overview of the evidence that the period from before birth to age five is the most important stage of human development. This period is especially crucial as deficits at this early stage tend to be irreversible and to perpetuate cycles of poverty and inequality. The many dimensions of healthy ECD, from proper healthcare and nutrition to early development activities, are identified along with the range of related indicators used to measure the state of ECD in the region.

Chapter 2 offers a comparison with other regions of the world, for a better understanding of the state of ECD in MENA,. The twelve countries of the region are also compared, to establish benchmarks and identify country-specific deficits in ECD. The chapter includes an analysis of the factors that influence ECD, as there is significant inequality of access to key development activities even in the region's more developed countries.

Chapter 3 shows that economic growth alone will not address the many shortfalls in the region's ECD. Targeted interventions are needed. The chapter provides a way forward with a number of approaches from around the world that have been implemented successfully and which would benefit children in MENA.

Country analyses:

:: Algeria which has achieved good immunization rates but has high rates of stunting due to malnutrition, and where a child's social and economic background influences the chances of healthy development.

:: Djibouti where prenatal and delivery care is now almost universal but child mortality rates are still high and less than one third of children are fully immunized by the age of one.

:: Egypt where stunting is a major and persistent problem and disadvantaged children are the least likely to benefit from early schooling, although immunization rates have reached 92%.

:: Iraq where only half of children are receiving regular prenatal care, less than two-thirds are fully immunized and access to key development activities is closely related to social and economic background.

:: Jordan which has achieved near universal coverage for prenatal and neonatal care, and while rates for stunting are low there is large variation in nutrition status, with a child from the poorest segment of society seven times as likely to be stunted as a child from the richest.

:: Lebanon which has also achieved near universal coverage for prenatal and neonatal care but where only half of all children are fully immunized by age one and poorer children are more likely to be stunted.

:: Libya before the current crisis, where 87% of all children were fully immunized but only half had access to iodized salt, essential for cognitive development, and more than one fifth were stunted.

:: Morocco where 90% of children are fully immunized but almost one third are stunted and deaths in the first month and year of life are above regional averages, with the poorest children facing greater risk of death.

:: Syria before the current crisis, where 96% of births were assisted by a skilled attendant but only 78% of one-year-olds were fully immunized and over one quarter of all children were stunted.

:: Tunisia which has achieved near universal prenatal and delivery care and early mortality has fallen below regional averages, but children in rural areas have one third the chance of urban children to attend early education and 22% of children aged 5 are engaged in child labor.

:: West Bank and Gaza which has achieved near universal coverage for prenatal and delivery care but stunting remains a persistent problem and there are large differences in access to early care and education between advantaged and disadvantaged children.

:: Yemen before the current crisis where less than half of all births received prenatal care and children were more than twice as likely to die before their first birthday (7%) as they were to attend early childhood education (3%).

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Beneficiary Feedback in Evaluation

Independent report

DFID - Department for International Development

15 May 2015 :: 62 pages

PDF, 1.08MB:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/427742/Beneficiary-Feedback-Feb15.pdf

The purpose of this paper is to analyse current practice of beneficiary feedback in evaluation and to stimulate further thinking and activity in this area. The paper builds on current UK commitments to increasing the voice and influence of beneficiaries in aid programmes. It has been commissioned by the Evaluation Department of the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

Evidence base

The paper builds on:

:: A review of over 130 documents (DFID and other development agencies), including policy and practice reports, evaluations and their Terms of Reference, web pages, blogs, journal articles and books;

:: Interviews with 36 key informants representing DFID, INGOs, evaluation consultants/ consultancy firms and a focus group with 13 members of the Beneficiary Feedback Learning Partnership;

:: Contributions from 33 practitioners via email and through a blog set up for the purpose of this research (<https://beneficiaryfeedbackinevaluationandresearch.wordpress.com/>) and;

:: Analysis of 32 evaluations containing examples of different types of beneficiary feedback.

It is important to note that the research process revealed that the literature on beneficiary feedback in evaluation is scant. Yet, the research process revealed that there is a strong appetite for developing a shared understanding and building on existing, limited practice.

The report contains 5 key messages.

Key Message 1: Lack of definitional clarity has led to a situation where the term beneficiary feedback is subject to vastly differing interpretations and levels of ambition within evaluation.

It has been noted that there is a lack of uniform understanding as to the concept of beneficiary feedback within the international development sector generally (Jump 2013). This paper confirms that this is also true for evaluation specifically. While there is a growing interest in beneficiary feedback in programme implementation, no prior study of beneficiary feedback in evaluation was found.

Key Message 2: There is a shared, normative value that it is important to hear from those who are affected by an intervention about their experiences. However, in practice this has been translated into beneficiary as data provider, rather than beneficiary as having a role to play in design, data validation and analysis and dissemination and communication.

This largely extractive process brings risks for rights based working, learning, evaluation rigour and robustness, as well as the meeting of ethical standards that one might expect.

Key Message 3: It is possible to adopt a meaningful, appropriate and robust approach to beneficiary feedback at key stages of the evaluation process, if not in all of them.

The paper proposes a simple, practical framework for beneficiary feedback in evaluation that can be used to apply a structured and systematic approach that cuts across all stages of evaluation - from design to dissemination. The framework takes the form of a matrix...that evaluation commissioners and practitioners can use to map different types of beneficiary feedback onto each of the different stages of evaluation. This will support them in making choices as to which type of beneficiary feedback is most appropriate in the given evaluation context

Key Message 4: It is recommended that a minimum standard is put in place. This minimum standard would require that evaluation commissioners and evaluators give due consideration to applying a beneficiary feedback approach at each of the four key stages of the evaluation process.

Where decisions are taken not to solicit beneficiary feedback at one or more stages, it is reasonable to expect that this is justified in evaluation design to be clear that the decision to exclude beneficiaries from the evaluation process is one of design rather than of omission. Quality assurance processes should integrate this standard, and methodology papers should explain the rationale.

The framework fits in with existing evaluation principles, as well as within DFID's systems and policies. It does not require a new set of principles. It does, however, require explicit consideration of these principles, particularly ethical principles. This will improve the chances of moving away from extractive data collection to ethical and meaningful feedback.

Key Message 5: A beneficiary feedback approach to evaluation does not in any way negate the need to give due consideration to the best combination of methods for collecting reliable data from beneficiaries and sourcing evidence from other sources.

As with any evaluation, consideration will need to be given to how to: avoid elite capture and bias; ensure diverse views, including those of women and men, are heard; develop a robust sampling protocol and; defend cost effectiveness proposals and the generalizability of findings.

Concluding thoughts

It is time to move beyond the normative positioning around beneficiary feedback as "a good thing" towards explicit and systematic application of different types of beneficiary feedback throughout the evaluation process. The current approach to beneficiary as data provider raises important methodological and ethical questions for evaluators. The paper highlights these and shows that it is possible to adopt a meaningful, appropriate and robust approach to beneficiary feedback at key stages of the evaluation process, if not in all of them. It is suggested that the framework proposed is both reasonable and achievable and will be a useful tool for evaluation commissioners as well as practitioners.

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Aligning the Financial Systems in the Asia Pacific Region to Sustainable Development

ASIA-PACIFIC HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATION ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

April 2015 ::36 pages

Pdf: <http://www.unep.org/inquiry/Portals/50215/Documents/Unep-Inquiry Asia Finance Final.pdf>

Summary

Adequate, appropriate finance is crucial for sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific UN (ESCAP) estimates that the region needs to invest around US\$2.5 trillion a year between 2013 and 2030 to achieve key sustainable development goals:

:: US\$500-800 billion to close gaps in education, health, employment, social protection and basic access to energy services.

:: US\$800-\$900 billion for developing infrastructure for energy, transport, telecommunications and water and sanitation.

:: US\$500-800 billion for climate change mitigation and renewable energy.

The region's developing financial and capital markets provide a unique opportunity for innovative financial and capital market policies, regulations and standards that can align private capital flows to the financing needs of sustainable development. Notably, the region's savings, US\$8.4 trillion in 2012, represents more than half of the world's total savings, the channeling of which will make a significant difference to regional and international progress towards sustainable development.

Sustainable finance in Asia, as well as elsewhere, has to date mainly concerned the actions of individual financial institutions, sometimes encouraged and supported by voluntary associations and principles. But sustainable finance is more than a set of individual actions. Work has now entered the next phase of designing the key parameters for the financial system as a whole.

Advancing sustainable financial systems can enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and resilience of the region's financial and capital markets.

Placing sustainable development at the heart of financial markets does not represent an 'additional' performance measure. Quite the contrary, it improves the availability of material information, enhances the all-important task of risk-pricing and advances the efficiency of credit and capital allocation. Moreover, by increasing the flow of finance into the enablers of a healthy dynamic, inclusive and sustainable economy, it secures higher, long-term, risk adjusted returns, and improves the resilience of the financial system itself.

The UNEP Inquiry into the Design of a Sustainable Financial System has identified clear potential roles of central bankers, financial regulators and financial policy makers in delivering financing for sustainable development, including specific examples from several countries in the region such as Bangladesh, China, Indonesia and Singapore.

Establishing national coordination mechanisms for ambitious, collective action is a critical enabler for advancing a sustainable financial system.

National strategies and pathways for reform and innovation need to reflect particular needs and challenges. The region includes some of the world's largest and smallest, and wealthiest and poorest nations. Similarly its financial systems range from countries with small, under-developed banking communities to those with mature, internationalized capital markets and diversified, sophisticated financial actors. National coordination mechanisms include Indonesia's 'Roadmap for Sustainable Finance', China's recently established Green Finance Committee, overseen by the People's Bank of China, and Japan's working groups on Principles for 21st Century Finance.

International cooperation and coordinated action is key to advancing national and regional action for establishing sustainable financial systems.

International financial governance remains fragmented, although the response to the global financial crisis demonstrated the will and capacity of the international community to act collectively and ambitiously. Shaping a sustainable financial system presents another opportunity for strong collective international action—action that could yield essential long-term sustainability benefits.

The UN's Financing for Development process offers one means for enhanced international cooperation, to support the achievement of sustainable development goals. Beyond this, however, are a number of relevant international institutions responsible for macro-economic guidance and financial market development, which should be involved in setting the direction, pace and overall ambition and in establishing standards.

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Waste Crime - Waste Risks: Gaps in Meeting the Global Waste Challenge

A UNEP Rapid Response Assessment

United Nations Environment Programme and GRID-Arendal, Nairobi and Arendal

Contributors: Rucevska I., Nellemann C., Isarin N., Yang W., Liu N., Yu K., Sandnæs S., Olley K., McCann H., Devia L., Bisschop L., Soesilo D., Schoolmeester T., Henriksen, R., Nilsen, R.
2015 :: 68 pages :: ISBN: 978-82-7701-148-6

Pdf: <http://www.grida.no/publications/rr/waste-crime>

From Executive Summary

Waste covers a very wide spectrum of discarded materials ranging from municipal, electrical and electronic, industrial and agricultural, to new types including counterfeit pesticides. It also includes anything in size and scale from decommissioned ships, oil or liquid wastes, hundreds of millions of mobile phones to billions of used car tires.

With rising global population, urbanisation and consumption, the amount of waste continues to increase, providing vast environmental, social, health, economic and even criminal challenges of unknown proportions. Due to high costs of treating and disposing hazardous and other wastes, weak environmental regulations, poor enforcement and low environmental awareness, illegal transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other waste from developed countries to developing countries have become an increasing global concern.

Despite the significant efforts undertaken in the framework of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and by some government agencies, detailed knowledge of the illegal transnational flows remains limited and at best fragmented...

Recommendations

:: Strengthen awareness, monitoring and information:

1. Acknowledge and raise further awareness of waste crime as an important threat to security, people and environment.
2. Strengthen mapping of scale, routes and state of hazardous waste and possible involvement of organized crime.
 - a. Strengthen awareness and request countries to specifically address the risks associated with organized crime involvement in waste management.
 - b. Strengthen awareness in the enforcement chain and of prosecutors of the risks for conducting fraud, tax fraud and money laundering through the waste sector.
3. Encourage non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to expose waste crimes and build awareness of the massive health risks to waste end-users. If waste recycling activities are taken up there should be an adequate knowledge of sound recycling methods to prevent direct exposure to toxic substances.

:: Strengthen national legislation and enforcement capacities:

4. Strengthen national legislation and control measures by:
 - a. Improving national legislation frameworks as the primary basis for effectively and efficiently combating and monitoring of hazardous waste crimes. Establish the required competences and resources for the responsible law enforcement authorities to perform their duties, including inspections of transboundary movements within their mandates.
 - b. Strengthen multi-agency cooperation at the national level between enforcement agencies – customs, police, environment authorities, and prosecutors.
 - c. Build capacities of the entire enforcement chains, including customs, police, environmental enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges, to address waste crimes.
 - d. Strengthen the capacity of customs authorities to enforce waste crimes mitigation through application of the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme (CCP) or Green Customs Initiative (GCI) protocols.
 - e. Promote identification of the tariff codes corresponding with the Codes of Basel Convention present in Annex I, in Annex VIII and Annex IX.

:: Strengthen international treaties and compliance measures:

5. Strengthen effective monitoring and enforcement approaches at global, regional and sub-regional levels, including sharing of tools, best practices and intelligence for environmental inspectors, police and customs officers using existing networks such as the UNODC and INTERPOL. Environmental inspectors may also consider taking part in networks like IMPEL within the EU to share information with fellow government environmental agencies.

:: Promote prevention measures and synergies:

6. Facilitate the proper return of illegal waste shipments at cost to shipper as a measure of prevention. Proceed with a technical assessment of quantities and qualities of abandoned containers particularly in Asia and of dumping of hazardous waste worldwide.
7. Take a comprehensive and integrated approach in combating environmental crime and exploring opportunities for building synergies with current efforts in combating wildlife and

Ozone depleting substance (ODS) trafficking 8. Encourage waste producers and waste management companies to share experiences and lessons learned and obtain control of the downstream supply chain through

a) the contract to document the value chain until the end disposal or recycling, and b) a legal obligation that only players with the necessary licenses all along the chain can handle the waste. This applies for both hazardous and non-hazardous waste. The waste management companies are encouraged to agree upon business standards that exempt so called "grey zones" in legislation to secure environmentally sound waste management practices.

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EBOLA/EVD [to 16 May 2015]

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

WHO: [Ebola Situation Report - 13 May 2015](#)

[Excerpts]

SUMMARY

:: A total of 9 confirmed cases of Ebola virus disease (EVD) was reported in the week to 10 May: the lowest weekly total this year. Guinea reported a total of 7 cases, Sierra Leone reported 2. For the first time since the beginning of the outbreak in Sierra Leone, the country reported zero confirmed cases for more than 2 consecutive days in the week to 10 May. As at 12 May, Sierra Leone has reported 8 consecutive days without a confirmed case. The EVD outbreak in Liberia was declared over on 9 May, after 42 complete days elapsed since the burial of the last confirmed case. The country has now entered a 3-month period of heightened vigilance. WHO will maintain an enhanced presence in the country until the end of 2015, with a particular focus on areas that border Guinea and Sierra Leone....

COUNTRIES WITH WIDESPREAD AND INTENSE TRANSMISSION

:: There have been a total of 26,724 reported confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (figure 1, table 1), with 11,065 reported deaths (this total includes reported deaths among probable and suspected cases, although outcomes for many cases are unknown). A total of 7 new confirmed cases were reported in Guinea and 2 in Sierra Leone in the 7 days to 10 May. The outbreak in Liberia was declared over on 9 May...

Nepal earthquake 2015 - Grade 3 emergency

:: [Health situation report No. 16pdf, 281kb](#) 15 May 2015

:: [Nepal ramps up disease surveillance after earthquakes](#) 15 May 2015

:: [Global Health Cluster](#)

..Health Cluster 4Ws - 13 May 2015xlsx, 360kb

..Health Cluster Bulletin No. 2pdf, 2.26Mb 12 May 2015

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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 16 May 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases/Meetings Coverage

15 May 2015

GA/11644

['You Are Not Alone', Delegates Tell Nepal as General Assembly Adopts Text to Strengthen Recovery, Development Efforts in Earthquakes' Aftermath](#)

Expressing condolences to the Nepalese people and Government in the aftermath of recent earthquakes and calling for action to speed recovery and reconstruction efforts, the General Assembly today adopted by consensus a resolution on strengthening the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance.

14 May 2015

ENV/DEV/1519

[Concerned about Forest Degradation, Ministers in Forum Commit to Sustainable Management of Woodlands to Reap Rewards of Poverty Reduction, Food Security](#)

Capping two days of high-level debate, ministers in the Forum on Forests today pledged to promote the significance of forests in the post-2015 development agenda, reaffirming that the sustainable management of the world's woodlands was vital to addressing other global challenges — from poverty eradication and economic growth to food security, gender equality and climate change.

['Untold Suffering' of South Sudan's People Must Stop, Special Representative Says in Briefing to Security Council](#)

To end the worsening suffering in South Sudan, the international community must find a way to help its people bring about urgently needed peace, eliminate drivers of conflict and resume development, the Special Representative for the country told the Security Council this afternoon.

13 May 2015

SC/11889

[Human Cost of Illicit Flow of Small Arms, Light Weapons Stressed in Security Council Debate](#)

Underscoring the human suffering caused by the widespread availability of small arms and light weapons in conflict zones at an all-day open debate in the Security Council today, speakers called for the urgent management of such deadly materiel through national action, implementation of treaties and strengthened international cooperation.

14 May 2015

SG/SM/16745-HR/5255

[Concerned by Refugee Crisis in Andaman Sea, Straits of Malacca, Secretary-General Urges Governments Ensure Obligation of Rescue at Sea, Non-Expulsion](#)

UN OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 16 May 2015]

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

[Zeid warns against reprisals after failed coup; fears Burundi heading towards further chaos](#)

GENEVA (15 May 2015) – The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein on Friday said there is a real risk of Burundi descending into further chaos, and called upon the authorities to ensure that the instigators of the failed coup are not harmed and that there are no reprisals against their perceived supporters, journalists, human rights defenders and the many ordinary civilians who have been protesting against the Government...

[Migrants: "EU's resettlement proposal is a good start but remains woefully inadequate" – UN expert](#)

5/15/2015

GENEVA (15 May 2015) – The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, François Crépeau, expressed both hope and disappointment at the new European Agenda on Migration unveiled by the European Commission for dealing with Europe's migration crisis...

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

["The lessons of Rana Plaza have still not been learned" – UN expert group on business and human rights](#)

GENEVA (15 May 2015) – The United Nations Working Group on business and human rights today said that "the lessons of the Rana Plaza disaster have still not been learned." The experts' warning comes after a new tragedy in the global garment industry involving the death of more than 70 factory workers in a fire in a shoe factory in Manila this week.

"The tragic death of factory workers, mainly women, is a stark reminder of the urgent need for action to protect workers in the garment industry, despite of the Bangladesh Accord for Fire and Building Safety, created two years ago, on the same date as the Manila shoe factory fire," said Michael Addo, who currently heads the expert group.

The collapse of the Rana Plaza building with more than 3,000 garment workers inside in 2013 was a wake-up call for action by governments, trade unions and industry to address systemic human rights issues in the garment sector. "This week's factory fire in Manila must strengthen our resolve to call for action to prevent such accidents from taking place," Mr. Addo noted.

The Bangladesh Accord is a legally binding agreement which has been signed by over 150 corporations from 20 countries, global and local trade unions, NGOs and workers' rights groups...

The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights:
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Pages/Tools.aspx>

SRSG/CAAC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict [to 16 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

SRSG/SVC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict [to 16 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [to 16 May 2015]

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

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

[UNHCR's aid airlift arrives safely in Yemen](#)

15 May 2015

[UNHCR alarmed at reports of boat pushbacks in South-east Asia](#)

Press Releases, 13 May 2015

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

[UNHCR hails today's EU proposed Agenda on Migration as breakthrough, urges speedy adoption](#)

Press Releases, 13 May 2015

UNHCR applauds the European Commission's proposals, announced earlier today, for dealing

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

International Organization for Migration [to 16 May 2015]

<http://www.iom.int/press-room/press-releases>

[IOM Releases Funds to Tackle Migrant Crisis in Andaman Sea; Calls for Urgent Action to Save Lives](#)

05/15/15

Thailand - IOM has released USD 1 million to launch operations to help migrants left in a desperate situation by people smugglers in Southeast Asia.

[Trafficked Myanmar Fishermen Return Home from Indonesia](#)

05/15/15

Myanmar - Over 500 fishermen from Myanmar are on their way home after a nightmare ordeal of years of slavery on the seas off Indonesia.

[IOM Helps Displaced Families Fleeing Idleb in Syria's Northwest](#)

05/15/15

Syria - The violence in Syria's northwestern Idleb governorate bordering Turkey is escalating. According to UNOCHA, an estimated 133,831 people have been displaced.

[Rubble Removal Begins as Aid Flows to Chautara, Nepal](#)

05/15/15

Nepal - The first efforts to remove debris from rubble-choked Chautara, Nepal, began Wednesday (13/5), as new supplies of IOM shelter and hygiene kits began arriving.

[Flood-Displaced Families Build New Homes in Mozambique with IOM's Help](#)

05/15/15

Mozambique - IOM is helping around 10,000 displaced families build new homes in Zambezia province by supplying them with shelter tools. Many families lost their homes, crops and possessions when devastating flooding hit the province in early January.

[IOM CAR Launches Theatre Campaign to Strengthen Social Cohesion](#)

05/15/15

Central African Republic - On Thursday (14/5) IOM and the Alliance Française jointly launched a one-week theatre campaign in Bangui in the Central African Republic (CAR). The campaign, under IOM CAR's Community Stabilization Project, funded by the European Union (EU), is aimed at promoting peaceful coexistence and economic revitalization in Bangui's 3rd and 5th districts.

[IOM Receives CERF Funds to Assist Families Affected by Floods in Northern Chile](#)

05/15/15

Chile - The IOM mission in Chile has received USD 338,220 from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to provide humanitarian assistance to families affected by floods in Northern Chile, which occurred in late March.

[IOM Welcomes European Commission Proposals on Migration](#)

05/14/15

Switzerland - IOM recommendations – including saving lives and sharing responsibility for asylum seekers – are part of new proposals put forward by the European Commission.

[IOM Resumes Yemen Evacuation Flights](#)

05/14/15

Yemen - On Wednesday (13/5) IOM resumed evacuation flights from Sana'a, Yemen to Khartoum, Sudan, following the announcement of a five-day humanitarian pause in the Yemen conflict.

[IOM Libya Aids Migrants Rescued at Sea](#)

05/12/15

Libya - A rising number of shipwrecks is happening near the Libyan coast as migrants continue to embark towards Italy aboard unseaworthy vessels.

UN OCHA [to 16 May 2015]

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

15 May 2015

[Yemen: What is a 'humanitarian pause' and what does it mean for Yemen?](#)

[Burundi: Burundi: Regional Refugee Response Plan \(RRRP\) Joint communiqué, 11 May 2015](#)

[Nepal: Race against time to meet basic needs of quake-survivors in Nepal](#)

Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Country: Nepal

(Kathmandu/Bangkok, 15 May 2015) The window of opportunity to provide vital relief to people in Nepal affected by the recent earthquakes is closing quickly, as urgent funding requirements remain unmet. To date, barely US\$ 59.5 million, or 14 per cent, was received

against the \$423 million humanitarian appeal, launched by the United Nations and partners on 29 April...

14 May 2015

[World: Latin America and the Caribbean hailed as pioneers in regional disaster management cooperation](#)

[Yemen: Emergency Relief Coordinator's key messages on Yemen, 14 May 2015, Issue number 5](#)

Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Country: Saudi Arabia, Yemen

Key Messages: The conflict in Yemen is taking a dreadful toll on civilians. It is nearly two months since the conflict escalated, and more than 1,500 people have been killed and over 6,200 injured by airstrikes and fighting on the ground. Thousands have been forced to flee their homes and civilians have been targeted trying to reach safer areas: men, women and children from all of Yemen's...

[World: WFP and OCHA Join Forces to Make Data More Accessible](#)

Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, World Food Programme

(ROME / NEW YORK, 14 MAY 2015) The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) have teamed up to provide access to global data on hunger and food insecurity. The data can be used to understand the type of food available in certain markets, how families cope in the face of food insecurity and how WFP provides food...

[Iraq: Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos Statement to the Security Council on Iraq - New York, 14 May 2015](#)

Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Country: Iraq, Syrian Arab Republic

Madam President, Since my last briefing to the Security Council in November 2014, the number of Iraqis requiring humanitarian assistance has grown to over 8.2 million people, an increase of 3 million in five months. This includes some 2.8 million people that have been internally displaced since the conflict began in Anbar Governorate in January 2014. Half of the displaced are children...

UNISDR UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 16 May 2015]

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

[Arab Region backs DRR in SDGs](#)

12 May 2015

More than 300 Arab government representatives from the finance, economic, social, environment and technology sectors have developed a regional position for the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals due to be adopted at a UN summit this September.

[Mongolia forges ahead on Sendai Framework](#)

12 May 2015

The head of UNISDR Margareta Wahlström today met with the Prime Minister of Mongolia, Mr. Chimed Saikhanbileg, as the country embarks on implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the global plan of action adopted in March at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

UNICEF [to 16 May 2015]

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

Selected press release and news notes

[Tens of thousands of children flee violence in Burundi](#)

BUJUMBURA, Burundi, 15 May 2015 - Approximately 100,000 people, the vast majority of whom are women and children, have fled violent clashes in Burundi to neighbouring Great Lakes countries including Tanzania, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). These number of refugees is expected to rise, as the situation in Burundi remains volatile.

[Katy Perry calls on Viet Nam's young professionals to help improve children's lives](#)

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam, 15 May 2015 – Katy Perry, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and global pop superstar, made a special stop-over to Ho Chi Minh City where she gave the keynote speech at Forbes Viet Nam first-ever Under 30 Summit

[Situation of children stranded in boats in South East Asia](#)

BANGKOK, 15 May 2015 - UNICEF is very worried about the situation of children and their families stranded on boats in the seas of South East Asia. These children need, and they have a right to, urgent help and protection. UNICEF shares the Secretary-General's sense of alarm at reports that some countries are refusing entry to boats carrying refugee and migrant children.

[Nepal Earthquakes: 12 babies born every hour without basic healthcare in worst hit areas – UNICEF](#)

KATHMANDU, Nepal, 15 May 2015 – Around twelve babies are being born every hour without access to basic healthcare in the areas of Nepal worst hit by two powerful earthquakes, according to UNICEF, following massive damage to maternity facilities. The children's organisation warns that over the next month the lives of almost 18,000 babies and mothers could be at risk, unless urgent action is taken to restore key healthcare systems.

[Hundreds of children released by armed groups in Central African Republic](#)

BAMBARI, Central African Republic, 14 May 2015 – More than 300 children, including several under 12 years old, have been released from armed groups in the Central African Republic following a UNICEF-facilitated agreement by the groups' leaders to free all children in their ranks.

[Nepal earthquakes: Looming crisis for children's emotional health - UNICEF](#)

KATHMANDU, Nepal, 14 May 2015 – Children in Nepal are facing an unprecedented emotional toll as they deal with the devastating consequences of two major earthquakes in two and a half weeks, warned UNICEF.

[Put migrant children's rights on EU agenda, urges UNICEF](#)

BRUSSELS/GENEVA/NEW YORK, 12 May 2015 - On the eve of the adoption of the EU Migration Agenda, UNICEF is calling for the rights and wellbeing of migrant children to be at the heart of Europe's immigration policy and for the European Union to be guided by the values it cherishes.

UN Women [to 16 May 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[UN Women Executive Director Statement on the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia](#)

Date : May 15, 2015

In a statement for the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia, UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka says the assault on LGBTI rights is an assault on freedoms everywhere.

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues [to 16 May 2015]

[Issues on higher education and indigenous peoples discussed at colloquium](#)

From 13 to 15 May 2015, Permanent Forum member Maria Choque Quispe participated in the second colloquium on "Higher Education and Indigenous Peoples in Latin America", hosted by the Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Ms. Choque Quispe presented the inaugural lecture at the event as well as participated in discussion, highlighting how traditional knowledge can play an important role in the post-2015 development agenda.

WHO & Regionals [to 16 May 2015]

:: [Racing to combat an unprecedented meningitis outbreak in Niger](#)

15 May 2015 -- WHO and partners have sent an international expert team and negotiated provision of over half a million doses of vaccine to help Niger combat an unprecedented outbreak of meningococcal meningitis. This outbreak is the first large-scale meningitis outbreak caused by strain C to hit any country in Africa's meningitis belt and has caused 5,855 suspected cases including 406 deaths.

[Read the situation assessment](#)

:: [Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly](#)

15 May 2015 -- The Sixty-eighth session of the World Health Assembly takes place in Geneva 18–26 May 2015, as officials from 194 Member States begin their annual review of the activities of WHO and set new priorities for the future. The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organization and review and approve the proposed programme budget. The Health Assembly is held every May in Geneva, Switzerland.

.. [Full coverage of the 68th World Health Assembly](#)

.. [View live webcast - Monday, 18 May, 9:30 CET](#)

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

.. Rapidly growing outbreak of meningococcal disease in Niger [15 May 2015](#)

.. Human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus – China [14 May 2015](#)

.. Ebola virus disease – Italy [13 May 2015](#)

:: [The Weekly Epidemiological Record \(WER\) 15 May 2015](#), vol. 90, 20 (pp. 217–252) includes

.. Set of interviews

.. Epidemics timeline

.. Emerging and re-emerging infectious threats in the 21st century

- .. Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV): current situation 3 years after the virus was first identified
- .. Plague in Madagascar: overview of the 2014– 2015 epidemic season

:: **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) - Fact sheet N°290**

Updated May 2015

Key facts

- ..Globally, the number of deaths of children under 5 years of age fell from 12.7 million in 1990 to 6.3 million in 2013.
- ..In developing countries, the percentage of underweight children under 5 years old dropped from 28% in 1990 to 17% in 2013.
- ..Globally, new HIV infections declined by 38% between 2001 and 2013.
- ..Existing cases of tuberculosis are declining, along with deaths among HIV-negative tuberculosis cases.
- ..In 2010, the world met the United Nations Millennium Development Goals target on access to safe drinking-water, as measured by the proxy indicator of access to improved drinking-water sources, but more needs to be done to achieve the sanitation target.

:: **World Health Statistics 2015**

World Health Statistics 2015 contains WHO's annual compilation of health-related data for its 194 Member States, and includes a summary of the progress made towards achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and associated targets.

WHO presents World Health Statistics 2015 as an integral part of its ongoing efforts to provide enhanced access to comparable high-quality statistics on core measures of population health and national health systems.

DOWNLOAD THE FULL REPORT: [English](#)

:: **WHO Regional Offices**

WHO African Region AFRO

:: [Renowned public health experts and leaders endorse a vision for an Africa Health Transformation Programme to enhance health in the African Region - 14 May 2015](#)

WHO Region of the Americas PAHO

:: [LGBT health sees progress and challenges 15 years after homosexuality ceased being considered a disease](#) (05/15/2015)

:: [PAHO/WHO urges more attention to blood pressure control](#) (05/14/2015)

:: [PAHO/WHO highlights need to train more nursing personnel](#) (05/12/2015)

:: [New studies show immunization remains a 'best buy' in the fight against vaccine-preventable diseases](#) (05/11/2015)

WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO

:: [Emergency preparedness pays off as Kathmandu hospitals respond to earthquakes](#)
13 May 2015

:: [Continuing care for tuberculosis, diabetes and heart patients in earthquake hit Nepal](#)
10 May 2015

WHO European Region EURO

- :: [First confirmed Ebola case in Italy](#) 14-05-2015
- :: [Better hospital care for children](#) 11-05-2015

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO

- :: [WHO to deliver additional medicines and medical supplies to Yemen](#)

15 May 2015, Amman, Jordan — WHO is scaling up its provision of medicines and medical supplies to Yemen during the current humanitarian pause. Today, WHO is sending more than 20 tonnes of medicines and medical supplies to Hodeida, comprising international emergency health kits, trauma kits, surgical supply kits, emergency diarrhoeal disease kits, and water, sanitation and hygiene items for more than 120 000 beneficiaries. More than 300 000 people have been newly displaced in Yemen since March, and almost 8.6 million people are in need of health services around the country.

- :: [Morocco joins the International Agency for Research on Cancer](#) 16 May 2015
- :: [Egypt: upsurge in H5N1 human and poultry cases but no change in transmission pattern of infection](#) 15 May 2015
- :: [WHO–Kuwait partnership to help the people of Syria](#) 15 May 2015

WHO Western Pacific Region

- :: [Four innovative Pacific projects receive WHO Healthy Islands Recognition](#)

YANUCA ISLAND, 11 May 2015 – As part of the Eleventh Pacific Health Ministers Meeting, the World Health Organization (WHO) awarded four innovative projects in Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Samoa, Tokelau and Vanuatu with the WHO Healthy Islands Recognition for the outstanding work by health and community leaders in the Pacific.

UNAIDS [to 16 May 2015]

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

[International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia](#)

14 May 2015

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund [to 16 May 2015]

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

15 May 2015

News

[Emergency surgery saves lives in Cameroon, but more access needed](#)

BATOURI, Cameroon – On a quiet Sunday afternoon at the Batouri District Hospital in eastern Cameroon, Dr. Abdourahamane Diallo was preparing to go home when a motorbike rushed up to the maternity ward.

13 May 2015

News

[Good morning Chad: Radio breaks down barriers to sexual and reproductive health](#)

KOUMRA, Chad – In the conservative, traditional communities of southern Chad, a bold radio programme is bringing sex-related issues to the airwaves. But the show is not hosted by shock jocks.

11 May 2015

News

[Now Ebola-free, Liberia's maternal health needs take centre stage](#)

MONROVIA, Liberia/UNITED NATIONS, New York – Two days ago, Liberia was declared Ebola-free, after the tragic 13-month-long outbreak saw the deaths of nearly 5,000 people. But while the outbreak is now officially over,...

UNDP United Nations Development Programme [to 16 May 2015]

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

15 May 2015

[Helen Clark: International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, 17 May 2015](#)

New York, New York

15 May 2015

[Europe and Central Asian Countries and UN Development Programme consider regional implications of new sustainable development agenda](#)

Representatives of over thirty Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York, including UN Development Programme (UNDP) programme countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia as well as major partners and donors gathered today at the invitation of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations to meet with UNDP Administrator Helen Clark. The topic of discussion was the relevance of the global post-2015 sustainable development agenda in the region.

12 May 2015

[One year after catastrophic floods, Bosnia and Herzegovina takes stock and looks ahead](#)

While an extensive rehabilitation effort continues today, including construction of houses, infrastructure, public facilities, health care centres and schools, longer-term disaster resilience initiatives like landslide prevention programmes and new flood prevention measures are in progress

UN Division for Sustainable Development [to 16 May 2015]

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

[Post-2015 intergovernmental negotiations | 18 - 22 May 2015](#)

[Draft Programme](#)

[Discussion Paper on Follow-up and Review of the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#)

[Preliminary Programme of Side Events \(Post-2015, Follow-up and review\)](#)

[More information](#)

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme [to 16 May 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[First African Green Growth Forum Aims to Unlock the Continent's Economic Potential](#)

The first African Regional Green Growth Forum opened today in Nairobi

13/05/2015

[Redirecting Financial Flows Worth \\$2.5 Trillion Annually towards Green Investment Crucial to Sustainable Growth in Asia Pacific - New UN Report](#)

Report Calls for Alignment of Financial Markets to Green Economy, Sustainable Growth Needs
13/05/2015

[Illegally Traded and Dumped E-Waste Worth up to \\$19 Billion Annually Poses Risks to Health, Deprives Countries of Resources, Says UNEP report](#)

Inconsistency in Cross-Border Regulations Challenge to Effective Control of Illegal Waste Trafficking.
12/05/2015

[UNEP, UNECE sign landmark agreement to strengthen partnership on green economy and sustainable development](#)

The agreement will allow the two organizations to provide coherent assistance to Member States. [United Nations Economic Commission for Europe]
11/05/2015

UN DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 16 May 2015]
<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news.html>

[Senior UN official on prospects of new international agreement on forest](#)

13 May 2015, New York

A new international agreement on forests should aim at advancing implementation of sustainable forest management and bring about a reversal of deforestation, the President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) said this morning.

[Generation at risk – UN Forum urges action to halt indigenous youth suicide](#)

13 May 2015, New York

For centuries, indigenous peoples around the world have been forced to wage an existential struggle to protect their ways of life and the very fabric of their societies. Now, indigenous youth face additional risk as a wave of suicide and self-harm is ravaging communities in every region of the world, particularly in the Arctic, the Americas and the Pacific, says the United Nations

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 16 May 2015]

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

[Doha Declaration can catalyse world's efforts against crime, says UNODC Chief](#)

Vienna, 15 May 2015 - The Doha Declaration is the standard bearer for the world's aspirations for fair, effective, humane and accountable crime prevention and criminal justice systems the Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Yury Fedotov, said today.

"Confronting the impact of crime is part of the UN's overall work of building sustainable development and promoting institutions that uphold people's dignity, and protects their fundamental freedoms," he said.

The UNODC Chief made his comments ahead of next week's 24th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice - the Crime Commission - which opens on Monday 18

May. Through a series of draft resolutions, the 24th Session of the Crime Commission will begin the essential work of translating the words of the Doha Declaration into firm action.

Expanding on crime's impact, Mr. Fedotov said: "Crime causes misery, violence and desperation for millions of women, children and men. The declaration, if fully implemented, can offer a protective shield for the victims of crime and for those experiencing criminal justice systems."

Adopted in April in Doha during the 13th Crime Congress, the declaration comes at a pivotal moment in the United Nations' work. The UN is currently working to agree on the new development agenda and it is hoped the declaration will assist in this process...

UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme [to 16 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

FAO Food & Agriculture Organization [to 16 May 2015]

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

[South Sudan: FAO ramps up airlifts to reach conflict-hit farmers](#)

As the main planting season here begins, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is accelerating its efforts to get vital seeds, tools and other materials to some of South Sudan's most vulnerable farmers.

14-05-2015

[New visual guide to protect children from pesticides](#)

With the help of a new training guide developed by FAO and the International Labour Organization (ILO), extension workers in Africa and elsewhere are engaging with rural communities to reduce children's exposure to toxic pesticides used in farming.

13-05-2015

[Seeking new ways to address climate change and other pressing issues facing the Pacific](#)

The Eleventh Meeting of Southwest Pacific Ministers of Agriculture under the theme "Climate Smart Agriculture" has begun, with Papua New Guinea Deputy Prime Minister Leo Dion and FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva highlighting some of the pressing issues affecting the countries in the region.

12-05-2015

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 16 May 2015]

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

15 May: [IFAD leadership in Morocco to bolster poverty reduction efforts in marginal mountain areas](#)

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

11 May: [Zambia and IFAD join forces to combat animal diseases and boost smallholder livestock sector](#)

ILO International Labour Organization [to 16 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization [to 16 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

IMO International Maritime Organization [to 16 May 2015]

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

[Polar Code environmental provisions adopted](#)

Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), 68th session, 11-15 May 2015

Briefing: 18, May 15, 2015

Ships trading in the Polar Regions will have to comply with strict safety and environmental provisions specific to the harsh conditions in the Arctic and Antarctic, following the adoption of the environmental part of the International Code for ships operating in polar waters (Polar Code) and associated MARPOL amendments to make the Code mandatory by the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)...

WMO World Meteorological Organization [to 16 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 16 May 2015]

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

[UNIDO Director General visits Tokyo to further strengthen cooperation with Japan](#)

Wednesday, 13 May 2015

TOKYO, 13 May 2015 – During his official visit to Japan, LI Yong, the Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), met Yasuhide Nakayama, State Minister for Foreign Affairs...

[Nigeria to establish national metrology institute with UNIDO's assistance](#)

Tuesday, 12 May 2015

ENUGU, Nigeria, 12 May 2015 – A ground-breaking ceremony held today in the Enugu State of Nigeria marked the beginning of the construction of the country's first of a kind national metrology institute...

[Empowering women in flood-prone communities in Djibouti](#)

Sunday, 10 May 2015

DJIBOUTI, 10 May 2015 – The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has commenced an initiative to empower women in flood-prone communities in the Republic of Djibouti...

UNWTO World Tourism Organization [to 16 May 2015]

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

[UNWTO and ATM Ministerial Forum address intra-Arab tourism](#)

11 May 2015

Visa facilitation, open skies, the need to adapt to market needs and the role of events in the promotion of intra-regional tourism in the MENA region were the focus of the debate at the 2015 UNWTO & ATM Ministerial Forum on Intra-Arab Tourism: Addressing the challenges and seizing the opportunities (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 5 May 2015).

ITU International Telecommunications Union [to 16 May 2015]

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

[Dubai first city to trial ITU key performance indicators for smart sustainable cities](#)

Pilot project to assess city progress and inform urban-development policies

Geneva, 13 May 2015 – Dubai will be the world's first city to assess the efficiency and sustainability of its operations using the key performance indicators developed by the ITU-T Focus Group on Smart Sustainable Cities. The two-year pilot project will evaluate the feasibility of the indicators with the aim of contributing to their international standardization.

The collaboration between Smart Dubai, an initiative to convert Dubai into a smart city, and ITU is part of ITU's efforts to encourage the adoption of master plans for sustainable urban development by city administrations. The key performance indicators focus on the elements of a smart city that rely on information and communication technologies (ICT), offering a measure of progress relevant to ICT aspects of urban-development master plans. The 'Smart Dubai' initiative's extensive application of ICT makes the city an ideal test bed for the use of the indicators and their subsequent refinement.

"ICTs have great potential to improve the quality of life enjoyed by city inhabitants," said ITU Secretary-General Houlin Zhao. "Dubai's experience will assist ITU in developing a standard means to measure the success of smart-city strategies, and I commend Dubai for its will to promote urban sustainability at the international level."

Assistant Director-General of the Executive Office of Dubai, Member of the Smart Dubai Executive Committee and Team Leader of the Smart City Taskforce, Dubai, Aisha Bin Bishr: "The Smart Dubai initiative is an ambitious one. We are transforming a thousand government services through innovative applications of ICT. The broad scope of the initiative makes for an excellent field trial of ITU's key performance indicators as we have an opportunity to trace the efficacy of a wide range of ICT applications from root to maturity. Selecting Dubai to be the first city to assess the efficiency and sustainability of its operations using the key performance indicators developed by ITU is a challenge to showcase the achievement of our city in this field. We will work hard to make a successful pilot to open the doors for other cities to learn from the Dubai experience."...

UNESCO [to 16 May 2015]

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

12.05.15

[UNESCO Director-General calls on all parties to protect Yemen's cultural heritage](#)

Amid alarming reports about bombing of the World Heritage Site of the Old City of Sana'a, UNESCO's Director-General calls on all parties to protect Yemen's unique cultural heritage.

Over the past few days, UNESCO received reports of severe damage to significant cultural heritage sites in Yemen. According to several media reports and official sources, the old city of Sana'a, Yemen's capital, was heavily bombed during the night of 11 May 2015, causing severe damage to many of its historic buildings. In addition, the old city of Sa'adah, which is included on Yemen's World Heritage Tentative List, as well as the archaeological site of the pre-Islamic walled city of Baraqish, have also suffered damages.

"I condemn these destructions and I call on all parties to keep cultural heritage out of the conflict", said the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms. Irina Bokova. "I am particularly distressed by the news concerning air strikes on heavily populated areas such as the cities of Sana'a and Saa'dah. In addition to causing terrible human suffering, these attacks are destroying Yemen's unique cultural heritage, which is the repository of people's identity, history and memory and an exceptional testimony to the achievements of the Islamic Civilization".

"I call on all parties to refrain from any military use or targeting of cultural heritage sites and monuments, in respect of their obligations under international treaties, particularly the 1954 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols, as well as the 1972 World Heritage Convention" said the Director-General, urging for the protection of Yemen's cultural heritage sites from collateral damage or intentional targeting...

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization [to 16 May 2015]

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

[Negotiators Open Diplomatic Conference on Lisbon System](#)

High-level negotiations opened on a proposed adjustment to an international registration system providing international protection for names that identify the geographic origin of products such as coffee, tea, fruits, wine, pottery, glass and cloth.

May 11, 2015 [PR/2015/778](#)

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity [to 16 May 2015]

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

Statements

[Message of the CBD Executive Secretary, Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias on the occasion of the World Migratory Bird Day, 9-10 May 2015](#)

2015-05-08

.....

USAID [to 16 May 2015]

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

[Statement by Acting Administrator Lenhardt on U.S. Military Helicopter in Nepal](#)

May 15, 2015

We were deeply saddened to learn today that the missing U.S. military helicopter carrying six U.S. Marines and two Nepalese soldiers went down while delivering humanitarian aid to survivors of the earthquakes in Nepal. This tragedy is a testament to the deep commitment of dedicated service members who risk their own lives to save vulnerable people around the world.

DFID [to 16 May 2015]

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

[Beneficiary Feedback in Evaluation](#)

Published 15 May 2015 Independent report DFID

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

[Nepal earthquake: UK aid response](#)

Updated 14 May 2015 News story DFID, FCO and MOD

[DFID welcomes new ministerial team](#)

Published 13 May 2015 Press release DFID

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

Updated 12 May 2015 Statistics DFID

[Justine Greening re-appointed International Development Secretary](#)

Published 11 May 2015 News story DFID

ECHO [to 16 May 2015]

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

[EU increases aid after floods in Malawi, Madagascar, Mozambique](#)

13/05/2015

The European Commission is giving an additional €5 million in humanitarian assistance to Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique following the floods that ravaged the countries earlier this year. The aid is aimed at supporting the early recovery process...

.....

African Union [to 16 May 2015]

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

May.14.2015 [The Peace and Security Council of the African Union \(AU\) decision on the situation in Burundi](#)

May.12.2015 [African Union and Islamic Relief agreement adds traction to poverty-relief and development in Africa](#)

May.12.2015 [Chairperson's Statement on South Sudan](#)

Addis Ababa, 12 May 2015: The situation in South Sudan remains extremely fragile and volatile. In the last three weeks, sustained fighting between the Government of South Sudan and the SPLM (in opposition) has been taking place in the greater Upper Nile region. According to the South Sudan Humanitarian Coordinator, since the beginning of May 2015 alone, military activities south of Bentiu, in Unity State, have forced up to 100,000 people to flee their homes. This is in addition to over the 1.5 million people who have already been uprooted. More than 2.5 million others are at risk of hunger and disease as a result of the conflict, and massive violations of human rights and destruction of property continue to take place.

This tragedy is a dark blot on the conscience of the international community in general and Africa in particular. Most alarming in this ongoing humanitarian tragedy is the inability and unwillingness of the South Sudanese parties to agree on a political framework to end the fighting and the suffering of their own people...

...While the region and the continent as a whole should spare no efforts to end the tragedy unfolding in South Sudan, the South Sudanese parties bear primary responsibility in this respect. It is high time that they live-up to their commitments. They have to end the unnecessary suffering they are inflicting on their own people. They have to understand that there is no military solution to the current conflict.

The African Union renews its commitment to continue to work with IGAD leadership with a view to finding a peaceful and lasting way out of the present conflict in South Sudan.

May.11.2015 [Signing of MOU between the African Union Commission and the Islamic Relief Worldwide](#)

The MoU will establish the basic and principal terms of cooperation between the parties for the implementation of joint projects and activities, especially in supporting broad based sustainable development in Africa aimed at relieving poverty.

The African Development Bank Group [to 16 May 2015]

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

[Mali : le secteur des énergies renouvelables regorge d'opportunités, selon un nouveau rapport](#)

15/05/2015 - La Banque africaine de développement (BAD), en partenariat avec les Fonds d'investissement climatiques (FIC) et le gouvernement du Mali, a lancé, ce 15 mai 2015, le "Profil-pays" du Mali sur le secteur des énergies renouvelables. La publication (en anglais) met en lumière l'essor des énergies renouvelables dans le pays, ainsi que les opportunités de développement de ce secteur. Ce rapport est le premier d'une série de Profils-pays sur les énergies renouvelables en Afrique.

[Ghana receives resounding endorsement of investment plan to transform its renewable energy sector](#)

15/05/2015 - At its governing body meetings this week, the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) unanimously endorsed Ghana's ambitious investment plan to transform and promote its renewable energy sector. The plan, which is slated to receive \$40 million in funding from the CIF's Program for Scaling Up Renewable Energy in Low Income Countries (SREP), is structured around four key projects: renewable energy mini-grids and stand-alone solar PV systems; solar PV-based net metering with storage; utility-scale solar PV/wind power generation; and a technical assistance project (supported by the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa – SEFA).

[Guinea Bissau: AfDB approves US \\$7-million Emergency Budget Support](#)

13/05/2015 - The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) has approved a US \$7.03-million operation to support economic and financial reforms in Guinea Bissau. The US \$5.34-million concessional loan and US \$1.69-million grant from the African Development Fund (ADF) will provide critical financing for the Emergency Economic and Financial Reform Support Programme (PUAREF), which will help restore basic public financial management foundations and strengthen public sector capacity, both of which are essential for the country's transition from a post-conflict crisis situation to that of reduced fragility, inclusive growth, and poverty reduction.

[AfDB supports indigenous power investors in Africa](#)

13/05/2015 - The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank (AfDB) approved on Wednesday, April 29, 2015, a USD 50 million investment in CEC Africa Investments Limited, a multinational power company headquartered in Nigeria and Zambia. CEC Africa (CECA) seeks to acquire and develop distribution and transmission assets and complementary greenfield generation projects throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. By investing across the energy value chain (generation, transmission, and distribution), CECA aims to reduce electricity losses while improving the overall economics in Africa's power sector.

ASEAN [to 16 May 2015]

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

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

[ASEAN, U.S. Reaffirm Commitment to Bring Partnership to New Heights](#)

on Friday, 08 May 2015.

JAKARTA, 8 May 2015 – ASEAN and the United States today agreed to accelerate their cooperation to wrap-up the implementation of their current five-year action plan, which will expire at the end of this year.

European Union [to 16 May 2015]

http://europa.eu/newsroom/index_en.htm

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

[NGOs share experience in the resocialisation process of ex-prisoners](#)

14/05/2015 10:12 | Presidency of the Council of the EU

[Statement by High Representative/ Vice-President Federica Mogherini on the situation in Burundi](#)

External relations and foreign affairs | 13/05/2015 22:51 | European External Action Service (EEAS)

[Statement by the Spokesperson on the terrorist attack in Karachi](#)

External relations and foreign affairs | 13/05/2015 17:08 | European External Action Service (EEAS)

[Statement by Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides on the latest earthquake in Nepal](#)

13/05/2015 16:40 | European Commission

[Commissioner Avramopoulos' remarks at the presentation of the European Agenda on Migration](#)

Justice and citizens rights | 13/05/2015 16:00 | European Commission

[Managing migration better in all aspects: A European Agenda on Migration](#)

Justice and citizens rights | 13/05/2015 12:30 | European Commission

[Questions and answers on the European Agenda on Migration](#)

Justice and citizens rights | 13/05/2015 12:30 | European Commission

[The EESC launches the 2015 Civil Society Prize for combating poverty](#)

Employment and social rights | 11/05/2015 11:25 | European Economic and Social Committee

OECD [to 16 May 2015]

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

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

12-May-2015

English

[OECD outlines action for governments to tackle heavy cost of harmful drinking](#)

Harmful drinking is on the rise among young people and women in many OECD countries, partly due to alcohol becoming more available, more affordable and more effectively advertised, according to a new OECD report.

Organization of American States (OAS) [to 16 May 2015]

http://www.oas.org/en/media_center/press_releases.asp

[OAS Hosts Forum on Challenges and Opportunities of Migration Flows in the Western Hemisphere](#) [18 May 2015]

Press Advisory - May 16, 2015

The Organization of American States (OAS) will host the Forum "Challenges and Opportunities of Migration Flows in the Western Hemisphere" on Monday, May 18 at the headquarters of the hemispheric institution in Washington, DC.

The event will feature the participation of the Secretary General of the OAS, José Miguel Insulza, and specialists on the issue such as the President of the United States organization Immigration Works, Tamar Jacoby; the Director of the Fundación Ciudadanía y Valores of Spain, José María Román; the researcher from the Colegio Frontera del Norte of Mexico, Rodolfo Cruz Piñero; and Alfonso Aguilar of the International Human Rights Group...

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) [to 16 May 2015]

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

[OIC Secretary General condemns Karachi bus attack](#)

The Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Iyad Ameen Madani, has strongly condemned the bus attack in Karachi, Pakistan, on 13 May 2015, resulting in a toll of 45 dead...

15/05/2015

[The Secretary General speaks about the realities of the Muslim world at the Arab Media Forum in Dubai](#)

The Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Iyad Ameen Madani, spoke at the opening session of the Arab Media Forum in Dubai about the realities of the Muslim world at this critical stage of its history, where he stressed that Muslims are in need more than ever to form a new mechanism for predicting political crises before they occur and

inflate. He also stressed that Muslims need to know each other more and not be mollified with rhetoric of belonging to the same identity and civilization.

Madani said that the Muslim world is facing major challenges some of which originate from inside, pointing to the importance of identifying the roots and background that led to the stereotyping of Muslims in the world and to counter that. He added that Muslims share a common identity and civilization over the centuries but this cultural reservoir is being subjected today to destruction and defamation internally and externally. Madani also stressed on the importance of having a discourse on human rights from an Islamic perspective, and that freedom of expression does not mean assaulting a religion, mocking it or defaming it, rather there should be clear boundaries that guarantee a reasonable definition for freedom of expression. The Secretary General pointed out that marginalizing groups whether based on their race, religion or any other basis leads to violence, and he called on the Muslim societies to open the doors and windows of hope for the new generation to inspire them with optimism and instill confidence in them so that they don't fall victims to terrorism. He said that giving attention to the youth should be through raising the value of education and knowledge and employing advanced technology, which will be the topic of the Islamic Summit for Science and Technology to be held this year.

During the dialogue session with the Secretary General, following the opening session, and held under the title "Stereotypes: Islam and Muslims", Madani dismissed undermining the role of the media and said that it is not a game but a form of political capabilities. He refused the use of religion or sect as a tool for expansion and interference in the affairs of another country. Madani said that the region needs a new paradigm that removes the reasons for discord among its countries and search for commonalities and consider common interests. He called for avoiding the fall into believing the stereotype drawn by the West of the Muslim world as stagnant and to refute this image, especially that Muslims are a people of civilization and their societies are rich with ideas and initiatives. He also called to not limit the Muslim world to one region...

14/05/2015

[OIC Secretary General Calls For The Respect of The Cease Fire in Northern Mali](#)

The Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has called for an immediate end to the hostilities and for the respect of the ceasefire by its signatories in northern Mali...

11/05/2015

[OIC condemns the construction of 900 settlement units in the occupied city of Al-Quds](#)

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) condemned strongly the Israeli occupation Government's approval of the construction of 900 new settlement units in the occupied East Jerusalem. It stated that the continued policy of the construction and expansion of Israeli colonial settlements is a blatant violation of the rights of the Palestinian people and a grave breach of relevant international resolutions and covenants...

10/05/2015

Group of 77 [to 16 May 2015]

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

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

[Statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China](#) by H.E. General Bheki Cele, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Republic of South Africa, [at the High-level segment of the Eleventh Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests \(New York, 13 May 2015\)](#)

UNCTAD [to 16 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

World Trade Organisation [to 16 May 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]

No new digest content identified.

IMF [to 16 May 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]

[Press Release: IMF Staff Completes Review Mission to Liberia](#)

May 12, 2015

A mission from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), led by Corinne Deléchat, visited Monrovia from April 25 to May 8, 2015 to conduct the fourth review of the government's economic program supported by the IMF under an Extended Credit Facility (ECF)¹ arrangement, which was approved by the IMF Executive Board in November 2012. At the end of the visit, Ms. Deléchat issued the following statement:

"Liberia's economy in 2014 was greatly affected by the Ebola crisis. Real GDP growth for 2014 is estimated at about 0.7 percent, compared to 8.9 percent in 2013. The economic impact of the Ebola outbreak was compounded by the steep decline in iron ore prices, which has affected planned investment in the mining sector. Consumer price inflation declined to 7.3 percent in March 2015 after peaking at 13.5 percent in September 2014 as lower international oil prices more than offset higher domestic food prices. Gross international reserves stood at about 2.7 months of imports as of end-April 2015."

"The medium-term economic outlook remains challenging. Real GDP growth is projected to remain weak in 2015, with a gradual recovery taking hold in 2016 buoyed by a rebound in agriculture and services. Risks to the outlook stem mainly from a prolonged period of low commodity prices, which would significantly curtail tax and export revenues, and could dampen medium term growth prospects."...

World Bank [to 16 May 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]

[Global Partnership for Social Accountability Continues to Grow, with New Contributions from Dominican Republic, Ford Foundation](#)

WASHINGTON, May 13, 2015—The Dominican Republic has become the first country in the global South to join the group of donors who are funding the Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA), a program launched by the World Bank Group in 2012 to strengthen public-sector performance and meet governance challenges in developing countries.

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

Government of India and World Bank Sign \$248 Million Agreement to Improve Rural Water and Sanitation Services in Punjab – Over 8 million people to benefit

NEW DELHI, May 11, 2015 - The Government of India, the Government of Punjab and the World Bank today signed a \$248 million loan agreement for the Punjab Rural Water and Sanitation Sector Improvement Project to help the state of Punjab improve its delivery of water and sanitation services in rural Punjab. The project will aim for a water connection and a toilet for every rural household by end of the project period. It will also include a minimum of 10 hours of water supply daily, a toilet for all those households without a toilet, sewerage systems in over 315 villages and supply safe water from surface water to over 121 villages...

Millions of Children in the Arab World are missing the basic foundations for Healthy Development

New World Bank report provides first comprehensive analysis of the state of early childhood development in the Middle East and North Africa region

Rabat, May 12th, 2015 – Generations of children in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region will be at a permanent disadvantage according to a new World Bank report, without concerted action to improve access to key development factors during early childhood. With data gathered in twelve countries, Expanding Opportunities for the Next Generation, Early Childhood Development in the Middle East and North Africa reveals serious deficits in early childhood development and large inequalities that are holding the region back, and provides guidelines for policies to ensure all children can reach their full potential.

Date: May 11, 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 16 May 2015]

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

EU head of delegation in Uganda commissions sanitation facilities

Published: 15 May 2015 Denis

To reduce the burden of sanitation related disease in poor peri-Urban and urban communities of Uganda, Amref Health Africa in Uganda with support from European Union has constructed 22 sanitation facilities and 20 ferro-cement rainwater harvesting tanks worth Ug. Shs 749,555,105 in 22 primary schools and communities in Kawempe division.

The intervention is under a 5 year project dubbed "Basic sanitation for Urban and Peri-Urban poor communities' project" (2013-2017) implemented in four locations of Kawempe Division in Kampala; Gulu, Pader and Kitgum districts...

Aravind Eye Care System [to 16 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

BRAC [to 16 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

CARE International [to 16 May 2015]

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

[CARE Continues Delivery of Emergency Assistance After Second Major Earthquake](#)

NEPAL 13 May 2015

Two weeks after Nepal's first deadly earthquake, the country was traumatized by a second earthquake on May 12.

[Pregnant Women in Nepal in Urgent Need of Assistance](#)

NEPAL 11 May 2015

Many health clinics have been destroyed - CARE started distributing safe birthing kits to remote villages.

Danish Refugee Council [to 16 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Casa Alianza [to 16 May 2015]

Covenant House [to 16 May 2015]

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

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

[Making A Difference in Washington D.C.](#)

May 6, 2015

Covenant House has been rescuing young people off the streets and building new lives in Washington D.C. for two decades. Watch this report on the popular news magazine show Washington Full Circle as Covenant House Executive Director Dr. Madye Henson talks about the many ways Covenant House reaches into the community to make a difference.

ECPAT [to 16 May 2015]

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

[ECPAT International Network Celebrates 25 Years of Dedication to Ending CSEC](#)

Posted on 05/11/2015, 10:29

THE ECPAT INTERNATIONAL NETWORK CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF DEDICATION TO ENDING THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

05 MAY 2015, CHIANG MAI, THAILAND – ECPAT International, a global network of civil society organisations dedicated to ending the commercial sexual exploitation of children, celebrates today its 25th anniversary.

Fountain House [to 16 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Handicap International [to 16 May 2015]

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

[The Use of Explosive Weapons in Syria: a Time Bomb in the Making](#)

Posted on May 11, 2015 7:01 PM

Handicap International warns that excessive weapons contamination in Syria is putting the lives of 5.1 million Syrians—including 2 million children—at high risk. In a report released today, “The Use of Explosive Weapons in Syria: A Time Bomb in the Making,” Handicap International calls on all parties to the Syrian conflict to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law, and to immediately end the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. The international community must urgently respond to the danger that civilians are in as a result of living in such close proximity to those weapons.

Heifer International [to 16 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

HelpAge International [to 16 May 2015]

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

Latest news

[Nepal earthquake: HelpAge first to provide cash assistance to survivors](#)

More than 2,100 older people aged 60 or over in Nepal have been given US\$75 each to spend on urgently needed items in distributions by HelpAge International working with local partners.

Posted: 08 May 2015

[Nepal earthquake: HelpAge set to reach 10,000 older people and their families](#)

We're working with our local partners to support older people affected by the Nepal earthquake. The huge earthquake, which struck on 25 April, has killed over 7,000 people and affected over 8 million.

Posted: 05 May 2015

International Rescue Committee [to 16 May 2015]

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

[The International Rescue Committee Announces New Members of Board of Directors](#)

Timothy Geithner Elected Chair of IRC Overseers

New York, May 12, 2015 — The International Rescue Committee (IRC), one of the world's leading humanitarian organizations providing relief and relocation services to people impacted by crisis, today announced that Timothy F. Geithner has been elected Chair of the IRC Overseers, the group that advises the organization's Board of Directors on matters of policy, advocacy and fundraising. Mr. Geithner also will continue to serve on the IRC Board of Directors.

Mr. Geithner's commitment to humanitarian issues and relief through the IRC dates back to 1979, when he visited refugee camps along the Thai-Cambodian border with Sheppie Abramowitz, the well-known champion of refugees and IRC's former vice president of advocacy in Washington, DC. Geithner has described those experiences as life-changing...

...Since 2010, the IRC Overseers were co-chaired by business consultant Glenda Burkhart and CBS Evening News Anchor Scott Pelley. Ms. Burkhart has been elected Secretary of the IRC Board of Directors. She and Mr. Pelley will remain actively involved with the IRC as Overseers.

The organization also announced a number of new additions to the Board. They include:

:: Pamela Saunders-Albin

:: François-Xavier de Mallmann, Global Co-Head, Consumer Retail Group, Goldman Sachs International

:: Tom Nides, Chairman of Morgan Stanley

:: Tracy Wolstencroft, President & CEO, Heidrick & Struggles, has rejoined the Board.

A full list of the IRC Board of Directors and of Overseers can be found [on this page](#) of the IRC website.

[Nepal Earthquakes: Getting aid through to remote villages as the rainy season starts](#)

Posted by The IRC on May 15, 2015

As Nepal struggles to recover from the devastation of two major earthquakes in less than a month, aid workers from IRC partner AAR are getting food and emergency supplies through to thousands of survivors in remote mountain villages.

[Crisis and coup in Burundi drive tens of thousands of refugees to Tanzania](#)

Posted by The IRC on May 13, 2015

As violence continues in Burundi in the wake of President Pierre Nkurunziza's contested reelection bid, tens of thousands of Burundians are fleeing to neighboring Tanzania. With news today of a military coup in the country, the IRC is preparing for even more refugees to flood across the border.

ICRC [to 16 May 2015]

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

[ICRC launches family links website in Arabic](#)

11-05-2015 | News release

Amman (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross has launched an Arabic version of its Restoring Family Links website www.familylinks.icrc.org, to make it easier for people in the Middle East and North Africa to find loved ones separated by conflict, migration or natural disasters.

[Iraq: ICRC launches 36 million Swiss Francs appeal to significantly increase aid](#)

11-05-2015 | News release

Baghdad/Geneva (ICRC) – The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has said an enormous effort is needed to cope with a dramatic increase in the number of people forced to flee their homes in Iraq. The ICRC is appealing for an extra 36 million Swiss Francs (38.5 million dollars, 34.3 million Euros) in aid, on top of funds already allocated for Iraq, to help deal with the increasing needs.

IRCT [to 16 May 2015]

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

Statements & declarations

[On the Practice of Virginity Testing by Military Medical Professionals - Open Letter to the Delegates of the 41st World Congress on Military Medicine, Indonesia](#)

13 May 2015

Excerpt

Distinguished Delegates:

On the eve of the 41st World Congress on Military Medicine in Indonesia, the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims – the world’s largest membership organisation working in the field of health-based rehabilitation of torture victims¹ – urges you to reject the military practice of virginity testing by military medical professionals as a gross violation of women’s rights and one that may amount to ill-treatment and torture under international law.

These examinations, inherently discriminatory, are still conducted in a number of states as part of public and social policies to control sexuality. The World Health Organization considers virginity testing to be a form of sexual violence,² and experience shows that, in almost all instances, when forcibly conducted, the exams cause women significant pain and suffering. Medical studies also demonstrate that these examinations are inaccurate, medically unreliable, and have no scientific or clinical value.

We welcome this opportunity to draw your attention to these pressing issues at the 41st World Congress on Military Medicine in Indonesia and urge all Delegates to consider duly the attached Expert Statement and:

:: To reject and, as appropriate, denounce the military practice of virginity testing by military medical professionals; and

:: To refuse to be present during or participate in these examinations.

As your military forces continue to modernise with respect for and applying international laws with the assistance of the International Committee of Military Medicine, we urge you to avoid violating the integrity and rights of your female members. Women should not be subjected to the likelihood of significant – and long-standing – pain and suffering in order to exercise their rights to participate in the military...

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières [to 16 May 2015]

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

[MSF Treats War-Wounded as Spring Offensive Rages in the North of Afghanistan](#)

May 15, 2015

KUNDUZ/KABUL—Heavy fighting between Afghan forces and armed opposition groups in the northeastern province of Kunduz is increasingly isolating people living in districts outside the provincial capital, where the Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) trauma center has been receiving wounded patients.

Field news

[MSF Responds to Second Earthquake in Nepal](#)

May 12, 2015

Field news

[Meningitis in Niger: "People Continue to Die from a Preventable Disease"](#)

May 11, 2015

A meningitis epidemic has been spreading across Niger since January, affecting 5,273 people and killing 352. MSF is working in collaboration with Niger's Ministry of Health to provide almost 430 beds and free medical care for patients.

Mercy Corps [to 16 May 2015]

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

[Heavy Fighting in South Sudan Disrupts Mercy Corps Operations](#)

South Sudan, May 14, 2015

Violence renews fears about food security

Juba, South Sudan — Amidst heavy fighting, the global humanitarian organization Mercy Corps – along with a number of other international aid agencies – has had to temporarily curtail operations in southern Unity State in South Sudan, scaling down its activities in Panyijiar County. The new wave of intense violence coincides with the height of the country's planting season, renewing worry about the adequacy of the food supply in the coming months.

"A number of our team members are able to continue working, and, as soon as it is safe, our programs will resume at full capacity," says Mohammed Qazilbash, Mercy Corps' country director in South Sudan. "In the meantime, we urge all parties to the conflict to honor the many ceasefires they have signed and facilitate the free movement of people and humanitarian assistance."...

Operation Smile [to 16 May 2015]

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

May 15, 2015

[Earthquake Relief Efforts in Nepal](#)

Operation Smile has mobilized to send desperately needed medical supplies to earthquake survivors in Nepal suffering from two massive earthquakes just over two weeks apart. Critically needed medical supplies will arrive in Kathmandu by Tuesday to help those affected. The death toll since the mammoth earthquake on April 25 and the following earthquake Tuesday has left more than 8,460 dead and more than 18,000 injured.

"My heart goes out to the people of Nepal for all of the struggles they have faced in the past weeks. Sometimes, things do not make sense, but we can do our best to help in times of need," said Operation Smile Co-Founder and President Kathy Magee. "We are here to assist in any way possible to treat the people of Nepal during this difficult time."

Operation Smile's partners at the Nepal Cleft and Burn Center in Kathmandu are working to help every injured patient who comes to the hospital....

[Program Schedule](#)

Here's what we're doing worldwide to make a difference in the lives of children who deserve every opportunity for safe surgical care.

OXFAM [to 16 May 2015]

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

[Five-day pause won't address humanitarian catastrophe in Yemen](#)

14 May 2015

The current five-day humanitarian pause in Yemen will not significantly ease the humanitarian crisis caused by the conflict and the six-week-long de facto blockade, Oxfam warned today.

[Nepal's second earthquake a double disaster](#)

12 May 2015

Cecilia Keizer, Oxfam's country director in Nepal said: "This is a double disaster leaving many of the survivors of the first earthquake shocked and fearful of further tremors.

Norwegian Refugee Council

<http://www.nrc.no/>

[Shoes for displaced children](#)

Hanne Eide Andersen (15.05.2015)

This week, NRC and TOMS shoes launched a cooperation to help Syrian refugee children. The aim is to raise money through a series of creative activities in May and June.

South-Sudan

[Violence must end](#)

Nashon Tado (11.05.2015)

NRC calls for an immediate end to violence and targeting of civilians and humanitarian workers in Unity State. In the last month alone, more than 100,000 people have been displaced in Unity.

Environment

[Addressing the issue of energy for displaced people](#)

Guri Romtveit (11.05.2015)

Safe access to energy is a challenge for many displaced people. By taking part in the Moving Energy Initiative, the Norwegian Refugee Council is taking steps to find lasting energy solutions to people in need.

Partners In Health [to 16 May 2015]

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

May 13, 2015

[Haitian Nurse Looks Back on Storied Career](#)

Marie Myrka Amazan, 66, is the cross-site coordinator of continuing education for all nurses in the health clinics and hospitals supported by Zanmi Lasante, Partners In Health's sister organization, in the Central Plateau and lower Artibonite regions of Haiti. She has worked with ZL since 2000, contributing to the growth of services across central Haiti.

PATH [to 16 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Plan International [to 16 May 2015]

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

12/05/2015: [Mega earthquake hits Nepal, worsening already devastating situation](#)

Save The Children [to 16 May 2015]

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

[Save The Children Statement on Today's European Commission Meeting on Migration](#)

May 13, 2015

[Second Deadly Quake Risks Emotional Scarring for Hundreds of Thousands of Children](#)

May 13, 2015

SOS-Kinderdorf International [to 16 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Tostan [to 16 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Women for Women International [to 16 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

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ChildFund Alliance [to 16 May 2015]

<http://childfundalliance.org/>

No new digest content identified.

Disasters Emergency Committee [to 16 May 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.

The Elders [to 16 May 2015]
<http://theelders.org/news-media>
Opinion

[Without Gaza the two-state solution cannot be realised](#)

Gro Harlem Brundtland, Jimmy Carter 14 May 2015

Writing in *Foreign Policy*, Gro Harlem Brundtland and Jimmy Carter call on Europe to take a more active role in pursuing peace in Israel and Palestine, highlighting how Gaza's isolation poses a security threat to the whole region.

END Fund [to 16 May 2015]
<http://www.end.org/news>
No new digest content identified.

GAVI [to 16 May 2015]
<http://www.gavialliance.org/library/news/press-releases/>
15 May 2015
[Qatar pledges support for Gavi to save children's lives with vaccines](#)
Funding will help Vaccine Alliance protect millions of children from infectious disease.

Global Fund [to 16 May 2015]
<http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/>
No new digest content identified.

Hilton Prize Laureates [to 16 May 2015]
<http://prizelaureates.charity.org/about-us/>
No new digest content identified.

InterAction
<http://www.interaction.org/media-center/press-releases>
No new digest content identified.

Start Network [to 16 May 2015]
http://www.start-network.org/news-blog/#.U9U_O7FR98E
[Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies]
[Start Fund disburses £442,327 for displaced people in Burundi](#)
May 11, 2015
Posted by [Tegan Rogers](#) in [News](#).

Following a recent injection of funding from the Start Fund for Burundian refugees in Rwanda, the Start Fund was alerted again last week to provide support to hundreds of thousands of people affected by violence in Burundi itself. On Friday 8 May a local project selection committee agreed to fund four agencies to respond for a total of £442,327.

The alerting agency explained the current situation in Burundi:

"The roots of the current insecurity relate to the nomination of the incumbent President Nkurunziza for a third Presidential term and the recruitment and training of former rebels and youth to support his political party to pressure communities to vote in favour of their party. As reported by media and human rights organisations, security threats against those perceived as opposing Nkurunziza and unrest in the capital have already prompted people to move across the border. To date, 24,795 people have crossed to Rwanda, 4,000 people to DRC and 2,105 to Tanzania. There have been some reports of people travelling north within Burundi to try and cross the border but not succeeding."

[Start Fund double alert supports response to conflict in Yemen and Burundi](#)

May 11, 2015

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

On Friday 1 May the Start Fund disbursed a total £891,613 in a double allocation for Yemen and Rwanda. £616,332 of this went to support a response to the ongoing violence in Yemen, where the Start Fund has already been activated once this year in April. The remaining £275,281 was allocated to agencies supporting the recent influx of refugees from Burundi into Rwanda. Both alerts were received at 11am on Tuesday 28 April, meaning funding was transferred to agencies to begin their responses within 72 hours.

Muslim Charities Forum [to 16 May 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 16 May 2015]

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

[Nepal Earthquake Response: Lessons for operational agencies](#)

ALNAP

May 2015 :: 30 pages

Pdf: <http://www.alnap.org/pool/files/nepal-earthquake-response-lessons.pdf>

In the aftermath of the April 2015 earthquake in Nepal, this paper looks at lessons drawn from previous comparable disasters and seeks to provide invaluable information and assistance to the operational agencies responding to the crisis.

Seventeen Lessons give an overview of important learnings based on evaluations, research papers and interviews with operational humanitarian practitioners. Key links to relevant information are provided in each Lesson, with References provided at the end. Lessons are organised into two categories – Strategy and Management and Technical Delivery.

CHS International Alliance

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

18 March 2015

:: Humanitarian Practice Network (HPN) [to 16 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

:: People In Aid [to 16 May 2015]

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

[Managing workloads and overworking in the humanitarian sector](#)

By Jonathan Potter

Jonathan Potter, Executive Director of People In Aid, discusses different approaches to managing workloads and the effects of overwork. He then considers what both individuals and organisations can do to reduce workloads in the first place.

[Read the full story](#) (15 May 2015)

EHLRA/R2HC [to 16 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) [to 16 May 2015]

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

GHA is funded by the governments of [Canada](#), the [Netherlands](#), [Sweden](#) and the [United Kingdom](#). GHA is run by [Development Initiatives](#) (DI) – “an independent organisation committed to ending poverty by 2030. We make data and information on poverty and resource flows transparent, accessible and usable.”

[Nepal earthquake update](#)

Report Synopsis

Date: 2015/05/13

[Read our full analysis of the current funding situation.](#)

Annual Report

[Humanitarian assistance from non-state donors: Latest trends](#)

May 2015

Humanitarian needs around the world continue to increase but traditional funding from governments and institutional donors is not keeping pace. As part of efforts to leverage new and alternative forms of assistance...

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

ODI [to 16 May 2015]

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

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

Research reports and studies | May 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 obese people and whether this trend could...

Comment

[Migration is capitalism's unfinished business – it cannot and should not be stopped](#)

Articles and blogs | 12 May 2015 | Claire Melamed

A tin of beans has more freedom to travel the world than a person does. We've reduced trade restrictions - are we brave enough to do the same for people?

[Citizens and engagement: moving beyond slogans](#)

Articles and blogs | 12 May 2015 | Alina Rocha Menocal

'As the protest movements in Egypt and elsewhere have shown, citizen engagement alone is not enough to bring about change; collective organisation is essential.'

[Is extreme poverty going to end by 2030?](#)

Articles and blogs | 11 May 2015 | Chris Hoy

'Over the next 15 years, the bulk of the reduction in poverty is expected to occur in South Asia, leaving almost all the world's extreme poor living in sub-Saharan Africa.'

The Sphere Project [to 16 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP) [to 16 May 2015]

<https://phap.org/>

No new digest content identified.

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:: Foundation/Major Donor Watch

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

BMGF (Gates Foundation) [to 16 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Clinton Foundation [to 16 May 2015]

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

Press Release

[Clinton Health Matters Initiative, Humana, and Partners Unveil Plan to Improve Health and Well-Being in Natchez and Adams County](#)

May 14, 2015

"Blueprint for Action" outlines nine action steps to improve health outcomes

Ford Foundation [to 16 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation [to 16 May 2015]

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

[Jessica Mele to Join Hewlett Foundation as Performing Arts Program Officer](#)

May 15, 2015

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation [to 16 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Kellogg Foundation [to 16 May 2015]

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

[Natural hormones optimize baby and maternal health during childbirth](#)

May 14, 2015

A new report released by [Childbirth Connection](#), a program of the National Partnership for Women & Families, examines the science of hormones produced by mothers and babies immediately before, during and after birth and the significant role these hormones play in healthy outcomes for moms and babies. Authored by Dr. Sarah J. Buckley, the report, [Hormonal Physiology of Childbearing: Evidence and Implications for Women, Babies, and Maternity Care](#), concludes that we should reduce unnecessary medical interventions, which often disrupt these natural systems.

[Aligning Early Childhood Education Systems Convening - May 13, 2015](#)

Grantees and partners gather in W.K. Kellogg Foundation's hometown for a convening on the importance of coordinating high-quality early childhood education efforts.

At the Kellogg Foundation, we believe that early childhood education and development efforts must be connected to effectively prepare children to learn, promote their academic success and empower parents as advocates in their own communities....

MacArthur Foundation [to 16 May 2015]

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

May 13, 2015 - [Research and Results](#)

[Reworking the Economy to Reduce Inequality](#)

The Roosevelt Institute has released a comprehensive policy agenda for reducing inequality and improving economic performance by overhauling the laws and institutions that shape the economy.

May 13, 2015 - Research and Results

[Assessing Economic and Social Impacts of Maternal Death](#)

A report by Family Care International and several research partners focuses on the immediate and long-term effects of maternal death on children, households, and communities in developing countries. The MacArthur-supported report, which features case studies from Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, and South Africa, shows that maternal death leads to financial instability, loss of education, and increased mortality among surviving family members. The report encourages increased attention to maternal, newborn, and child health in international policy.

[see more extensive treatment in Journal Watch – Reproductive Health below]

May 11, 2015 - Research and Results

[Exploring Open Governance](#)

The MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Opening Governance has released its core research agenda, which will focus primarily on two areas: data-driven governance and collaborative governance. In the former, the Network will explore how governing institutions can leverage quantitative evidence, including big, open, and small data, to improve decision-making. The Network's line of research in collaborative governance will explore how governing institutions can open themselves to diverse participation and a wider range of expertise so as to improve decision-making.

Open Society Foundation [to 16 May 2015]

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

[EU Risks Future Instability without Commitment to Partners at Riga Summit](#)

May 13, 2015 News

A new report by the Open Society Foundations finds that the Eastern Partnership remains the EU's most effective foreign policy instrument to build accountable and stable institutions.

[Open Society Institute–Baltimore Responds to Killing of Freddie Gray, Announces Baltimore Justice Fund](#)

May 11, 2015 News

In response to the recent unrest surrounding the death of Freddie Gray, the Open Society Institute–Baltimore announces the creation of the Baltimore Justice Fund.

David and Lucile Packard Foundation [to 16 May 2015]

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

[Packard Fellowships for Science and Engineering Advisory Panel Welcomes Four New Members](#)

May 13, 2015

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation has appointed Dr. Kristi S. Anseth, Dr. Cynthia Kenyon, Dr. Andrei Okounkov, and Dr. Christopher Stubbs to the Advisory Panel of the Packard Fellowships for Science and Engineering.

Pew Charitable Trusts [to 16 May 2015]

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

Press Releases

[Pennsylvania Poll Finds Wide Support for Healthy School Food Policies](#)

May 13, 2015 Eighty-one percent of parents in Pennsylvania support the healthy school meal standards in effect nationwide, according to a poll released today by the Kids' Safe and Healthful Foods Project.

[Pew Releases Latest Ratings of Banks on Key Consumer Protections](#)

Some checking account practices improve, but mandatory, consistent safeguards are still needed

May 12, 2015 The Pew Charitable Trusts today released its third evaluation of checking account disclosure, overdraft, and dispute resolution practices at the nation's largest retail banks, finding mixed results.

Rockefeller Foundation [to 16 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [to 16 May 2015]

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

RWJF Blog

[Clearing the Air in Louisville through Data and Design](#) May 13, 2015

[Nurses and Physicians Need to Learn Together in Order to Work Together](#) [NTYU] May 11, 2015

Wellcome Trust [to 16 May 2015]

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

[Research projects to improve health in humanitarian crises launched](#)

Ten new research programmes aimed at addressing the health needs of people affected by humanitarian disasters have been launched.

15 May 2015

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

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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

May 2015 Volume 43, Issue 5, p423-546, e1-e17

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Preventive Medicine

May 2015 Volume 48, Issue 5, p491-646, e5-e10

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

[No new digest content identified]

American Journal of Public Health

Volume 105, Issue 5 (May 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

May 2015; 92 (5)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

BMC Health Services Research

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

(Accessed 16 May 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Infectious Diseases

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

(Accessed 16 May 2015)

Research article

[Developing a community-led SMS reporting tool for the rapid assessment of lymphatic filariasis morbidity burden: case studies from Malawi and Ghana](#)

Michelle Stanton, Square Mkwanda, Alexander Debrah, Linda Batsa, Nana-Kwadwo Biritwum, Achim Hoerauf, Matthew Cliffe, Abigail Best, Andrew Molineux, Louise Kelly-Hope BMC Infectious Diseases 2015

BMC Medical Ethics

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

(Accessed 16 May 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

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

(Accessed 16 May 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Public Health

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

(Accessed 16 May 2015)

Review

Urban health indicators and indices: current status

Richard Rothenberg^{1*}, Christine Stauber¹, Scott Weaver¹, Dajun Dai², Amit Prasad³ and Megumi Kano³

Author Affiliations

BMC Public Health 2015, 15:494 doi:10.1186/s12889-015-1827-x

Published: 16 May 2015

Abstract (provisional)

Though numbers alone may be insufficient to capture the nuances of population health, they provide a common language of appraisal and furnish clear evidence of disparities and inequalities. Over the past 30 years, facilitated by high speed computing and electronics, considerable investment has been made in the collection and analysis of urban health indicators, environmental indicators, and methods for their amalgamation. Much of this work has been characterized by a perceived need for a standard set of indicators. We used publication databases (e.g. Medline) and web searches to identify compilations of health indicators and health metrics. We found 14 long-term large-area compilations of health indicators and determinants and seven compilations of environmental health indicators, comprising hundreds of metrics. Despite the plethora of indicators, these compilations have striking similarities in the domains from which the indicators are drawn—an unappreciated concordance among the major collections. Research with these databases and other sources has produced a small number of composite indices, and a number of methods for the amalgamation of indicators and the demonstration of disparities. These indices have been primarily used for large-area (nation, region, state) comparisons, with both developing and developed countries, often for purposes of ranking. Small area indices have been less explored, in part perhaps because of the vagaries of data availability, and because idiosyncratic local conditions require flexible approaches as opposed to a fixed format. One result has been advances in the ability to compare large areas, but with a concomitant deficiency in tools for public health workers to assess the status of local health and health disparities. Large area assessments are important, but the need for small area action requires a greater focus on local information and analysis, emphasizing method over prespecified content.

BMC Research Notes

(Accessed 16 May 2015)

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

Research article

[A community-based participatory research methodology to address, redress, and reassess disparities in respiratory health among First Nations](#)

Punam Pahwa, Sylvia Abonyi, Chandima Karunanayake, Donna C Rennie, Bonnie Janzen, Shelley Kirychuk, Joshua A Lawson, Tarun Katapally, Kathleen McMullin, Jeremy Seesequasis, Arnold Naytowhow, Louise Hagel, Roland F Dyck, Mark Fenton, Ambikaipakan Senthilselvan, Vivian Ramsden, Malcolm King, Niels Koehncke, Greg Marchildon, Lesley McBain, Thomas Smith-Windsor, Janet Smylie, Jo-Ann Episkenew, James A Dosman BMC Research Notes 2015, 8:199 (16 May 2015)

[Abstract](#) | [Provisional PDF](#)

British Medical Journal

16 May 2015(vol 350, issue 8008)

<http://www.bmj.com/content/350/8008>

Editorials

[Who should be vaccinated against HPV?](#)

BMJ 2015; 350 doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.h2244> (Published 12 May 2015) Cite this as: BMJ 2015;350:h2244

Karen Canfell, director¹

[Author affiliations](#)

As richer countries consider vaccinating males, the focus for lower income countries should remain on cervical cancer prevention

Vaccination of girls against the human papillomavirus (HPV) has been implemented in most developed countries, driven by prevention of cervical cancer as a public health priority. Bivalent (Cervarix, GSK) and quadrivalent (Gardasil, Merck) vaccines protect against subsequent infection with oncogenic HPV16/18, and quadrivalent vaccine protects against HPV6/11, which cause anogenital warts. Although HPV vaccination effectively protects against external genital lesions and anal intraepithelial neoplasia in males, only a few jurisdictions have so far recommended universal vaccination of boys. These include Australia, Austria, two Canadian provinces, and the United States. In other countries, a cautious approach has been due, in part, to uncertainties around the population level impact and cost effectiveness of vaccination of boys.

In a linked article, Bogaards and colleagues (doi:[10.1136/bmj.h2016](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.h2016)) estimated the benefits to men of offering HPV vaccination to boys.¹ They used a dynamic simulation and a bayesian synthesis to integrate the evidence on HPV related cancers in men. The analysis takes account of indirect protection from female vaccination: heterosexual men will benefit from reduced HPV circulation in females, so if coverage in girls is high the incremental benefit of vaccinating boys is driven by prevention of the residual burden of anal cancer in men who have sex with men.

The findings reinforce those of prior analyses that found that adding boys to established vaccination programmes in girls becomes less cost effective as female coverage increases.² The cost effectiveness of vaccination of boys also depends on other local issues, especially vaccine type and vaccine and administration costs. A threshold total cost per vaccinated boy for cost effectiveness can be identified at any level of coverage in girls: such analyses can provide policy makers with the maximum rational vaccine price appropriate to the local environment. If vaccine coverage in girls is lower, however, the most effective use of resources is likely to involve increasing coverage in girls, if feasible.^{2 3}

In some countries, vaccination of boys might not be cost effective, even at lower vaccine prices, due to higher administration costs.³ Recent developments towards reduced dose schedules could help. In 2013 the European Medical Agency recommended a two dose schedule for the bivalent vaccine in girls, in 2014 the United Kingdom switched to a two dose schedule, and the World Health Organization now recommends two doses for girls <15. Two dose schedules are the most cost effective option for girls provided protection lasts for ≥ 20 years⁴ and reduced dose schedules in boys are also likely to increase cost effectiveness if adequate efficacy is maintained.

Bogaards and colleagues highlight the importance of vaccination for prevention of anal cancer in men who have sex with men. In part due to uncertainties in natural history, the effectiveness of anal cancer screening is not established.⁵ Primary prevention with targeted vaccination of men who have sex with men is an attractive option and is potentially more cost effective than universal vaccination of boys. The US Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices already recommends vaccination of men who have sex with men up to the age of 26 years.⁶ Older men who have sex with men could also potentially benefit. The UK's Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, as an interim position, recently stated that a programme to vaccinate men aged 16-40 who have sex with men with a quadrivalent vaccine should be considered, if cost effective.⁷ Lower coverage rates expected with targeted versus universal male vaccination are an important consideration, and the two approaches are not mutually exclusive.

Several other new developments should be factored in to future policy decisions. A recent study showed that the bivalent vaccine is effective in women aged ≥ 25 without a history of HPV disease.⁸ With a transition to primary HPV screening occurring in several countries, an interesting possibility to be evaluated involves "screen and vaccinate" strategies in older women—that is, offering HPV screening, followed by vaccination for HPV negative women with extended (or perhaps no) recall for this group. Secondly, a nonavalent vaccine (Gardasil9, Merck), which protects against an extra five HPV types,⁹ has recently been recommended for use in the US.⁶ In women, this will increase protection against cervical cancer in those who are fully vaccinated (from about 70% to about 90%)¹⁰ but as most HPV cancers in men are attributed to types included in current vaccines,¹ tiered pricing structures for new generation vaccines based on differential incremental benefits (and thus differential cost effectiveness thresholds) in girls versus boys could be considered.

All these policy decisions must consider burden of disease, safety, effectiveness, acceptability, equity, and cost effectiveness. Although the focus in developed countries has now, appropriately, shifted to considering these issues for boys, men who have sex with men, and older women, broader efforts to prevent cervical cancer should remain the priority in low and middle income countries. Of the 610 000 cancers annually attributable to HPV worldwide, 87% are cancers of the cervix, and three quarters of these occur in countries with a low or medium human development index.¹¹ Even if a substantial majority of young girls in such countries were vaccinated, hundreds of millions of older women would remain at risk—vaccination alone will not prevent an expected increase in cervical cancers in the next few decades, driven by population ageing. Here, the priority focus should be the development of integrated programmes for vaccinating young girls and screening older women. Based on experience in developed countries, this will also provide benefits for men through indirect vaccine protection.

Footnotes

Research, doi:10.1136/bmj.h2016

Research

[Direct benefit of vaccinating boys along with girls against oncogenic human papillomavirus: bayesian evidence synthesis](#)

BMJ 2015; 350 doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.h2016> (Published 12 May 2015) Cite this as: BMJ 2015;350:h2016

Johannes A Bogaards, senior researcher^{1,2}, Jacco Wallinga, senior researcher², Ruud H Brakenhoff, professor³, Chris J L M Meijer, professor⁴, Johannes Berkhof, associate professor¹
Author affiliations

Abstract

Objective

To assess the reduction in the vaccine preventable burden of cancer in men if boys are vaccinated along with girls against oncogenic human papillomavirus (HPV).

Design

Bayesian evidence synthesis approach used to evaluate the impact of vaccination against HPV types 16 and 18 on the burden of anal, penile, and oropharyngeal carcinomas among heterosexual men and men who have sex with men. The reduced transmission of vaccine-type HPV from vaccination of girls was assumed to lower the risk of HPV associated cancer in all men but not to affect the excess risk of HPV associated cancers among men who have sex with men.

Setting

General population in the Netherlands.

Intervention

Inclusion of boys aged 12 into HPV vaccination programmes.

Main outcome measures

Quality adjusted life years (QALYs) and numbers needed to vaccinate.

Results

Before HPV vaccination, 14.9 (95% credible interval 12.2 to 18.1) QALYs per thousand men were lost to vaccine preventable cancers associated with HPV in the Netherlands. This burden would be reduced by 37% (28% to 48%) if the vaccine uptake among girls remains at the current level of 60%. To prevent one additional case of cancer among men, 795 boys (660 to 987) would need to be vaccinated; with tumour specific numbers for anal, penile, and oropharyngeal cancer of 2162, 3486, and 1975, respectively. The burden of HPV related cancer in men would be reduced by 66% (53% to 80%) if vaccine uptake among girls increases to 90%. In that case, 1735 boys (1240 to 2900) would need to be vaccinated to prevent an additional case; with tumour specific numbers for anal, penile, and oropharyngeal cancer of 2593, 29107, and 6484, respectively.

Conclusions

Men will benefit indirectly from vaccination of girls but remain at risk of cancers associated with HPV. The incremental benefit of vaccinating boys when vaccine uptake among girls is high is driven by the prevention of anal carcinomas, which underscores the relevance of HPV prevention efforts for men who have sex with men.

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Volume 37, Number 2, May 2015

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/human_rights_quarterly/toc/hrq.37.2.html

[After Amnesties are Gone: Latin American National Courts and the new Contours of the Fight Against Impunity](#)

Naomi Roht-Arriaza

pp. 341-382

Abstract

Latin America is the one region that, in the wake of massive and systematic violations of human rights, has made inroads into trying such crimes in national courts. After decades in which cases were dismissed on grounds of amnesty, statutes of limitations, or other impediments to trial, these barriers have fallen in a majority of countries. This turnaround—while fragile and incomplete—is remarkable. It provides important and inspirational lessons for lawyers, judges, and advocates in other regions, and for international justice efforts. Cases involving international crimes in the courts of Latin American countries have experienced distinct phases. In the first phase, advocates confronted barriers to bringing the cases into court at all. In the second and current phase, courts are facing the challenges of organizing trials that involve hundreds of defendants and victims, or using the elements of crimes like genocide to show overall patterns of atrocity. A final, emerging phase shifts the focus from trial to punishment.

This phase has led to creative—and controversial—propositions about reduced sentences, suspended sentences, and alternatives to imprisonment in cases involving international crimes.

World Poverty: Rights, Obligations, Institutions, Motivations

Michael Freeman

pp. 439-463

ABSTRACT:

A common criticism of international human rights declarations is that they lack an adequate account of the corresponding obligations. This criticism is often thought to be particularly apt when applied to economic and social rights. International human rights law imposes these obligations on states, but critics object that this treats the problem (state behavior) as the solution. This article examines the question of the obligations corresponding to economic and social rights in the context of debates about world poverty. It argues that the legal and philosophical emphasis on obligations must be supplemented by an understanding of both institutions and motivations if practical progress to eradicate world poverty is to be made.

Business and Human Rights Indicators to Measure the Corporate Responsibility to Respect: Challenges and Opportunities

pp. 511-555

Damiano de Felice

ABSTRACT:

Business and human rights indicators, ratings, and indices have proliferated in the past few years. Yet, measuring respect for human rights by corporations is not an easy task. This article offers an overview of the most prominent business and human rights measurement initiatives and draws attention to the normative, methodological, practical, and political challenges related to the production of valid and emancipatory measures of corporate respect for human rights. The objective is to move the debate forward, from the “if” (whether to use indicators) to the “how” (how to create better initiatives).

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Volume 39, Issue 2, 2015

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Volume 7 Issue 3 May 2015

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Noma: neglected, forgotten and a human rights issue

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Author Affiliations

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Abstract

Noma, an orofacial gangrene and opportunistic infection, affects primarily malnourished children living in extreme poverty. Neglected, forgotten, unknown by most health workers, noma results in death, disfigurement and disability of some of the world's most vulnerable children. Noma is a biological indicator of multiple human rights violations, including the right to food.

International support and national attention in countries with noma are lacking. The end of neglect of noma can lead to the elimination of this horrific childhood disease.

Patients struggle to access effective health care due to ongoing violence, distance, costs and health service performance in Afghanistan

Niamh Nic Carthaigha, Benoit De Gryseb, Abdul Sattar Esmatic, Barak Nizard, Catherine Van Overloope, Renzo Frickee, Jehan Bseisoa, Corinne Bakere, Tom Decroof and Mit Philipsa,^{*}

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cMinistry of Health–Afghanistan, Direction Ahmad Shah Baba District Hospital, Kabul, Afghanistan

dMinistry of Health–Afghanistan, Direction Boost Provincial Hospital, Helmand, Afghanistan

eMédecins Sans Frontières–Operational Centre Brussels, Operational Department, Brussels

fMédecins Sans Frontières–Operational Centre Brussels, Operational Research Unit, Brussels

Abstract

Background

The Afghan population suffers from a long standing armed conflict. We investigated patients' experiences of their access to and use of the health services.

Methods

Data were collected in four clinics from different provinces. Mixed methods were applied. The questions focused on access obstacles during the current health problem and health seeking behaviour during a previous illness episode of a household member.

Results

To access the health facilities 71.8% (545/759) of patients experienced obstacles. The combination of long distances, high costs and the conflict deprived people of life-saving healthcare. The closest public clinics were underused due to perceptions regarding their lack of availability or quality of staff, services or medicines. For one in five people, a lack of access to health care had resulted in death among family members or close friends within the last year.

Conclusions

Violence continues to affect daily life and access to healthcare in Afghanistan. Moreover, healthcare provision is not adequately geared to meet medical and emergency needs. Impartial healthcare tailored to the context will be vital to increase access to basic and life-saving healthcare.

Health worker perceptions of integrating mobile phones into community case management of malaria in Saraya, Senegal

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fEarth Institute, Columbia University, New York, New York, 10027, USA

gAfrican Services Committee, New York, New York, 10027, USA

Abstract

Background

Although community case management of malaria increases access to life-saving care in isolated settings, it contends with many logistical challenges. Mobile phone health information technology may present an opportunity to address a number of these barriers.

Methods

Using the wireless adaptation of the technology acceptance model, this study assessed availability, ease of use, usefulness, and job relevance of mobile phones by health workers in Saraya, Senegal.

Results

This study conducted seven key informant interviews with government health workers, and three focus groups and 76 surveys with lay health workers. Principal findings included that mobile phones are already widely available and used, and that participants valued using phones to address training, stock management, programme reporting, and transportation challenges.

Conclusions

By documenting widespread use of mobile phones and health worker perceptions of their most useful applications, this paper provides a framework for their integration into the community case management of malaria programme in Saraya, Senegal.

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Volume 6 Issue 1

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

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Volume 211 Issue 16 May 1, 2015

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Can epidemiology inform global health and development targets?

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[Initial text]

In 2015, the global health and development community will collectively assess the progress of nations towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), an ambitious framework for human development based on broad principles of equity, solidarity and poverty reduction. Of the 12 goals established to measure social and economic progress, three (MDG4, MDG5 and MDG6) relate directly to health development; reduction of child mortality, reduction of maternal mortality; and progress against the global epidemics of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, respectively.¹ There has been much debate about whether global goals with explicit targets are useful or not in stimulating action by countries and donors to improve health. Whereas broad development goals are likely to receive strong endorsement by countries, the addition of specific targets might well be unwelcome, particularly if they are perceived as being too ambitious. Worse, the global focus on targets for the MDGs has driven a culture of accountability with an almost singular focus on whether a country is likely to achieve the specified targets or not, to the detriment of other important measures of progress. The political imperative that countries have no doubt felt to accelerate progress with health development because of the existence of the MDGs is laudable, and real, but it has not necessarily been the ideal policy environment to do so, for five principal reasons.

First, recent global assessments have suggested that only about one-quarter of all countries, and less than one in five developing countries, will achieve MDGs 4 and 5, obscuring the very substantial progress in reducing child mortality, for example, that has occurred in sub-Saharan Africa, India and much of eastern Europe since 2000.^{2–4} In many countries, these accelerated declines have been due to the success of bold public policies, and financing, to scale-up and ensure delivery of bed nets ...

Effect on child cognitive function of increasing household expenditure in Indonesia: application of a marginal structural model and simulation of a cash transfer programme

Amelia Maika^{1,2,*}, Murthy N Mittinty¹, Sally Brinkman^{1,3} and John Lynch^{1,4}

Author Affiliations

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Abstract

Background:

Parental investments in children are an important determinant of human capability formation. We investigated the causal effect of household expenditure on Indonesian children's cognitive function between 2000 and 2007. We also investigated the effect of change in mean cognitive function from a simulation of a hypothetical cash transfer intervention.

Methods:

A longitudinal analysis using data from the Indonesian Family Life Survey (IFLS) was conducted including 6136 children aged 7 to 14 years in 2000 and still alive in 2007. We used the inverse probability of treatment weighting of a marginal structural model to estimate the causal effect of household expenditure on children's cognitive function.

Results:

Cumulative household expenditure was positively associated with cognitive function z-score. From the marginal structural model, a 74534 rupiah/month (about US\$9) increase in household expenditure resulted in a 0.03 increase in cognitive function z-score [$\beta = 0.32$, 95% confidence interval (CI) 0.30–0.35] Based on our simulations, among children in the poorest households in 2000 an additional \approx US\$6–10 of cash transfer resulted in a 0.01 unit increase in cognitive function z-score, equivalent to about 6% increase from the mean z-score prior to cash transfer. In contrast, children in the poorest household in 2007 did not benefit from an additional \approx US\$10 cash transfer. We found no overall effect of cash transfers at the total population level.

Conclusions:

Greater household expenditure had a small causal effect on children's cognitive function. Although cash transfer interventions had a positive effect for poor children, this effect was quite small. Multi-faceted interventions that combine nutrition, cash transfer, improved living conditions and women's education are required to benefit children's cognitive development in Indonesia.

Journal of International Development

May 2015 Volume 27, Issue 4 Pages 415–572

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Spring 2015 Volume 43, Issue 1 Pages 6–166

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May 2015, Volume 41, Issue 5

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Volume 4 Issue 1 March 2015

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Volume 36, Issue 2 (May 2015)

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06 May 2015; volume 12, issue 106

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Vol 11, No 1 (2015)

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May 16, 2015 Volume 385 Number 9981 p1917-2014 e47-e48

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Comment

[For every woman, every child, everywhere: a universal agenda for the health of women, children, and adolescents](#)

Sarah Zeid, Flavia Bustreo, Maha Taysir Barakat, Peter Maurer, Kate Gilmore

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)60766-8](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)60766-8)

Summary

Preventable mortality and morbidity among women, adolescents, and children are severe in humanitarian settings. Data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on 50 fragile states show that 60% of preventable maternal deaths, 53% of deaths in children younger than 5 years, and 45% of neonatal deaths take place in fragile settings of conflict, displacement, and natural disasters.^{1–3} Worldwide, women and children are up to 14 times more likely than men to die in a disaster.⁴

World Report

[Ebola vaccine trial in west Africa faces criticism](#)

Miriam Shuchman

Published Online: 12 May 2015

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)60938-2](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)60938-2)

WHO has come under fire for its running of the Ebola ring vaccine trial in Guinea, with critics highlighting inadequate care of participants and patients. Miriam Shuchman report

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May 2015 Volume 3 Number 5 e240-e296

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May 2015 Volume 15 Number 5 p487-614

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Volume 19, Issue 5, May 2015

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March 2015 Volume 93, Issue 1 Pages 1–222

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Volume 521 Number 7551 pp125-252 14 May 2015

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May 14, 2015 Vol. 372 No. 20

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May 2015, VOLUME 135 / ISSUE 5
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Moving Forward after Sendai: How Countries Want to Use Science, Evidence and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction

May 14, 2015 · Research article

Background:

Following the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami event, the global community adopted the UN Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) for Disaster Risk Reduction 2005-2015, which set out priorities to help countries achieve disaster resilience by encouraging the establishment of national platforms and strengthening disaster governance. In March 2015, UN member states adopted the successor to HFA, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: 2015-2030 (SFDRR). The SFDRR recognises the cross-cutting nature of DRR policy and calls on stakeholders to help governments. Over the following months, the international science community as a stakeholder will contribute by outlining guidance, research opportunities and partnerships to help countries implement the new framework. To inform this process, this study examines government' and national scientists' perspectives about the needs to use science, evidence and technology to achieve disaster risk reduction (DRR) and put the words of the new framework into action.

Methods:

This study was conducted using qualitative content analysis and quantifiable survey results. Data was collected via extraction from published statements and online survey responses. For statement content analysis, search terms were determined iteratively in a sample of statements until no new terms emerged. Additionally, 167 national scientists were recruited to participate in the online survey with a response rate of 26.3% (44/167).

Findings:

Country priorities are clustered and clear, showing that there is a demand for greater science in DRR decision-making and solutions. The main themes highlighted by countries were promoting research and practitioner engagement; increase technology transfer mechanisms; open data; communication of usable evidence and user's needs; education and training; and lastly, international cooperation all contributing to national capacity building. As identified, the main difficulties with existing delivery are gaps in knowledge, lack of coordination and a gap in capacity to use scientific evidence for policy-making.

Conclusions:

Countries and organisations have identified a range of science and technology related needs, including through the preparatory and drafting process for the Sendai Framework for DRR. Across regions and development levels, countries are seeking to address the gaps they face in scientific capacities and information. It is hoped that understanding these priorities and challenges will help decision-makers and scientists in developing the implementation plan to consider how science, technology and innovation can be enabling factors for DRR. An implementation plan of action underpinned by scientific evidence has the potential to save lives, more accurately target investment, and contribute to greater resilience over the coming decades.

Landscape of WASH-relevant Training for Humanitarian Emergencies

May 11, 2015 · Research article

Background:

Both employed humanitarian personnel as well as those seeking to start a career as an aid worker are often provided with or seek training on the theme of humanitarian water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). The objective of this study was to conduct a landscaping exercise of the available WASH-relevant training for humanitarian emergencies.

Methods:

An open internet search was performed with specific terms related to humanitarian WASH. Retained search results included those training opportunities (including past ones) that were themed around or with a mentioned relevance to humanitarian WASH.

Results and Discussion:

A total of 42 training courses relevant to humanitarian emergency WASH were retained. In addition to the more generic/introductory trainings, some provided thematic variations such as coordination of WASH responses, project management, risk reduction, information, education and communication (IEC), and complex emergencies. Timely topics such as urban WASH, Ebola, and WASH innovations were also observed indicating the responsiveness of the training providers to the changing needs of humanitarian WASH response programmes. This survey also revealed a large variety in terms of target audience, duration, fees, location, and language of courses. There was no centralised listing of courses available on the Internet. Limitations of this exercise were also discussed.

PLoS Currents: Outbreaks

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

(Accessed 16 May 2015)

[No new relevant content]

PLoS Medicine

(Accessed 16 May 2015)

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

A Global Biomedical R&D Fund and Mechanism for Innovations of Public Health Importance

Manica Balasegaram, Christian Bréchet, Jeremy Farrar, David Heymann, Nirmal Ganguly, Martin Khor, Yves Lévy, Precious Matsoso, Ren Minghui, Bernard Pécou, Liu Peilong, Marcel Tanner, John-Arne Røttingen

Essay | published 11 May 2015 | PLOS Medicine 10.1371/journal.pmed.1001831

Summary Points

:: Anti-microbial resistance, emerging infectious diseases, and neglected diseases are all important public health concerns and priorities with serious market failures, deficits, and identified needs in biomedical innovation.

:: It is important to reconcile, rather than fragment, the needs of these three priority areas by considering an umbrella framework for specifically financing and coordinating research and development (R&D) that delivers innovation while securing patient access.

:: A sizeable, sustainably financed global R&D fund and mechanism that promotes coordination, collaboration, and utilization of new and innovative incentives should be set up to cover all three priority areas.

PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases

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

(Accessed 16 May 2015)

Prospects for Malaria Elimination in Mesoamerica and Hispaniola

Sócrates Herrera, Sergio Andrés Ochoa-Orozco, Iveth J. González, Lucrecia Peinado, Martha L. Quiñones, Myriam Arévalo-Herrera

Review | published 14 May 2015 | PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases

10.1371/journal.pntd.0003700

Abstract

Malaria remains endemic in 21 countries of the American continent with an estimated 427,000 cases per year. Approximately 10% of these occur in the Mesoamerican and Caribbean regions. During the last decade, malaria transmission in Mesoamerica showed a decrease of ~85%; whereas, in the Caribbean region, Hispaniola (comprising the Dominican Republic [DR] and Haiti) presented an overall rise in malaria transmission, primarily due to a steady increase in Haiti, while DR experienced a significant transmission decrease in this period.

The significant malaria reduction observed recently in the region prompted the launch of an initiative for Malaria Elimination in Mesoamerica and Hispaniola (EMMIE) with the active involvement of the National Malaria Control Programs (NMCPs) of nine countries, the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) for Mesoamerica, and the Council of Health Ministries of Central America and Dominican Republic (COMISCA). The EMMIE initiative is supported by the Global Fund for Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) with active participation of multiple partners including Ministries of Health, bilateral and multilateral agencies, as well as research centers. EMMIE's main goal is to achieve elimination of malaria transmission in the region by 2020. Here we discuss the prospects, challenges, and research needs associated with this initiative that, if successful, could represent a paradigm for other malaria-affected regions.

PLoS One

[Accessed 16 May 2015]

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

Research Article

"The One Who Chases You Away Does Not Tell You Go": Silent Refusals and Complex Power Relations in Research Consent Processes in Coastal Kenya

Dorcas M. Kamuya, Sally J. Theobald, Vicki Marsh, Michael Parker, Wenzel P. Geissler, Sassy C. Molyneux

Published: May 15, 2015

DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0126671

Abstract

Consent processes have attracted significant research attention over the last decade, including in the global south. Although relevant studies suggest consent is a complex negotiated process involving multiple actors, most guidelines assume consent is a one-off encounter with a clear 'yes' or 'no' decision. In this paper we explore the concept of 'silent refusals', a situation where it is not clear whether potential participants want to join studies or those in studies want to withdraw from research, as they were not actively saying no. We draw on participant observation, in-depth interviews and group discussions conducted with a range of stakeholders in two large community based studies conducted by the KEMRI Wellcome Trust programme in

coastal Kenya. We identified three broad inter-related rationales for silent refusals: 1) a strategy to avoid conflicts and safeguard relations within households, - for young women in particular—to appear to conform to the wishes of elders; 2) an approach to maintain friendly, appreciative and reciprocal relationships with fieldworkers, and the broader research programme; and 3) an effort to retain study benefits, either for individuals, whole households or wider communities. That refusals and underlying rationales were silent posed multiple dilemmas for fieldworkers, who are increasingly recognised to play a key interface role between researchers and communities in many settings. Silent refusals reflect and reinforce complex power relations embedded in decisions about research participation, with important implications for consent processes and broader research ethics practice. Fieldworkers need support to reflect upon and respond to the ethically charged environment they work in.

PLoS Pathogens

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

(Accessed 16 May 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

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

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

(Accessed 16 May 2015)

Resilience and reactivity of global food security

Samir Suweisa, Joel A. Carrb, Amos Maritana, Andrea Rinaldoc,d,1, and Paolo D'Odoricob,e

Author Affiliations

Significance

The past few decades have seen an intensification of international food trade and the increase in the number of countries that depend on food imports. As an effect of the associated globalization of food, local shocks in food production, combined with the adoption of new national or regional energy and trade policies, have recently led to global food crises. Here we develop a framework to investigate the coupled global food–population dynamics, and evaluate the effect of international trade on global food security. We find that, as the dependency on trade increases, the global food system is losing resilience and is becoming increasingly unstable and susceptible to conditions of crisis.

Abstract

The escalating food demand by a growing and increasingly affluent global population is placing unprecedented pressure on the limited land and water resources of the planet, underpinning concerns over global food security and its sensitivity to shocks arising from environmental fluctuations, trade policies, and market volatility. Here, we use country-specific demographic records along with food production and trade data for the past 25 y to evaluate the stability and reactivity of the relationship between population dynamics and food availability. We develop a framework for the assessment of the resilience and the reactivity of the coupled population–food system and suggest that over the past two decades both its sensitivity to external perturbations and susceptibility to instability have increased.

Prehospital & Disaster Medicine

Volume 30 - Issue 02 - April 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Public Health Ethics

Volume 8 Issue 1 April 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Qualitative Health Research

May 2015; 25 (5)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Refugee Survey Quarterly

Volume 34 Issue 1 March 2015

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Reproductive Health

Volume 12 Supplement 1 [2015]

<http://www.reproductive-health-journal.com/supplements/12/S1>

Special Supplement - True costs of maternal death

Research

Edited by Jose Belizan and Suellen Miller

An accompanying blog can be found [here](#).

Publication charges for this supplement were funded by Family Care International and the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights. The articles have been through the journal's standard peer review process for supplements. The Supplement Editors declare that they have no competing interests.

Research

[Intergenerational impacts of maternal mortality: Qualitative findings from rural Malawi](#)

Junior Bazile, Jonas Rigodon, Leslie Berman, Vanessa M Boulanger, Emily Maistrellis, Pilira Kausiwa, Alicia Yamin Reproductive Health 2015, 12(Suppl 1):S1 (6 May 2015)

Research

[Continuing with "...a heavy heart" - consequences of maternal death in rural Kenya](#)

Rohini Pande, Sheila Ogwang, Robinson Karuga, Radha Rajan, Aslihan Kes, Frank O Odhiambo, Kayla Laserson, Kathleen Schaffer Reproductive Health 2015, 12(Suppl 1):S2 (6 May 2015)

Research

[The economic burden of maternal mortality on households: evidence from three sub-counties in rural western Kenya](#)

Aslihan Kes, Sheila Ogwang, Rohini Pande, Zayid Douglas, Robinson Karuga, Frank O Odhiambo, Kayla Laserson, Kathleen Schaffer Reproductive Health 2015, 12(Suppl 1):S3 (6 May 2015)

Research

Consequences of maternal mortality on infant and child survival: a 25-year longitudinal analysis in Butajira Ethiopia (1987-2011)

Corrina Moucheraud, Alemayehu Worku, Mitike Molla, Jocelyn E Finlay, Jennifer Leaning, Alicia Yamin Reproductive Health 2015, 12(Suppl 1):S4 (6 May 2015)

Research

"Without a mother": caregivers and community members' views about the impacts of maternal mortality on families in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Lucia Knight, Alicia Yamin Reproductive Health 2015, 12(Suppl 1):S5 (6 May 2015)

Research

Impacts of maternal mortality on living children and families: A qualitative study from Butajira, Ethiopia

Mitike Molla, Israel Mitiku, Alemayehu Worku, Alicia Yamin Reproductive Health 2015, 12(Suppl 1):S6 (6 May 2015)

Research

The impacts of maternal mortality and cause of death on children's risk of dying in rural South Africa: evidence from a population based surveillance study (1992-2013)

Brian Houle, Samuel J Clark, Kathleen Kahn, Stephen Tollman, Alicia Yamin Reproductive Health 2015, 12

Resilience: International Policies, Practices and Discourses

Volume 3, Issue 1, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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

February 2015 Vol. 37, No. 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Risk Analysis

March 2015 Volume 35, Issue 3 Pages 345–554

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/risa.2015.35.issue-3/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

Science

15 May 2015 vol 348, issue 6236, pages 729-832

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

In Depth

Infectious Diseases

Ebola survivors fight back in plasma studies

Martin Enserink*

In the Guinean capital, Conakry, 90 people have so far been treated in a clinical trial that aims to seek whether plasma from Ebola survivors can help patients. Animal studies of similar therapies had yielded mixed results, and the findings of a small human study in 1995 were ambiguous. The study aims to recruit 130 patients, but enrollment has ground to a halt because the last Ebola patient in Conakry was discharged on 28 April. Results are expected later this year, but researchers acknowledge that they will be difficult to interpret because the study has no control arm.

Policy Forum

Public Health

Linking funds to actions for global health emergencies

C. J. Standley, E. M. Sorrell, S. Kornblet, A. Vaught, J. E. Fischer, R. Katz*

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The failings of the international community's response to the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa underscore the need for new mechanisms for governance and mobilization of resources for timely, coordinated responses to public health threats (1). Creating a global finance mechanism, ideally tied to existing global health frameworks, is a first step. The World Bank recently announced it would create a Pandemic Emergency Facility (PEF). The next necessary element is a trigger to release those funds to support rapid and effective responses during early phases of a public health event. With the World Health Assembly convening soon, we suggest how the World Health Organization's (WHO's) International Health Regulations (IHR) present such an initiator.

Social Science & Medicine

Volume 132, Pages 1-286 (May 2015)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/02779536/132>

[Reviewed earlier]

Stability: International Journal of Security & Development

[accessed 16 May 2015]

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Sustainability

Volume 7, Issue 4 (April 2015), Pages 3515-4782

<http://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/7/4>

[Reviewed earlier]

TORTURE Journal

Volume 25, Nr. 1, 2015
<http://www.irct.org/torture-journal>
[Reviewed earlier]

Tropical Medicine and Health

Vol. 43(2015) No. 2
https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/tmh/43/0/_contents
[Reviewed earlier]

Tropical Medicine & International Health

May 2015 Volume 20, Issue 5 Pages 553–680
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/tmi.2015.20.issue-5/issuetoc>
[Reviewed earlier]

UN Chronicle

Vol. LI No. 4 2014 April 2015
<http://unchronicle.un.org/>

Beyond 2015

The report of the Open Working Group of the United Nations General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals, submitted to the Assembly in August 2014, contained 17 goals with 169 targets covering a broad range of sustainable development issues. In this issue, the UN Chronicle takes a closer look at those proposed Sustainable Development Goals.

Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies

An International Interdisciplinary Journal for Research, Policy and Care
Volume 10, Issue 2, 2015
<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rvch20/current#.Uzg2bFcWNdc>
[Reviewed earlier]

World Heritage Review

n°74 - January 2015
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/review/74/>
[Reviewed earlier]

Yale Human Rights & Development Law Journal

Volume XIV, Issue 2
<http://www.law.yale.edu/academics/YHRDLJcurrentissue.htm>
[Reviewed earlier]

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