

The Sentinel

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

2 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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Yemen's INGO Steering Committee calls for an urgent end to all hostilities and full humanitarian access

YEMEN - Fighting in Yemen is continuing despite Saudi Arabia's recent announcement of an end to military operations, a group of leading aid agencies has warned. The ongoing conflict is preventing humanitarian organisations from delivering life-saving assistance, the agencies say.

While welcoming the announcement by Saudi Arabia of an end to 'Operation Decisive Storm' the INGO Forum Steering Committee in Yemen, representing 47 major aid agencies, is calling for all parties to the conflict to end the violence and seek a negotiated peace.

International humanitarian organisations working in Yemen welcome the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's recent announcement which brought Operation Decisive Storm to an end. However, we remain concerned about the ongoing effects of the continued fighting and we urgently call on all parties to the conflict to end the violence and seek a negotiated peace. All efforts must be taken to ensure that civilians and civilian infrastructure are protected and spared from the ongoing violence. We reassert that international humanitarian and human rights laws must be upheld by all parties at all times.

We call for the international community to support a coordinated and impartial response that addresses both short and long-term civilian needs across the country. In many conflicts, weapons do not cause the greatest casualties and suffering, most often the secondary impacts of war are the most devastating for civilians. Disease, hunger, the destruction of infrastructure and property are the most devastating for innocent civilians. As a country already experiencing food insecurity among 12 million people, and maternal-child health risks, it is all the more crucial the humanitarian response take into account the challenges civilians face now, as well as those we know they will face in the future.

We call for increased and safe humanitarian access necessary to ensure the delivery of life-saving supplies and assistance to those in need. International aid organizations working in Yemen are ready to respond, but have not yet been able to do so at full scale. The continued fighting has resulted in limited access for humanitarian aid workers and severely jeopardizing their safety. Recent reports indicate that three Yemeni aid workers have been killed in crossfire in Aden while trying to save the lives of critically injured civilians. The international community must call on the parties in the conflict to guarantee aid workers safe access and passage to priority areas to ensure the delivery of lifesaving assistance. We are calling on all parties to immediately open land, sea and air routes into the country in order to facilitate the delivery of life-saving aid to the millions of people who continue to suffer from the impact of the violence. Reliant on imports to meet 90 percent of national food consumption, the continued closure of land, sea and air routes is exacerbating the unfolding humanitarian catastrophe. Fuel supplies, also largely reliant on imports, are now dwindling, and the effects are being felt at all levels. Access to water, often pumped by generator, is severely reduced. Without fuel to provide electricity and water, the ability of health facilities to operate life-saving equipment is severely hampered and transportation of essential commodities, such as food to the most in need, becomes extremely challenging.

Yemen has been caught in a protracted crisis and the recent escalation of conflict is exacerbating the situation. Before the escalation of violence, over 60 percent of the population – more than 16 million, including approximately 250,000 refugees - were already reliant on aid, and nearly a million children under five were suffering from acute malnutrition. What little infrastructure the country had is facing collapse. Water, electricity, fuel and food supplies are running low and prices for these essential supplies are increasing exponentially. Many hospitals have been damaged, made inaccessible, or are not functioning due to shortages of staff and essential medical supplies and fuel. This has severe consequences not just for the injured, but

also for the approximately 700,000 pregnant women in the country, people with disabilities, and those who rely on recurrent health care.

The community of international humanitarian aid agencies working in Yemen ask for the full support of the international community in our humanitarian efforts in order to pull Yemen back from humanitarian catastrophe.

[No listing of the INGOs represented on the INGO Forum Steering Committee in Yemen – "representing 47 major aid agencies" – was identified]

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Migrant Crossings – Mediterranean

EU: Press release - [Migration: Parliament calls for urgent measures to save lives](#)

29/04/2015 15:02 | European Parliament

The EU should do everything possible to prevent further loss of life at sea, e.g. by expanding the mandate of "Triton" operation in the Mediterranean to include "search and rescue operations at EU level", says a resolution voted by Parliament on Wednesday. MEPs also call for a binding quota for distributing asylum seekers among all EU countries, bigger contributions to resettlement programmes, better cooperation with third countries and tougher measures against people smugglers.

Parliament urges the EU and its member states to establish a clear mandate for Triton, "so as to expand its area of operation and increase its mandate for search and rescue operations at EU level" (Triton is coordinated by the EU border agency Frontex and currently extends only 30 nautical miles from the Italian coastline).

The EU and its member states should ensure that "search and rescue obligations are effectively fulfilled", stresses the resolution, which was approved by 449 votes to 130, with 93 abstentions.

Parliament calls for "a robust and permanent humanitarian European rescue operation, which, like Mare Nostrum, would operate on the high seas and to which all member states would contribute financially and with equipment and assets". MEPs urge the EU to co-fund such an operation.

EU countries should also continue to show solidarity and commitment by stepping up their contributions to the budgets and operations of Frontex and the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), MEPs add. Parliament also undertakes to provide these agencies with the resources (human and equipment) needed to fulfil their obligations "through the EU budget and its relevant funds".

Stepping up solidarity and responsibility-sharing among EU countries

Parliament regrets that the 23 April European Council did not pledge to set up a binding EU-wide solidarity mechanism. To respond to the latest tragedies in the Mediterranean with "solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility", MEPs say that:

:: the European Commission should establish a "binding quota" for distributing asylum seekers among all EU countries,

:: member states should make full use of existing possibilities for issuing humanitarian visas and seriously consider whether to trigger the 2001 Temporary Protection Directive or Article 78(3) of the TFEU (both foresee a solidarity mechanism in the event of mass and sudden inflows of displaced persons),
:: EU countries should make greater contributions to existing resettlement programmes, and
:: the Common European Asylum System rules should be rapidly and fully transposed into national law and implemented by all participating member states.

Cooperating with third countries and fighting smugglers

The resolution calls for closer coordination of EU and member state policies in tackling the root causes of migration and more cooperation with partner countries in the Middle East and Africa.

It also calls for the strongest possible criminal sanctions against human trafficking and smuggling and urges member states and EU agencies to work more closely to detect and trace these criminal networks' funding and identify their modus operandi, so as to prevent them from making money by putting migrants' lives at risk.

Note to editors

The purpose of this resolution is to respond to the recent tragic events in the Mediterranean, to the European Council conclusions of 23 April 2015 and to propose a set of urgent measures to be taken immediately. The Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee is currently drafting a report which will reflect Parliament's medium- and longer-term policy orientations on migration.

Joint Statement on Protection in the Mediterranean in light of the EU Council's Decision of 23 April 2015

27 April 2015

:: António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
:: Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
:: Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General For Migration and Development
:: William L. Swing, Director-General of the International Organization for Migration

Given the intensification of boat movements and continued unbearable loss of life in the Mediterranean Sea, we...take note of the Special European Council's decision of 23 April 2015. We acknowledge the Council's specific undertaking to "mobilize all efforts at its disposal to prevent further loss of life at sea and to tackle the root causes of the human emergency."

The Council's decision is an important first step towards collective European action: the only approach that can tackle a phenomenon of such a scale, complexity and trans-national nature. It will also help pave the way for further elaboration of a new EU Migration Agenda.

A number of preliminary measures have been decided. We appreciate that the details still need to be worked out in consultation with a range of stakeholders, including the institutions we represent, and pledge our full support for developing them further.

The announced tripling of resources for the Frontex Operations Triton and Poseidon is encouraging to the extent it results in increasing rescues of migrants and refugees in distress at sea now and in the foreseeable future. While the efforts of merchant ships are to be commended and welcomed, they are not best equipped to rescue hundreds of people at a time, and are no substitute for a comprehensive and well-resourced EU-led effort with a particular focus on addressing the protection needs of vulnerable migrants and refugees, not least unaccompanied children, survivors of violence and those with special needs.

A number of proposed measures focus on disrupting the smuggling trade and stemming movements, in cooperation with third countries. But law enforcement measures must be accompanied by efforts aimed at reducing the need for migrants and refugees to turn to smugglers in the first place. The situation today calls for measures going beyond border security.

Most smuggling does not involve the crime of trafficking. This distinction is important to maintain in statements and actions initiated in response to the current crisis. Moreover, people resorting to smugglers and those falling prey to traffickers are not criminals. Those boats are carrying human beings who are entitled to their human rights and are in need of international aid and protection. All actions must scrupulously respect International Human Rights Law, International Refugee Law, International Humanitarian Law, the Law of the Sea, and ensure the dignified, safe and humane treatment of migrants.

We look forward to working with EU Member States and institutions on elaborating concrete actions respecting the rights of all migrants and refugees, and consultations to increase resettlement places on offer, on arrangements for pre- and post-arrival assistance, and on relocation to ease the burden on States on Europe's southern border.

Efforts to deter smuggling will be in vain unless measures are adopted to address overly restrictive migration policies in Europe, as well as the push factors of conflict, human rights violations and economic deprivation in many of the countries of origin and transit. Enforcement measures need to comply with applicable standards for human rights in law enforcement and in the administration of justice.

As the EU Institutions and Member States work on development of a European Agenda for Migration, we look forward to working closely with EU and other stakeholders to expand and enhance the measures announced, with a view to setting in place a more holistic plan consistent with international norms and standards.

In this regard, we believe that additional measures are needed, beyond those already announced, to address the many factors compelling people to move in such precarious circumstances and to transform this into a truly comprehensive response. These measures would, inter alia, include: setting in place migration policies that meet real labour market needs; increasing the provision of safe and regular channels for entry, including by making family reunification more readily accessible and easier; making the Common European Asylum System work more cohesively, especially through intra-EU solidarity measures; making evidence-based and better targeted development investments in origin and transit countries; revisiting measures relating to trade practices and labour migration; stemming arms trafficking;

promoting proactive peaceful settlement of disputes; and vigorously combatting all forms of racism, religious intolerance and xenophobia.

The international community has a shared responsibility to ensure the protection of migrants and refugees who are making the journey across the Mediterranean Sea. The scale, complexity and sophistication of the response should be in line with the scale and complexity of the problem. We need a truly comprehensive response that will serve as a testimony to those lost at sea and those who have survived to recount the experience.

The institutions we represent all have a stake in being part of the solution to the on-going tragedy in the Mediterranean. We are drawing up plans to increase our support in a number of indicative areas, for example by:

SRSG FOR MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

- :: Active diplomacy with States in Europe, Africa and elsewhere to safeguard the rights of all migrants and promote fair and equitable migration policies that contribute to sustainable development.

UNHCR

- :: Stepping up operational support, as needed, in Southern and South Eastern Europe, North Africa and in the Horn of Africa

- :: Supporting various proposals already made under the Central Mediterranean Sea Initiative, including: increased refugee resettlement, enhanced family reunification and other forms of admission; support for intra-EU solidarity and responsibility sharing measures, including relocation possibly through a pilot project for Syrian arrivals in Greece and Italy; and information campaigns along transit routes aimed at informing people of the risks of onward movements

- :: Disseminating the SAR Guide developed with the International Maritime Organization and International Chamber of Shipping

OHCHR

- :: Disseminating OHCHR's Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders

- :: Supporting an independent inquiry into the recent tragic incidents in the Mediterranean

- :: Providing advice on the human rights of all migrants at points of origin, transit and destination

- :: Promoting compliance with international standards for human rights in law enforcement

- :: Combatting racism, religious intolerance and xenophobia in all its forms

IOM

- :: Implementing the Missing Migrants project which seeks to document loss of life

- :: Cooperating with and implementing anti-smuggling and trafficking efforts

- :: Setting in place a Migrant Response and Resource Mechanism along migratory routes in key sub-Saharan African countries to identify persons in need of help, offer counselling, make referrals and provide assistance, including with voluntary return for economic migrants

- :: Supporting EU Regional Development and Protection Programmes

:: Following the specific call on IOM in the EU Council conclusion, working towards building capacities of and supporting countries of origin in the voluntary return and reintegration to ensure that return forms part of a comprehensive response

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Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016: Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights

UN Women

2015 :: ISBN: 978-1-63214-015-9 :: 342 pages

Report documentation: <http://progress.unwomen.org/en/2015/download/index.html#report>

FOREWORD

BY PHUMZILE MLAMBO-NGCUKA, UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UN WOMEN

In 2014, an unprecedented number of countries provided reports on the extent to which they had been able to implement the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted 20 years ago in 1995 as a global blueprint for the achievement of gender equality.

These 167 reports, and the associated regional and global reviews, gave us the clearest reading to date of the status of gender equality across the world.

Progress of the World's Women: Transforming economies, realizing rights, provides a timely, action-oriented counterpoint to the Beijing+20 findings. With a view to changing both economic and social institutions, it distils and confronts the most glaring gaps between the laws and policies that guarantee equal rights for women and girls, and the reality on the ground. The drive to achieve substantive equality – making rights real for women – is at the heart of this Progress report, and it provides the evidence and recommendations for public action to achieve it.

Our analysis shows that economic and social policies can contribute to fairer and more gender-equal societies, as well as stronger and more prosperous economies, if they are designed and implemented with women's rights at their centre. For example, to increase women's access to decent work, the removal of formal legal barriers to their employment is important, but we also need measures that free up women's time, such as affordable childcare options and investments in basic infrastructure. We need to enable shifts both great and small in social norms, so that men can take on care work and engage in other areas that foster and demonstrate altered attitudes of responsibility.

As Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has said, ours is the first generation with the potential to end poverty.

Equally important, and intrinsically linked to that goal, it is in this generation's reach to transform gender relations, to empower women and girls, and humanity as a whole. We know what needs to be done to achieve equality and a 50:50 Planet by 2030. Together with the findings of the Beijing +20 review, let this report be a call to urgent and sustained action, frontloaded for the next five years, to start real, visible change, especially in the lives of the most marginalized. My hope is that everyone will be inspired to be part of a re-energized and

growing movement for gender equality. With determined people from all walks of life, and with more determined leaders, gender equality can be a defining achievement of the first quarter of the 21st century.

[Press release: New report from UN Women unveils far-reaching alternative policy agenda to transform economies and make gender equality a reality](#)

"Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016: Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights" launches in seven cities

Date : 27 April 2015

(London, 27 April, 2015) A major report from UN Women, released today in seven locations globally, brings together human rights and economic policymaking to call for far-reaching changes to the global policy agenda that will transform economies and make women's rights, and equality, a reality. It takes an in-depth look at what the economy would look like if it truly worked for women, for the benefit of all.

Progress makes the case that the alternative economic agenda it outlines would not only create fairer societies, it would also create new sectors of employment, for instance in the care economy.

The report is being published as the international community comes together to define a transformative new agenda for sustainable development, 20 years after the landmark Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, which set out an ambitious agenda to advance gender equality.

Since the Beijing Conference, significant advances have been made by many societies, particularly in advancing women's legal rights. However, as Progress shows, in an era of unprecedented global wealth, millions of women are still consigned to work in low paid, poor quality jobs, denied even basic levels of health care, without access to clean water and decent sanitation.

Globally, only half of women participate in the labour force, compared to three quarters of men. In developing regions, up to 95 per cent of women's employment is informal, in jobs that are unprotected by labour laws and lack social protection.

Women still carry the burden of unpaid care work, which austerity policies and cutbacks have only intensified. To build fairer, more sustainable economies which work for women and men, a future comprising more of the same will no longer do.

"Our public resources are not flowing in the directions where they are most needed: for example, to provide safe water and sanitation, quality health care, and decent child- and elderly-care services. Where there are no public services, the deficit is borne by women and girls," said UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka.

"This is a care penalty that unfairly punishes women for stepping in when the State does not provide resources and it affects billions of women the world over. We need policies that make it possible for both women and men to care for their loved ones without having to forego their own economic security and independence," she added.

Through solid, in-depth analysis and data, this evidence-based report provides ten key recommendations for actions that governments and others can take in order to move towards an economy that truly works for women, to the benefit of all.

Progress sets out a vision of a global economy fit for women, where they have equal access to productive resources and social protection, which provides them with sufficient income to support an adequate standard of living. In such an economy, the work that women do would be respected and valued; stereotypes about what women and men can and should do would be eliminated; and women would be able to work and live their lives free from violence and sexual harassment.

The reality, however, is very different.

The report reveals that globally, on average, women are paid 24 per cent less than men. The gaps for women with children are even wider: In South Asia, for example, the gender pay gap is 35 per cent for women with children (compared to 14 per cent for those without). Lower rates of labour force participation, gender pay gaps and lower access to pensions add to a huge care penalty for women. In France and Sweden, over their lifetime, women can expect to earn 31 per cent less than men; in Germany 49 per cent less than men; and in Turkey, an average woman can expect to earn a staggering 75 per cent less than an average man over her lifetime.

Women are clustered into a limited set of under-valued occupations. For example, 83 per cent of domestic workers worldwide are women and almost half of them are not entitled to the minimum wage. Even when women succeed in the workplace, they encounter obstacles not generally faced by their male counterparts. For example, in the EU, 75 per cent of women in management and higher professional positions and 61 per cent of women in service sector occupations have experienced some form of sexual harassment in the workplace in their lifetimes.

An economy designed with women's needs in mind would give them an equal voice in economic decision-making: from the way in which time and money are spent in their households, to the ways in which resources are raised and allocated at the national level, to how broader economic parameters are set by global institutions.

Women are still under-represented in economic leadership positions, from trade unions to corporate boards, from finance ministries to international financial institutions. Women's membership in trade unions is growing in some countries, but they rarely reach top leadership positions. In 2014, across six of the most influential global economic institutions, women's representation on their boards ranged from 4 to 20 per cent.

Through case studies and concrete examples of change from Bolivia to Botswana, Progress calls for a paradigm shift in the way governments, financial institutions, businesses and civil society approach economic policy thinking and human rights, to bring about an alternative economic agenda which places women and their rights at its centre.

"The new economic agenda that UN Women is advocating for is not a pipe dream. Many countries, including low-income developing countries, are already implementing elements of this

agenda,” said Shahra Razavi, Chief of UN Women’s Research and Data Section and lead author of the report. “The kind of change we need is far-reaching, but it can be done.”

In its key recommendations, Progress underlines that with the right mix of economic and social policies, governments can generate decent jobs for women (and men) and ensure that the unpaid care work that goes into sustaining all economies is recognized and supported. Well-designed social services (e.g. health, care services) and social protection measures (e.g. pensions) can enhance women’s income security, from birth to old age, and enhance their capacity to seize economic opportunities and expand their life options.

Macroeconomic policies can and should support the realization of women’s rights, by creating dynamic and stable economies, by generating decent work and by mobilizing resources to finance vital public services. Governments need to go beyond the old metrics of GDP growth and low inflation, and instead measure success in terms of the realization of human rights.

Women’s economic and social rights – the right to a decent job, to health care and a life free from violence and discrimination – are guaranteed in human rights treaties, which almost all governments in the world have signed. Governments are ultimately responsible for delivering these rights, but they cannot do it alone. International financial institutions and the private sector are among the key players that shape the economy. They all need to be held accountable by civil society and the public, to play their part.

The changes proposed in the report will not only make the economy work for women, but also benefit the majority of men for whom the economy is not working either. The report argues that progress for women is progress for all.

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Global evidence on inequities in rural health protection

New data on rural deficits in health coverage for 174 countries

ILO - ESS (Extension of Social Security) Paper Series No. 47

Edited by Xenia Scheil-Adlung, ILO

2015 :: 83 pages

Summary (English)

This paper presents global estimates on rural/urban disparities in access to health-care services. The report uses proxy indicators to assess key dimensions of coverage and access involving the core principles of universality and equity. Based on the results of the estimates, policy options are discussed to close the gaps in a multi-sectoral approach addressing issues and their root causes both within and beyond the health sector.

Foreword

While inequities in health protection are increasingly recognized as an important issue in current policy debates on universal health coverage (UHC) and in the post-2015 agenda, the rural/urban divide is largely ignored. A key reason for disregarding equity in coverage and access to health care of large parts of the population relates to the nearly complete absence of disaggregated data providing sufficient information at national, regional and global level. Only vague and fragmented information, often limited to microdata, can be found.

Given this gap in information, it is hardly possible to quantify and assess the extent of disparities and deficits experienced by rural populations as regards key aspects of their rights to health and social protection; the availability, affordability and financial protection of needed health services; and increases or decreases in inequities. Further, governments and policy-makers lack evidence to set priorities, and thus face challenges in addressing the issues that are spread over various policy domains including health, social protection, labour market and more generally economic and fiscal policies.

This paper presents and analyses for the first time related global, regional and national data. It is developed and made available by the ILO. The data allow investigating both the extent of and major causes of rural/urban inequities in coverage and access to health care. Further, it discusses impacts and policy options to achieve more equitable results.

The data development and related assessments provided in this paper are anchored in the framework of universal health protection along the lines of international legal standards, particularly the ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202) and the UN Resolution on Universal Health Coverage (12 December 2012).

The paper has been developed as part of the mandate of the ILO Areas of Critical Importance (ACI) on Decent Work in the Rural Economy as well as the ACI on Creating and Extending Social Protection Floors, and has been reviewed by a significant number of experts in relevant development agencies. It highlights the needs of disadvantaged, marginalized and vulnerable rural populations and contributes to related global research products and statistics. Further, it provides guidance to ILO member States on establishing and extending social protection floors for all as a fundamental element of national social security systems.

The evidence provided in the paper suggests that inequalities in coverage and access to health care exist globally, in every region and nearly every country. In fact, the place of residence can be considered as the entry door or key barrier to accessing needed health care. Against this background, the paper aims at contributing to the development of urgently needed policy responses realizing the universal human rights to social protection and health, particularly for rural populations.

Isabel Ortiz

Director

Social Protection Department

International Labour Organization

Press Release

Social Protection

[More than half of the global rural population excluded from health care](#)

ILO report shows huge differences in health care access between rural and urban areas worldwide.

27 April 2015

GENEVA (ILO News) – A new ILO report shows that 56 per cent of people living in rural areas worldwide do not have access to essential health-care services – more than double the figure in urban areas, where 22 per cent are not covered...

...The highest number of people in rural areas who are not covered by essential health-care services is in Africa where it amounts to 83 per cent. The most affected countries also face the highest levels of poverty.

The largest differences between rural and urban areas, however, exist in Asia. For example, in

Indonesia the percentage of people that are not covered is twice as high in rural areas as in urban areas.

“Decades of underinvestment in health interrupted efforts to develop national health systems and ultimately resulted in the neglect of health in rural areas. This has a huge human cost. Health is a human right and should be provided to all residents within a country,” said Isabel Ortiz, Director of the ILO’s Social Protection Department.

Lack of health workers in rural areas

The ILO study further finds that even if access to health care is guaranteed by law, people in rural areas remain excluded from health care because such laws are not enforced where they live.

The situation is worsened by the lack of health workers in the world’s rural areas. Although half of the world’s population lives in them, only 23 per cent of the global health workforce is deployed to rural areas. The ILO estimates that 7 million out of the total 10.3 million health workers who are lacking globally are needed in these areas.

Africa and Latin America are the two regions where this problem is most acute. In Nigeria, for example, more than 82 per cent of the rural population is excluded from health-care services due to insufficient numbers of health workers compared to 37 per cent in urban areas.

Underfunding is closely linked to the unavailability of services. The ILO study shows that financial resource gaps are nearly twice as high in rural than in urban areas. The largest gaps are found in Africa. However, significant inequities also exist in Asia and Latin America.

The extent of impoverishing out-of-pocket payments (OOPs) is also high in rural areas. The study shows that rural populations in Africa and Asia are burdened with OOPs that amount to 42 and 46 per cent of total health expenditure respectively. In many Asian countries such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Sri Lanka, OOPs are two to three times higher in rural than in urban areas.

“The lack of legal coverage, insufficient numbers of health workers, inadequate funding, and high OOPs have created life-threatening inequities in many countries,” said Xenia Scheil-Adlung, Health Policy Coordinator at the ILO.

“Strengthening both the demand and supply side of services is crucial when moving towards universal health protection, particularly in rural areas. Legal health coverage is necessary, but not sufficient. Only when quality services are actually made available and affordable for all those in need can effective access to health care be ensured,” she added.

Closing the gaps

The study explains that closing rural health access gaps requires a comprehensive and systematic approach that simultaneously addresses missing rights, health workers, funding, financial protection and quality. Such an approach needs to be based on the principles of universality and equity and calls for solidarity in financing and burden sharing.

“Addressing such inequities needs to consider the specific characteristics of rural populations,

including high poverty rates and informality of work. This means moving from charity to rights, the provision of health workers with decent working conditions that enhance productivity, and the minimization of out-of-pocket payments by patients to avoid poverty. It also requires complementary socio-economic and labour market policies to trigger inclusive economic growth," said Scheil-Adlung.

The study highlights the key role that national social protection floors can play in reducing and eliminating rural/urban gaps through human rights-based approaches. In this sense, it points to the importance of ILO [Recommendation 202 on social protection floors](#).

"This study shows that investing in rural health, as part of a national health system, is affordable and yields significant economic and social returns. Progress towards universal health protection is possible in any country, irrespective of its level of income," Ortiz concludes.

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FAO – [Platform for pastoralists aims to give a voice to millions](#)

New initiative aims to bring pastoral concerns into global policy dialogue

27 April 2015, Rome – Millions of pastoralists will benefit from a new online knowledge hub that will help them raise their voices in international policy debates and share valuable information to strengthen their agricultural livelihoods.

The [Pastoralist Knowledge Hub](#) – launched today by FAO, the European Union, Germany and other partners – will enable mobile livestock keepers to connect, to meet and discuss issues like agricultural innovations or land regulations and find shared solutions to common challenges.

"Pastoralists are able to produce food where no crops can be grown. Yet, their concerns are poorly heard by the international community," Helena Semedo, FAO Deputy Director-General, said on Monday. "This hub is an important platform to help them project their voices, share knowledge, and affect policy debates."

The hub also offers a growing database of research on pastoralism, contacts for a worldwide network of pastoral representatives, and discussion forums for pastoralist networks and partnering institutions.

It also includes a mechanism that lets pastoral communities nominate and select representatives to global forums such as the Committee on World Food Security.

Seven regional meetings with pastoralist networks to shape the initiative are being held until October 2015.

[Rich legacy, diverse challenges](#)

The several hundred million pastoralists who manage the world's rangelands rely on a rich legacy of traditional knowledge and mobility to survive in the harshest environments on the planet.

They remain important producers of livestock, meat, milk, hair and hides and in many countries produce more than half of agricultural GDP.

Livestock grazing on pastoralist rangelands also provides valuable benefits to ecosystems, including helping to recycle plants back into fertile soil and controlling the growth of bush and weeds.

Examples of more well-known pastoral societies include the Bedouin of North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, the Maasai in East Africa, the Navajo of North America, the Sherpa in Nepal, and Scandinavia's Sami people.

Despite their importance to food production and ecosystems, pastoralists have traditionally been marginalized in decision-making on matters like the decrease of rangelands and the disruption of their mobility routes that negatively affect their lives and livelihoods.

They have frequently been subject to attempts to alter their nomadic lifestyles and often find it hard to access health services and schools

Pastoralists are also still poorly represented in decision-making processes in high-level institutions such as the United Nations and their own national governments.

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Teaching and learning about child rights: A study of implementation in 26 countries

UNICEF

2015 :: 88 pages

Lee Jerome, Lesley Emerson, Laura Lundy and Karen Orr

This research was commissioned and funded by the Advocacy and Child Rights Education Unit at the UNICEF Private Fundraising and Partnerships Division, Geneva. This baseline research undertaken by the Centre for Children's Rights in Queens' University Belfast

Full report pdf: http://www.unicef.org/crc/files/CHILD_RIGHTS_EDUCATION_STUDY_final.pdf

Press release

Children in 15 out of 26 industrialised countries lack easy access to child rights education

GENEVA, 30 April 2015 – Education curricula in 15 industrialised countries fail to meet children's entitlements to learn about their rights, a new UNICEF report shows. The report, Teaching and learning about child rights: A study of implementation in 26 countries, also finds that none of the countries studied ensure that all teachers are trained in child rights and are familiar with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

"This report is a wakeup call for countries that have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to take the necessary measures to ensure systematic implementation of a child's right to learn about her or his rights," said Gérard Bocquenet, UNICEF Director of Private Fundraising and Partnerships.

The report, commissioned by UNICEF and undertaken by the Centre for Children's Rights at Queen's University Belfast, analysed the situation and identified challenges around child rights education in 26 industrialised countries and territories, including to what extent child rights are

embedded in formal education settings and teacher training.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, which applies in all of the 26 countries and territories, requires a formal commitment to make its principles and provisions widely known to adults and children alike. The 15 countries where children lack systematic access to child rights education in curricula are Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Scotland, Spain and United States.

Twenty five years after the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child – the most widely ratified UN Convention – much work remains to be done to ensure that child rights are widely known and implemented in schools, including in industrialised countries. The report highlights that a fundamental step towards exercising rights is knowing and understanding those rights. Implementing systematic child rights education in schools is therefore essential to realise the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The report also shows that:

- :: Seven countries (Austria, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Israel, Italy and United States) include some child rights education in school curricula but fail to do so nationwide.

- :: Only 3 out of 26 countries explicitly and consistently monitor child rights education.

- :: Even when children learn about rights they may not learn about the Convention on the Rights of the Child or about key aspects of what it means to have rights.

Despite these findings, the research highlights many examples of how UNICEF National Committees and civil society partners are successfully addressing all aspects of child rights education at different levels in all the countries analysed. This is being done through policy, curriculum reform, and teacher training, as well as by embedding child rights into monitoring and inspection frameworks and by transforming the whole school environment to become rights-respecting.

“A key challenge is to ensure that these examples of good practice are aligned and fully integrated throughout education systems,” said Marta Arias, UNICEF Advocacy and Policy Specialist. “The report will guide countries in this task and help them to identify the best way forward within to their national context.”

With this study, UNICEF encourages all countries to take concrete actions to comply with Article 42 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and repeated recommendations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child to each country.

###

Background

The countries and territories studied are Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Scotland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and United States.

The research includes a literature review, results from an on-line survey completed by national experts in 26 countries and territories, seven country case studies (Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel and Scotland) and a series of benchmarking statements for

implementing child rights education in formal education settings.



Global Fund Launches Human Rights Complaints Procedure

27 April 2015

GENEVA – The Global Fund partnership has launched a human rights complaints procedure as part of its commitment to protect and promote human rights in the context of fighting AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

The complaints mechanism allows individuals to submit a complaint to the Global Fund's Office of the Inspector General if any of five minimum human rights standards is believed to have been violated by an implementer of Global Fund grants, in line with the partnership's commitment to the highest standards of accountability.

Any individual can contact the Office of the Inspector General by email, by telephone or through the Global Fund's website. All information will remain confidential, and anyone making a complaint can also choose to remain anonymous.

All Global Fund-supported programs are required to meet minimum human rights standards aimed at guaranteeing that Global Fund investments do not infringe upon human rights, that they increase access to quality services and maximize the potential impact of health interventions.

The information in the complaint will be carefully assessed to identify the seriousness of the allegations, and whether to conduct an investigation. The Global Fund welcomes information that will enable action to improve services.

"The Global Fund needs to know about any human rights infringements in the programs we support," said Inspector General Mouhamadou Diagne. "We encourage all to speak up using our whistle-blowing channels which are free, safe and confidential."

The five minimum human rights standards are:

- :: non-discriminatory access to services for all, including people in detention;
- :: employing only scientifically sound and approved medicines or medical practices;
- :: not employing methods that constitute torture or that are cruel, inhuman or degrading;
- :: respecting and protecting informed consent, confidentiality and the right to privacy concerning medical testing, treatment or health services rendered; and
- :: avoiding medical detention and involuntary isolation, to be used only as a last resort.

Principal Recipients are required to identify the risk that any of these standards may be violated. Where a risk is identified, they may need to develop a mitigation plan to ensure violations do not occur. Principal Recipients must also reflect these five standards in agreements with sub-recipients and suppliers and disclose to the Global Fund any cases of non-compliance with the standards.

The Global Fund partnership is committed to removing human rights barriers that reduce access to health programs, and undermine efforts to end HIV, TB and malaria as epidemics.

.....

EBOLA/EVD [to 2 May 2015]

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

WHO: Ebola Situation Report - 29 April 2015

[Excerpts]

SUMMARY

:: A total of 33 confirmed cases of Ebola virus disease (EVD) was reported in the week to 26 April. Two areas, Forecariah in Guinea and Kambia in Sierra Leone, accounted for 25 (76%) of all confirmed cases reported. Improved community engagement in these areas is required to ensure that all remaining chains of transmission can be tracked and ultimately brought to an end...

COUNTRIES WITH WIDESPREAD AND INTENSE TRANSMISSION

:: There have been a total of 26,277 reported confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (figure 1, table 1), with 10,884 reported deaths (outcomes for many cases are unknown). A total of 22 new confirmed cases were reported in Guinea, 0 in Liberia, and 11 in Sierra Leone in the 7 days to 26 April...

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:: Agency/Government/IGO Watch

We will monitor a growing number of relevant agency, government and IGO organizations for key media releases, announcements, research, and initiatives. Generally, we will focus on regional or global level content recognizing limitation of space, meaning country-specific coverage is limited. Please suggest additional organizations to monitor.

United Nations System Organizational Chart

:: 8.5" x 11" / 216 x 279 mm :: 11" x 17" / 279 x 432 mm

United Nations – Secretary General, Security Council, General Assembly

[to 2 May 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases/Meetings Coverage

30 April 2015

HR/5253

[As Session Continues, Speakers Voice Concern over Implementation of Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Forum's Future](#)

Indigenous representatives today called upon States to implement the provisions of international instruments and their national legislation guaranteeing their rights, and sought assistance from the Permanent Forum as that body concluded debate on several topics.

29 April 2015

SG/SM/16720

Secretary-General Condemns Bombardment of Yarmouk Camp in Syria

29 April 2015

SG/SM/16722-HR/5252

[Expressing Regret over Indonesia Executions, Secretary-General Says 'Death Penalty Has No Place in the Twenty-First Century'](#)

UN OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 2 May 2015]

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

[USA: Transparency and accountability essential in use of drones – UN human rights experts](#)

4/29/2015

Press Releases

Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

Sp. Rapporteur on summary executions

Sp. Rapporteur on independence of judges and lawyers

Sp. Rapporteur on torture

GENEVA (29 April 2015) – A group of UN independent human rights experts* today welcomed the US Government's announcement of a review into two counter-terrorism operations involving the use of drones, but they stressed the need to ensure transparency and accountability.

The US Government acknowledged the accidental killing of four individuals in counter-terrorism operations conducted in January in the border regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan involving the use of drones, following declassification of information related to the operations and disclosure to the public.

"We welcome President Obama's apology to the families. All innocent victims of drone attacks deserve such an apology, regardless of their nationality," the experts stated...

[UN Working Group adopts "Basic Principles and Guidelines on Remedies and Procedures on the Right of Anyone Deprived of His or Her Liberty by Arrest or Detention to Bring Proceedings Before Court".](#)

4/29/2015

Press Releases

SRSG/CAAC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict [to 2 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 2 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 2 May 2015]

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

27 April 2015

[UNHCR rushes supplies to Nepal earthquake survivors](#)

[Joint Statement on Protection in the Mediterranean in light of the EU Council's Decision of 23 April 2015](#)

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

[UN: Central African Republic at risk of becoming the world's largest forgotten humanitarian crisis](#)

UN OCHA [to 2 May 2015]

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

01 May 2015

[Nepal: Emergency Relief Coordinator and EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid call on the international community to strengthen support to quake-affected Nepalese \[EN/NE\]](#)

[Democratic Republic of the Congo: Note d'informations générales sur les violences sexuelles basées sur le genre au Katanga](#)

30 Apr 2015

[Vanuatu: Vanuatu: Cyclone Pam Response: Summary of Response Activities \(as of 30 April 2015\)](#)

29 Apr 2015

[Nepal: Launch of the HR.info space for Nepal Earthquake, April 2015](#)

To help people responding to the Nepal earthquake share information, the HumanitarianResponse.info operational website for the Nepal Earthquake has been launched. On <http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nepal> you can find contact information for other responders, see information on humanitarian meetings and search for documents, maps and data.

[Nepal: UN and partners appeal for \\$415 million to aid quake-stricken Nepal](#)

[World: Survey on law and disaster response](#)

The survey is intended to update global understanding of the frequency and impact of regulatory barriers and gaps in international disaster response operations and also to develop new information as to certain key legal issues related to domestic response. It is jointly sponsored and promoted by the IFRC, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Development Programme...

UNISDR UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 2 May 2015]

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

[Canada invests in disaster mitigation](#)

The Canadian Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness of Canada has launched the first call for proposals within the CAD\$ 200 million (approx. US\$ 165 million) National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP), as part of the Government's commitment to build safer and more resilient communities.

1 May 2015

[WHO welcomes Sendai focus on health](#)

The World Health Organization has welcomed the fact that the new Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) puts health at the centre of disaster risk management.

29 Apr 2015

[Jordan takes lead on city-to-city risk reduction](#)

Models of local-level disaster risk reduction and management, the Jordanian cities of Aqaba and Petra are leading an initiative for five fellow municipalities which have stepped up their own efforts to build resilience.

28 Apr 2015

UNICEF [to 2 May 2015]

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

Selected press release and news notes

[One week after Nepal earthquake UNICEF warns of disease risk for children](#)

KATHMANDU, 2 May 2015 – One week on from the earthquake in Nepal, UNICEF says the health and wellbeing of children affected by the disaster are hanging in the balance – as many have been left homeless, in deep shock and with no access to basic care. With the monsoon season only a few weeks away, children will be at heightened risk of diseases like cholera and diarrhoeal infections, as well as being more vulnerable to the threat of landslides and floods.

[BURUNDI: UNICEF calls for protection of children amid protests in the capital](#)

BUJUMBURA, Burundi, 30 April 2015 – "Children are at risk of bearing the brunt of the confrontations in and around Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi.

[Children in 15 out of 26 industrialised countries lack easy access to child rights education](#)

GENEVA, 30 April 2015 – Education curricula in 15 industrialised countries fail to meet children's entitlements to learn about their rights, a new UNICEF report shows. The report, Teaching and learning about child rights: A study of implementation in 26 countries, also finds that none of the countries studied ensure that all teachers are trained in child rights and are familiar with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

[Life-saving UNICEF supplies reach Nepal to help 1.7 million children severely affected by earthquake](#)

KATHMANDU, Nepal / NEW YORK, 30 April 2015 – Over the past 48 hours, UNICEF has delivered 29 metric tonnes of humanitarian supplies to Nepal including tents and tarpaulins, water purification tablets, first aid and hygiene kits, as part of ongoing efforts to reach at least 1.7 million children living in areas hardest hit by the earthquake. Over the coming days, UNICEF is planning additional aid items to arrive in Kathmandu.

[Racing against time for children and families in Nepal: IKEA Foundation gives €3 million to UNICEF emergency relief efforts](#)

GENEVA, 29 April 2015 – In the aftermath of the violent earthquake that hit Nepal with devastating force on 25 April, IKEA Foundation has contributed €3 million to UNICEF to support emergency relief efforts.

[UNICEF delivers lifesaving supplies to Aden as Yemen runs out of medicine, equipment](#)

SANA'A, Yemen/AMMAN, Jordan, 28 April 2015 – A UNICEF shipment of urgent medical supplies reached Yemen today and will benefit more than 500,000 people, mostly women and children, for the next three months.

UN Women [to 2 May 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[UN Women to address gender-based violence in the aftermath of the earthquake in Nepal](#)

UN flash appeal says USD 415 million is required to reach affected populations with life-saving assistance and protection in the next three months.

Date : 01 May 2015

...UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA and national women's groups will be working to support protection systems, to prevent and respond to violence and gender-based violence against children and women, particularly among displaced populations, and lead learning activities for school-aged children in safe spaces and providing psychosocial counselling services. UN Women and partners will also be providing multipurpose safe spaces for vulnerable women. In addition, UN Women will also be providing dignity kits for female-headed households and women with disabilities. Community outreach and information will be promoted in order to inform the communities of their rights and services available.

The Government of Nepal has identified 16 open spaces in the Kathmandu Valley as sites for displacement camps. The flash appeal says cramped situations and a lack of law and order may exacerbate the existing risks and vulnerabilities faced in particular by women and girls. Among the over 8 million affected people are approximately 126,000 pregnant women, 21,000 of whom will need obstetric care in the coming three months. Additionally, the appeal cautions that approximately 40,000 women are at immediate risk of sexual and gender-based violence. UN Women will specifically work to strengthen or establish survivor-centred multi-sectorial services and referral systems to respond to gender-based violence. It will also establish women's groups for the prevention of gender-based violence in the 16 camps, including training of facilitators, safety audits and regular meetings and monitoring. This work will also mobilize communities through gender-based violence prevention and awareness activities at the village level in 18 districts...

[Press release: New report from UN Women unveils far-reaching alternative policy agenda to transform economies and make gender equality a reality](#)

Date : April 27, 2015

A major report from UN Women, released today in seven locations globally, brings together human rights and economic policymaking to call for far-reaching changes to the global policy agenda that will transform economies and make women's rights, and equality, a reality. It takes an in-depth look at what the economy would look like if it truly worked for women, for the benefit of all.

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues [to 2 May 2015]

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

Fourteenth Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

20 April to 1 May 2015

UN Headquarters, New York

WHO & Regionals [to 2 May 2015]

Nepal

:: [Nepal's Ministry of Health puts a hold on foreign medical teams](#)

The Nepalese Ministry of Health has asked that any foreign medical teams ready to deploy to Nepal should please refrain from doing so. While the Ministry has expressed gratitude for all offers of assistance, they have advised that the need for foreign medical teams has already been met. Teams en route without a designated duty station will due to this be asked to turn away. All foreign medical teams on stand-by to assist Nepal's earthquake response should register with WHO and keep updated on the situation through WHO's homepage and the virtual On-site Operations Coordination Centre (OSSOC) website.

More information on Foreign Medical Teams

Visit the Virtual OSSOC website

Registration form for Foreign Medical Teams (FMTs)

:: [WHO mobilizes funds for long-term spinal cord treatment after Nepal earthquake](#)

2 May 2015 -- Among the estimated 14,000 injuries incurred as a result of the April 25 earthquake, which measured 7.8 on the Richter scale and has so far resulted in 6200 recorded fatalities, approximately 1 in 3 (or around 4700) will require follow-up rehabilitation treatment. Of this number, approximately 12% have damage to their spinal cord.

Read the news release

:: [WHO coordinating the health response to Nepal earthquake](#)

29 April 2015

:: [WHO sending in more medical supplies and assisting the arrival of foreign medical team support for earthquake-ravaged Nepal](#)

26 April 2015

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

:: [Sierra Leone wraps up four-day health and vaccination campaign](#) 1 May 2015

...WHO worked in close collaboration with the Sierra Leone government and partners, to plan and supervise the recent Maternal and Child Health Week national campaign. The campaign aimed to reach more than 1.5 million children under the age of 5, with life-saving immunizations. In addition, children's nutritional levels were measured, deworming tablets were administered and HIV testing was available for pregnant women and their partners...

:: [Americas region is declared the world's first to eliminate rubella](#)

April 2015-- The Americas region has become the first in the world to be declared free of endemic transmission of rubella, a contagious viral disease that can cause multiple birth defects as well as fetal death when contracted by women during pregnancy.

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

[Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus \(MERS-CoV\) – Saudi Arabia](#) 29 April 2015
[Meningococcal disease - Niger](#) 29 April 2015

:: **WHO Regional Offices**

WHO African Region AFRO

:: **[A new entity to accelerate the elimination of neglected tropical diseases in Africa](#)**

Johannesburg, 30 April 2015 - The World Health Organization is stepping up efforts to accelerate the elimination of neglected tropical diseases (NTD) in the African Region. Health experts, donors, development partners and affected countries have reached a consensus on the main components of the framework for establishing a new NTD entity. This entity will support and guide affected countries in the African region to accelerate the implementation of actions required to eliminate NTDs by 2020.

The WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti in her opening remarks underscored the need for a strong entity that will provide high quality technical support, and strengthen capacity of Member States to eliminate NTDs. Dr Moeti said, "The new NTD entity needs to be cost efficient, cross-cutting with other NTD interventions and with a stronger link with stakeholders and actors in order to achieve the set targets in 2020."

The WHO African Region faces a huge burden of neglected tropical diseases which affects millions of people who are impoverished. The region carries half of the global burden of NTDs. The move to establish a new entity arises from the current global and regional commitment from donors, pharmaceutical companies, countries and other partners to accelerate the elimination of NTDs.

The new NTD entity will also facilitate the smooth transition of technical support to affected countries as the African Programme for Onchocerciasis Control (APOC) closes on 31 December, 2015. APOC was established in 1995 to tackle river blindness. Over the past 20 years, the work of APOC has made commendable progress in tackling river blindness (Onchocerciasis) in most affected communities. The new entity focuses on the five diseases (elephantiasis, river blindness, trachoma, bilharzia and intestinal worms) that can be treated with mass drug administration. Its operations will build on the experience gained in recent years in tackling NTDs.

In her concluding comments, Dr Moeti thanked APOC for its contribution to tackling river blindness and expressed profound gratitude to Member States, donors, communities, non-governmental development organizations and the many WHO staff that contributed significantly to this achievement. The Regional Director promised to "follow up the NTD agenda and ensure that the new entity achieves the expected results by 2020."

:: **[1 in 5 children in Africa do not have access to life-saving vaccines - 28 April 2015](#)**

:: **[Humanitarian crisis in the Central African Republic: lack of funding threatens the free-access to healthcare -](#)**

WHO Region of the Americas PAHO

:: **[Americas region is declared the world's first to eliminate rubella](#)** (04/29/2015)

:: **[La Fundación Chespirito se unió a la OPS/OMS para celebrar la Semana de Vacunación en las Américas](#)** (04/28/2015)

:: **[13th annual Vaccination Week in the Americas kicks off in Ecuador](#)** (04/26/2015)

WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO

- :: [WHO works with partners to prevent diarrhoeal diseases](#) SEAR/PR/1597 30 April 2015
- :: [WHO, health partners striving to treat quake survivors in Nepal's remote regions](#) SEAR/PR/1596 29 April 2015
- :: [WHO coordinating the health response to Nepal earthquake; working to prevent spread of disease](#) 29 April 2015
- :: [WHO sending in more medical supplies and assisting the arrival of foreign medical team support for earthquake-ravaged Nepal](#) 27 April 2015

WHO European Region EURO

- :: [At least one in three Europeans can be exposed to asbestos at work and in the environment](#) 30-04-2015
- :: [Air pollution costs European economies US\\$ 1.6 trillion a year in diseases and deaths, new WHO study says](#) 28-04-2015
- :: [From the migration front line: interview with Lampedusa doctor](#) 27-04-2015

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO

- :: [WHO report finds systems to combat antibiotic resistance lacking](#) 29 April 2015
- :: [The future of nursing and midwifery in the Region](#) 29 April 2015
- :: [Closing the immunization gap in Afghanistan](#) 26 April 2015

WHO Western Pacific Region

- :: [Protect your community: Get vaccinated](#)

2015 – An estimated 1.5 million children worldwide die each year of diseases that can be readily prevented by vaccines. On World Immunization Week (24 April – 3 May), the World Health Organization (WHO) in the Western Pacific Region underscores the importance of immunization as a shared responsibility and a vital component in protecting communities.

[Read the news release](#)

[Read the Regional Director's message](#)

UNAIDS [to 2 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund [to 2 May 2015]

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

Press Release

[Tens of thousands of pregnant women affected by Nepal quake](#)

27 April 2015

...Responding to urgent needs

UNFPA is coordinating with the Government and humanitarian partners to respond to these needs. Emergency staff members are being deployed, and dignity kits and reproductive health kits are en route to Nepal.

"The Fund is particularly concerned about the fate of pregnant women who have been affected by this tragedy, including those who might face potentially life-threatening

complications,” said UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, in a statement on the disaster. “All efforts will be exerted to support their safety and the safety of their babies.”

UNDP United Nations Development Programme [to 2 May 2015]

01 May 2015

[Building Safely to Prevent Loss of Life](#)

Following the huge earthquake in Nepal, UNDP reports on efforts in the country to withstand future disasters.

30 Apr 2015

[UN and Government of Nepal launch 415 million dollar appeal for relief following earthquake](#)

The UN including the UN Development Programme and the Nepali Government made an appeal today for financial aid to provide urgent relief for people affected by the earthquake that struck Nepal Saturday morning.

[Regional cooperation, working with demand countries key to ending wildlife crime, say African nations](#)

Better coordinated intelligence and law enforcement, involving communities in Africa and working with transit and destination markets outside of the continent must be at the heart of all efforts to tackle the alarming illegal trade in wild flora and fauna, African States said at the closing of the International Conference on Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa.

30 Apr 2015

[Statement on Newsweek report on testimony from the U.S. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction \(SIGAR\)](#)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) strongly rejects Newsweek’s implication that it condones corrupt practices with regards to administration of the Law and Order Trust Fund of Afghanistan (LOTFA).

29 Apr 2015

[Congo Republic burns its entire stockpile of seized ivory](#)

The Government of Congo today incinerated nearly five tons of poached ivory, fuelled by seized timber, in a strong demonstration of Africa’s opposition to wildlife crime

27 Apr 2015

[Gina Casar: Speech at the Inaugural Session of "Tropical Landscapes Summit: A Global Investment Opportunity"](#)

Jakarta, Indonesia

[African leaders to develop common plan for stopping wildlife crime](#)

African Heads of State, government representatives and experts are gathering at the International Conference on Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa where they will develop a common roadmap to end wildlife trafficking on the continent.

[Speech for Youth Plenary "An Intergenerational Dialogue with the Custodians of the Future At Tropical Landscapes Summit: A Global Investment Opportunity"](#)

Jakarta, Indonesia

[EU and UNDP Discuss Global Development Challenges and Priorities](#)

The EC-UNDP partnership on electoral assistance has supported elections in over fifty countries by strengthening national capacities to carry out free and fair elections, and promoting women's participation as both voters and candidates.

UN Division for Sustainable Development [to 2 May 2015]

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

[New sustainability agenda must harmonize humankind's relationship with planet - UN General Assembly](#)

27 Apr 2015 - As United Nations Member States prepare to adopt and move toward implementing a new development agenda, the President of the General Assembly said it is critical to ensure that "a harmonious relationship with our planet underpins our quest to achieve sustainable development."...

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme [to 2 May 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[Regional Cooperation, Working with Demand Countries Key to Ending Wildlife Crime, Say African Nations](#)

At the closing of the International Conference on Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa. 30/04/2015

[Zambia's Forest Ecosystems Contribute \\$1.3 Billion to the National Economy, Higher than Previously Thought](#)

Economic Study Boosts Zambia's Efforts under its National REDD+ Process
28/04/2015

[New Handbook Explores How Trade Can Drive the Transition to a Green Economy](#)

Global Trade Reached US\$23.4 Trillion in 2013, Highlighting Financial Power that Could be Harnessed for Sustainable Development.
28/04/2015

[African Leaders to Develop Common Plan for Stopping Wildlife Crime](#)

Conference to seek advancement of Africa-wide strategy to tackle illegal trade in wild fauna and flora.

Brazzaville, 27 April 2015 - African Heads of State, government representatives and experts are gathering at the International Conference on Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa where they will develop a common roadmap to end wildlife trafficking on the continent.

Conference website

The Conference will seek to advance the first-ever Africa-wide strategy and action plan to tackle the illegal trade in wild fauna and flora, to be further considered at the next African Union Heads of State Summit later this year.

The four-day event is organised under the leadership of the Republic of Congo, in partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC), and with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the African Development Bank, the Lusaka Agreement Task Force and the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC), among others.

"Forests and wildlife are part of our common African heritage but are disappearing at an alarming pace," said His Excellency Denis Sassou Nguesso, the President of the Republic of Congo. "We have a duty to work together, as a continent, to safeguard our unique biodiversity for present and future generations and to craft strong collective solutions to address this calamity."

The value of wildlife crime, comprising fauna and flora, and including logging, poaching and trafficking of a wide range of animals, amounts to many hundreds of billions of US dollars a year, according to estimates of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNEP and INTERPOL...

[UN Offers to Provide Support to Victims of Nepal Earthquake](#)

United Nations humanitarian aid agencies and partners are currently mounting a large response.

27/04/2015

UN DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 2 May 2015]

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

[Securing resources for the future we want](#)

1 May 2015, New York

The Third International Conference on Financing for Development in July presents a unique opportunity to agree on a global plan to finance sustainable development, paving the way for a successful UN Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda and a universal agreement on climate later this year. As the countdown continues with a series of preparatory events, the global community is getting ready to invest ahead – for people and planet.

[Call to build forward-looking consensus to finance sustainable development](#)

1 May 2015, New York

"No region is better placed than Asia and the Pacific to shape the means of implementation for the post-2015 development agenda," Shamshad Akhtar, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) told a high-level meeting on sustainable development financing in Jakarta on 29 April.

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 2 May 2015]

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

30/04/2015

[Statement of the UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov on the use of the death penalty in Indonesia](#)

UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme [to 2 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

FAO Food & Agriculture Organization [to 2 May 2015]

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

[Nepal Earthquake's impact on food security and agriculture likely very high](#)

Some \$8 million is urgently needed to help disaster-struck Nepalese farmers rapidly recover lost agricultural inputs and resume preparations for the imminent rice sowing season, FAO said today.

30-04-2015

[Somalia registers record exports of 5 million livestock in 2014](#)

Somalia in 2014 exported a record 5 million livestock to markets in the Gulf of Arabia thanks to heavy investments in animal disease prevention backed by the European Union and United Kingdom, FAO said today.

29-04-2015

[Expected sharp fall in Southern African maize production raises food security concerns](#)

The fall is mostly due to the impact of erratic weather conditions, including the late start of seasonal rains in November/December, followed by heavy rains that caused flooding in parts of some countries, and then a long dry spell in the southern areas of the subregion during February and early March.

28-04-2015

[Platform for pastoralists aims to give a voice to millions](#)

Millions of pastoralists will benefit from a new online knowledge hub that will help them raise their voices in international policy debates and share valuable information to strengthen their agricultural livelihoods.

27-04-2015

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 2 May 2015]

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

[Official opening ceremony Expo Milano 2015](#)

"The UN is proud to be at EXPO Milano 2015 to highlight the cause of food security"

Milan, 29 April 2015 - Expo Milano 2015 will be hosted in Milan, Italy, between 1 May and 31 October 2015 with the theme "Feeding the Planet. Energy for Life". The UN Commissioner-General for Expo 2015, Mr Eduardo Rojas-Briales, will participate in the official opening of the Expo, along with the Commissioners-General of some 130 participating countries. The United Nations' participation at Expo 2015 provides a unique opportunity to build momentum around food-related issues. In this regard, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has designated the Rome-based agencies (FAO, IFAD and WFP), under the Director-General of FAO, to lead in the coordination of the 20 UN agencies participating at Expo...

ILO International Labour Organization [to 2 May 2015]

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

School to work transition

[Youth in Eastern Europe and Central Asia face multiple barriers in finding decent jobs](#)

28 April 2015

A new ILO report on the transition of young people from school to work in Eastern Europe and Central Asia shows a missed opportunity in absorbing a well-educated youth workforce.

Social Protection

[More than half of the global rural population excluded from health care](#)

27 April 2015

ILO report shows huge differences in health care access between rural and urban areas worldwide.

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization [to 2 May 2015]

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

Website unavailable.

IMO International Maritime Organization [to 2 May 2015]

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

[Plastic particles in the ocean may be as harmful as plastic bags, report says](#)

27/04/2015 Micro-plastics are increasingly being found in the oceans and may prove to be as harmful to marine life as more obvious, larger debris.

[Philippines domestic ferry conference urges action to improve safety](#)

27/04/2015 IMO Conference adopts guidelines to aid the process of reducing accidents by addressing whether a ship is fit for purpose in its intended role.

WMO World Meteorological Organization [to 2 May 2015]

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

[Seventeenth World Meteorological Congress, Geneva, Switzerland, 25 May – 12 June 2015](#)
[1 May 2015](#)

The World Meteorological Congress meets once every four years to determine policies and priorities for the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). It approves long-term plans and the budget, elects the President and Vice-Presidents of WMO and members of the Executive Council, and appoints the Secretary-General.

The Congress session takes place from Monday 25 May to Friday 12 June at the Geneva International Conference Centre. Plenary sessions are open to accredited media. Full agenda details and conference documents are available [here](#).

[Regional forum promotes aviation safety in Southeast Asia](#)

[29 April 2015](#)

Meteorological and aviation experts are meeting in Jakarta on 29-30 April to explore how to strengthen safety for air traffic in the region. The WMO Regional Forum on Meteorological Services for Aviation Safety in Southeast Asia aims to produce a recommendation into the roadmap for enhancing regional and national cooperation in a region that is experiencing the world's highest growth rates in air traffic.

This rapid expansion in aviation, which is driven by economic growth and tourism, requires that countries increase the provision of air navigation services. One such service is aviation meteorology, which faces specific challenges in Southeast Asia. In particular, the region's tropical weather features a high frequency of organized convective storms and tropical cyclones. There are also a large number of active volcanoes in the region that can disrupt air traffic by emitting smoke and ash.

Nepal Earthquake 29 April 2015

The Nepal Department of Hydrology and Meteorology is providing regularly updated weather forecasts on its website to support the growing international relief operation in the wake of the devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake on 25 April. Many staff have lost relatives and homes and are struggling to cope without electricity.

According to the Meteorological Forecasting Division of Nepal, operations are running relatively smoothly. Forecasts on the website are being updated on a regular basis and communicated to the media. State-run radio is providing weather information every two to three hours, and TV stations are regularly consulting the Department's website.

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 2 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNWTO World Tourism Organization [to 2 May 2015]

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

UNWTO expresses its full support for Kenyan tourism

29 April 2015 During a recent visit to Kenya, UNWTO Secretary-General, Taleb Rifai, expressed the organization's full confidence in the country's tourism sector and its capacity to recover (25 April 2015).

UNWTO deeply saddened by the tragic earthquake in Nepal

26 April 2015 UNWTO is deeply saddened by the tragic earthquake that struck Nepal on 25 April. On the behalf of the international tourism community, UNWTO conveys its heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of the victims, to the people and the government of Nepal in this moment of distress.

ITU International Telecommunications Union [to 2 May 2015]

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

Terrestrial and space services addressed at Niamey Radiocommunication seminar

Focus on future spectrum management in Africa region

Geneva, 27 April 2015 – The Regional Radiocommunication Seminar 2015 for Africa closed today in Niamey, Niger. The seminar was organized by ITU and the African Telecommunication Union (ATU) and hosted by the Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications et de la Poste (ARTP) of Niger as an important step in regional preparations for the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15) that will be held in Geneva, 2-27 November 2015.

"The Regional Radiocommunication Seminar in Niamey marks an important step in preparing for future decisions related to spectrum management in the region," noted ITU Secretary-General Houlin Zhao. "Held just two weeks after the conclusion of the second preparatory meeting for WRC-15, this seminar has helped focus attention on issues of regional concern, such as the digital dividend following the transition to digital broadcasting and emerging satellite technologies, such as the development of small satellite networks."...

[ITU deploys emergency communication equipment in Nepal](#)

Bid to coordinate relief efforts in aftermath of devastating earthquake

Geneva, 27 April 2015 – ITU has deployed emergency telecommunication equipment in Nepal following the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that hit the country on 25 April 2015. The emergency equipment includes 35 satellite mobile phones and 10 satellite Broadband Global Area Network terminals along with solar panels and laptops to support relief coordination efforts...

UNESCO [to 2 May 2015]

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/for-the-press/press-releases/27.04.15>

[World Press Freedom Day 2015: Let Journalism Thrive! Towards better reporting, gender equality and media safety in the digital age](#)

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization [to 2 May 2015]

<http://www.wipo.int/pressroom/en/>
No new digest content identified.

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity [to 2 May 2015]

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

Notifications

SCBD/SAM/DC/CS/BT/84611 (2015-048)

Notification to: CBD National Focal Points, SBSTTA Focal Points, and relevant international, regional and national organizations

[Submission of information related to sustainable use of biodiversity: bushmeat and sustainable wildlife management](#)

Action required by 2015-06-15

SCBD/TSI/RS/YX/LZ/84650 (2015-047)

Notification to: All National Focal Points under the Convention and its Protocols and relevant stakeholder organizations

[Online Forum on the Contribution of Collective Action of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to Biodiversity Conservation and Resource Mobilization, 1-15 May 2015](#)

.....

USAID [to 2 May 2015]

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

[Statement from Acting Administrator Alfonso E. Lenhardt on President Obama's Intent to Nominate Gayle Smith as USAID Administrator](#)

April 30, 2015

"I am pleased that President Obama has announced today his intent to nominate Gayle Smith as USAID Administrator. I know our entire USAID family will welcome Gayle to lead our Agency at this time of unprecedented need around the globe.

[USAID Announces Additional Assistance for Nepal Earthquake Response](#)

April 27, 2015

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced an additional \$9 million in assistance for the Nepal earthquake response and recovery efforts, bringing total USAID humanitarian funding to \$10 million. USAID has also activated search and rescue teams from Fairfax County, VA and Los Angeles County, CA as part of its Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART).

[Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review \(QDDR\) - 2015](#)

The 2015 QDDR builds on the foundation established by the 2010 QDDR to ensure that our civilian leadership pursues a process of persistent improvement. Secretary Kerry has asked for the 2015 QDDR to "be a blueprint for America's success in this new world," and "a product that guides a modern State Department and USAID and empowers our frontline diplomats and development professionals to get the job done."

Drawing on input from a broad range of internal and external stakeholders, the 2015 QDDR lays out a plan for fully applying American civilian power to advance U.S. national interests as articulated in the 2015 National Security Strategy, and improving the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of our work.

:: [Message from the Secretary of State \(please click here\)](#)

:: [Executive Summary of the 2015 QDDR \(please click here\)](#)

:: [FULL 2015 QDDR report \(please click here\)](#)

DFID [to 2 May 2015]

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

[More vital UK aid reaches Nepal](#)

Updated 2 May 2015

Press release

DFID, FCO and MOD

[Statement From Her Majesty's Ambassador to Nepal, John Rankin](#)

Published 2 May 2015

Press release

DFID, FCO and MOD

[UK aid to help meet emergency humanitarian needs in Yemen](#)

Published 27 April 2015

News story

DFID

[Declaration: London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade](#)

Updated 27 April 2015

Policy paper

Defra, DFID, FCO and Home Office

ECHO [to 2 May 2015]

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

["The challenge ahead of us is tremendous", says Commissioner Stylianides from Nepal](#)

01/05/2015

In a joint press conference in Kathmandu, EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides and UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos appealed to the international community to continue its support to the millions of Nepalese affected by Saturday's earthquake

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African Union [to 2 May 2015]

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

Apr.29.2015

[The African Union renews its appeal for dialogue and restraint in Burundi](#)

[Senegal validates the African Union's study on Business Processing Outsourcing BPO/ICT Services in Senegal](#)

Apr.28.2015

[The African Union Calls for Clemency for Foreign Nationals Convicted of Drug-Related Crimes in Indonesia](#)

Apr.27.2015

[International Conference on Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa, Palais des Congrès, Brazzaville, Congo](#)

[The African Union deeply concerned by the attacks on UNAMID peacekeepers](#)

[PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa Begins a Five-Day Humanitarian Assessment Mission to the Republic of Malawi](#)

Apr.26.2015

[Presidential Election in the Republic of Benin, 26 April 2015](#)

[AUC Chairperson Expresses Condolences to Nepal Victims](#)

The African Development Bank Group [to 2 May 2015]

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

[AfDB provides US \\$30 million budget support to basic social services delivery in Malawi](#)

30/04/2015 - The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank Group meeting in Abidjan, approved a US \$30-million sector budget support grant towards the protection of basic social services in Malawi.

[SEFA poised to foster private sector participation in renewable energy in Mozambique](#)

29/04/2015 - The Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA) has approved a USD 740,000 technical assistance grant to the Government of Mozambique to enhance the enabling environment for private investments in the country's promising renewable energy sector.

[North Africa: What impact does FDI have on the people?](#)

29/04/2015 - The African Development Bank has published a new report on North Africa entitled "Does Foreign Direct Investment Improve Welfare in North African Countries?" Supported by analysis and quantitative data, the report confirms the close links between foreign direct investment (FDI) and the quality of life for people in the six countries of the region (Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt). On the other hand, the picture differs from country to country.

[Fund for African Private Sector Assistance provides equity to Africlear Global to improve Securities Market Infrastructure in Africa](#)

27/04/2015 - The Fund for Africa Private Sector Assistance (FAPA) hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB) signed on March 5, 2015 in Abidjan a seed equity investment of US \$400,000 to Africlear Global. The goal of the investment is to enhance the efficiency of capital markets by supporting the modernisation of central securities depository infrastructure in African securities markets.

ASEAN [to 2 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]

[Condolence Message from the ASEAN Foreign Ministers on the Earthquake that Struck Nepal, India and Bangladesh](#)

Monday, 27 April 2015.

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 April 2015 - We, the Foreign Ministers of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) are deeply shocked and saddened by the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal as well as its surrounding neighbours, India and Bangladesh, on 25th April 2015.

[ASEAN Leaders Meet in Malaysia for the 26th ASEAN Summit](#)

Monday, 27 April 2015.

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 April 2015 – With Malaysia's symbol of prosperity - the iconic Petronas Twin Towers, as a backdrop, the Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will meet at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Center today for the opening of the 26th ASEAN Summit. Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak of Malaysia, ASEAN Chair for 2015, will be on hand to welcome his fellow Heads of State/Government for their annual meeting.

European Union [to 2 May 2015]

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

[Press release - Nigeria: MEPs call for international cooperation to stop Boko Haram](#)

External relations and foreign affairs | 30/04/2015 13:07 | European Parliament

[Statement by the Spokesperson on the latest series of executions in Indonesia](#)

External relations and foreign affairs | 29/04/2015 16:31 | European External Action Service (EEAS)

[Press release - Migration: Parliament calls for urgent measures to save lives](#)

Justice and citizens rights | 29/04/2015 15:02 | European Parliament

The EU should do everything possible to prevent further loss of life at sea, e.g. by expanding the mandate of "Triton" operation in the Mediterranean to include "search and rescue operations at EU level", says a resolution voted by Parliament on Wednesday. MEPs also call for a binding quota for distributing asylum seekers among all EU countries, bigger contributions to resettlement programmes, better cooperation with third countries and tougher measures against people smugglers.

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

[Nepal earthquake: the EU's emergency response](#)

29/04/2015 13:00 | European Commission

[Press release - €1 billion for Youth Employment Initiative in 2015](#)

Employment and social rights | 29/04/2015 12:33 | European Parliament

[EU proposes new Joint Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy](#)

European Commission - Press release

Brussels, 29 April 2015

Human rights will remain the compass in the EU's foreign policy and its relations with other institutions and civil society.

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

OECD [to 2 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]

[UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urges OECD countries to engage on development goals](#)

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today called on OECD governments to ensure that a series of major summits this year result in a new era of sustainable development.

28-April-2015

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) [to 2 May 2015]

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

[OIC and AU Sign MOU on Countering Terrorism in Africa](#)

The General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Commission of the African Union (AU) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to support and strengthen their partnership on countering terrorism and violent extremism in Africa.

30/04/2015

[Tenth COMIAC Session Ends its Proceedings, Calls for the Use of Social Media to Highlight Violations of the Israeli Occupation](#)

The OIC Standing Committee on Information and Culture (COMIAC) concluded its 10th Session themed: "The Role of Youth and Media for Peace and Stability in the Muslim World" in the Senegalese capital, Dakar, on Wednesday 29 April 2015...

29/04/2015

[OIC and China Stress Development of Strategic Relations](#)

The Organization of International Cooperation and the Peoples' Republic of China agreed on the importance of developing strategic relations between the two sides in various political, economic and cultural fields. This came up during an official visit to China by a high-level Delegation of the Organization, General Secretariat headed by the Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs Ambassador Abdullah Ibn Abdul Rahman Alim from 18 to 26 April 2015...

29/04/2015

[Tenth Session of COMIAC Begins in Dakar Addressing Stereotyping of Islam and Muslims Top its Agenda](#)

The tenth session of the OIC Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs under the theme "Role of the Youth and Media for Peace and Stability in the Muslim World" was inaugurated on Tuesday 28 April 2015 in the Senegalese capital, Dakar, by the President of Senegal and Chairman of COMIAC with the attendance of Ministers and senior officials of information and culture of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Member States...

29/04/2015

Group of 77 [to 2 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]

Intervention on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by Mr Mathlatshe Mminele, Deputy Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, at the [Interactive Dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature to Commemorate International Mother Earth Day \(New York, 27 April 2015\)](#)

UNCTAD [to 2 May 2015]

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

28 Apr 2015 - [UNCTAD publishes roadmap for sovereign debt workouts](#)

Français | [Español](#)

World Trade Organisation [to 2 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]

[LDCs urge movement on implementing Bali Decision on preferential rules of origin](#)

Least-developed countries (LDCs) took the floor at the 30 April meeting of the WTO's Committee on Rules of Origin to urge fellow members to move forward on implementing the December 2013 Bali Ministerial Decision on preferential rules of origin for LDCs. Members also agreed at the meeting to initiate an "educational exercise" to better understand the impact that national non-preferential rules of origin have on international trade.

[WTO and UNEP enhance dialogue on trade and environmental issues](#)

A flagship event on trade and environment marking the 20th anniversary of the WTO was held at WTO headquarters on 28 April 2015 with the participation of Director-General Roberto Azevêdo and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Mr Achim Steiner.

IMF [to 2 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]

No new digest content identified.

World Bank [to 2 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]

[Increasing Food Security in Eurasia and Beyond through Shared Knowledge and Expertise](#)

At the request of the Russian Government, the World Bank is providing technical assistance – through its Reimbursable Advisory Services – to help enhance the institutional capacity of the Eurasian Center for Food Security. This support includes helping the Center to articulate its vision, strategic development and overall mission – building primarily upon the needs of its four focus countries: Armenia, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. In addition, the World Bank is helping the Center to target partnerships and communities – through the development of a "knowledge center", enhancement of research capabilities, support for collaborative research and educational programs, facilitation of international and regional workshops and conferences, and the establishment and expansion of food security networks of academics, technical experts and policy makers...

Date: April 30, 2015

[World Bank Boosts Energy Supply to Support Regional Trade and Integration in West African Countries](#)

WASHINGTON, April 29, 2015 – The World Bank Group's Board of Directors today approved support for a regional transmission network to enable electricity trade among the western African countries of The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal. The US\$200 million IDA* credit will finance the construction of transmission lines to connect the electrical networks of the four countries and ground wires equipped with fiber optic cables to improve public communications. The cost of electricity generation in The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, and Senegal is very high as a result of the region's high dependence on expensive oil-based thermal generation. The Bank's support of the OMVG Interconnection Project will help countries in West

Africa to change the energy mix away from thermal generation by connecting them to more sustainable and cost-effective energy resources such as Guinea's 6,000 MW of hydropower potential....

Date: April 29, 2015

[Arab World Citizens Practicing Social Accountability for Improved Service Delivery](#)

AMMAN, April 29, 2015 – Representatives from civil society organizations, governments, private sector and the media from the Arab world shared experiences about utilizing various tools to promote citizen engagement in their countries and discussed the role of citizens in holding governments accountable. The two-day regional conference, Social Accountability in the Arab World: From Theory to Practice, was sponsored by the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability – Arab World (ANSA-AW) and CARE International - Egypt with funding from the World Bank. "The World Bank is keen on promoting a healthier citizen-state relationship and complimenting its support of service delivery by state actors with support for citizens to have a greater voice in defining their needs and in monitoring and providing feedback on the quality of services they are getting", said Sima Kanaan, World Bank Lead Social Development Specialist.

Date: April 29, 2015

[Africa: Benefits of Adapting Africa's Infrastructure to Climate Change Outweigh the Costs](#)

New report quantifies impacts of climate change on energy and water infrastructure, suggests adaptation options for investment plans, and provides suggestions to increase resilience now

WASHINGTON, DC, April 27, 2015—The impact of climate change on Africa's water and energy infrastructure will be costly, according to a new World Bank report, prepared in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and immediate action is needed to reduce these risks. Enhancing the Climate Resilience of Africa's Infrastructure quantifies the impacts of climate change on hydropower and irrigation infrastructure and identifies adaptation options as well as recommendations for increasing climate resilience. Understanding the causes, addressing the effects of climate change and building climate-resilient infrastructure are central to our efforts to end poverty in Africa," said Makhtar Diop, World Bank Vice President of the Africa Region.

Date: April 27, 2015

[World Bank Group Offers Help to Nepal After Devastating Earthquake](#)

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 26, 2015—The World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim today offered Nepal the Bank Group's immediate support to overcome the damage and loss of life after a devastating earthquake on Saturday. The Bank Group's support could address Nepal's financing needs or any other assistance required, including a loss and damage assessment, assistance for reconstruction efforts as well as mobilizing projects already on the ground to deal with the earthquake's effects. The Bank Group is also offering assistance to the Governments of India and Bangladesh where there are also some fatalities....

Date: April 26, 2015

* * * *

:: NGO/Collaborations/Initiatives Watch

We will monitor media releases and other announcements around key initiatives, new research and major organizational change from a growing number of global NGOs, collaborations, and initiatives across the human rights, humanitarian response and development spheres of action.

This Watch section is intended to be indicative, not exhaustive. We will not include fund raising announcement, programs or appeals.

Amref Health Africa [to 2 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Aravind Eye Care System [to 2 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

BRAC [to 2 May 2015]

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

[BRAC responds to Nepal Earthquake](#)

27 April 2015, New York.

BRAC, an organization with deep roots in nearby Bangladesh, is sending an emergency response team to Nepal to provide immediate assistance and long-term relief following the earthquake that to date has killed more than 3,000 people...From its headquarters in Dhaka, Bangladesh, BRAC is sending a team to Nepal to provide blankets, medical treatment, essential medicine and dry food to earthquake victims. BRAC is uniquely positioned to provide emergency support due to its proximity and experience...

[Medhabikash Education Summit 2015 held](#)

25 April 2015, Dhaka.

BRAC's Medhabikash scholarship programme is playing an important role in helping underprivileged students in reaching their potential, said experts at the Medhabikash Summit held in Savar today. Medhabikash helps meritorious students from financially disadvantaged families to pursue post-secondary level studies...

CARE International [to 2 May 2015]

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

[Nepal Earthquake: CARE to Distribute Shelter and Hygiene Kits to Survivors in Remote Areas](#)

NEPAL

28 APRIL 2015

International aid agency CARE plans to distribute emergency shelter and hygiene kits this week to nearly 2,500 vulnerable people impacted by the earthquake in Nepal. Distribution of 250 kits are planned Wednesday in Gorkha, a rural area near the epicenter where it's estimated that up to 80 percent of the homes are damaged.

[Yemen's INGO Steering Committee calls for an urgent end to all hostilities and full humanitarian access](#)

YEMEN

27 APRIL 2015

Fighting in Yemen is continuing despite Saudi Arabia's recent announcement of an end to military operations, a group of leading aid agencies has warned. The ongoing conflict is preventing humanitarian organisations from delivering life-saving assistance, the agencies say. *[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]*

Danish Refugee Council [to 2 May 2015]

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

[Conflict assessment in northern Kenya and Somaliland conducted by DDG](#) (29.04.15)

Danish Demining Group conducted in 2014 a conflict assessment in northern Kenya and eastern Somaliland, the findings of which suggest that the armed conflict is likely to increase significantly...

Casa Alianza [to 2 May 2015]

Covenant House [to 2 May 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

ECPAT [to 2 May 2015]

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

[ECPAT Members in Nepal](#)

Posted on 04/30/2015,

To our colleagues at ECPAT in Nepal, CWIN, Maiti Nepal, Shakti Samuha and ECPAT Luxembourg in Nepal: On behalf of ECPAT's global network our thoughts are with you during this time. We express our concern and condolences to all those in our Network who have ties to this region...

Fountain House [to 2 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Handicap International [to 2 May 2015]

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

[Nepal earthquake: Handicap International makes care for the injured the priority](#)

Posted on April 28, 2015 7:00 PM

The Nepal earthquake has injured thousands. Handicap International, present in Nepal since 2000, has bolstered its 50-person team with additional teams from abroad, and is expanding its initial response to begin case-managing the injured.

Heifer International [to 2 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

HelpAge International [to 2 May 2015]

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

[Nepal earthquake: Older people living alone or with young dependents are among most at risk](#)

HelpAge International warns that older people living alone or with young dependents are among the most at risk following Nepal's Earthquake as they may be unable to access essential items due to mobility problems.

...HelpAge International has an existing programme in Nepal and well-established local partners in the affected areas. HelpAge staff are developing relief distribution and cash transfer programmes targeted at older men and women so that they can buy essential items such as food and water....

Posted: 29 April 2015

International Rescue Committee [to 2 May 2015]

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

Press Releases

[The IRC Launches Crowd-Sourced Reviews and Ratings Site For Syrian Refugees in Lebanon](#)
Site Designed to Help Refugees Locate and Rate Basic and Commercial Service Providers

27 Apr 2015 - NEW YORK and BEIRUT, April 28, 2015 — The International Rescue Committee (IRC)... announced the launch of *IRC Service Info*, an online platform that will enable the more than 1 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon to search and rate aid and commercial services – ranging from healthcare to financial services and retail – online or over the phone.

Developed by the IRC and funded by a grant from the U.S. Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, the IRC's Service Info project aims to provide a solution to an information gap for transient refugees looking for local services. The site URL is

<https://serviceinfo.rescue.org/app/>.

"Too often, access to what can be life-saving services available to Syrian refugees in Lebanon is not understood, or even known about," said IRC president and CEO David Miliband. "That's why we have built IRC Service Info, to help inform refugees about the services available to them, and to improve those services by creating a feedback loop to service providers. This simple but powerful use of technology is a small building block in helping to create a semblance of normality for people whose lives have been shattered by the defining humanitarian crisis of this century."...

ICRC [to 2 May 2015]

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

[Yemen: Health system crippled, fuel shortage alarming](#)

News release

30 April 2015

After a month of airstrikes and fighting, Yemen's health system is struggling to cope and there are severe shortages of essential items especially food and fuel. Import restrictions have made the situation worse. The surgical team from the ICRC and all local staff and patients were forced to evacuate Aden's Al Jamhouria hospital when the building itself became a front line in the fighting.

[Central African Republic: Shortage of health centres and drinking water in Birao](#)

News release

30 April 2015

The town of Birao, with 10,000 residents, is suffering from its remote location in the north of the Central African Republic and receives little aid. In addition to experiencing long gaps in the provision of public services, residents face an influx of people displaced by the conflict.

[Afghanistan: Concern over growing number of civilian casualties](#)

News release

30 April 2015

The Director of Operations at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Dominik Stillhart, has expressed concern at the growing number of civilian casualties in the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan. He said this was especially troubling at a time when funding commitments to support humanitarian work in the country were decreasing.

[Philippines: Health facilities for Typhoon Haiyan survivors in Samar](#)

News release

28 April 2015

Manila (ICRC) – Eight health facilities damaged by Super Typhoon Haiyan in Eastern Samar and Samar provinces have been fully restored and handed over today to local health authorities. As many as 60,000 people from seven municipalities will have access to health services at these facilities.

[Detention: States discuss legal safeguards for detainees in non-international conflicts](#)

News release

27 April 2015

Geneva (ICRC) – With more and more of the world's conflicts taking place within countries rather than between them, representatives from more than 100 governments are meeting in Geneva from April 27-29 to try to discuss steps toward stronger legal protections for those detained during such conflicts

[ICRC says nuclear weapons are 'unacceptable risk' and must be scrapped](#)

News release

27 April 2015

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is calling on governments to take urgent action to scrap all nuclear weapons. The call comes ahead of a crucial UN-hosted conference in New York at the end of this month, which will review progress on curbing the spread of nuclear weapons and eliminating them from current arsenals.

IRCT [to 2 May 2015]

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

News

[IRCT provides UNCAT with recommendations on right to rehabilitation](#)

29 April 2015

As part of the 54th session of the UN Committee against Torture, the IRCT held an expert briefing and discussion on the right to rehabilitation for torture victims. The briefing aimed at

providing a venue for the Committee to examine practical examples of experiences and challenges in implementing the right to rehabilitation for torture victims. In 2012, the Committee had issued General Comment #3, in which it expressed its authoritative interpretation of the scope of the right to rehabilitation, and continues to enhance the promotion of this right throughout its work...

[Over 4,000 women and girls victims of torture supported by La Luz Fund in 2014](#)

29 April 2015

In 2014, with support of the La Luz Fund, 16 IRCT members treated more than 3,000 women and 1,200 children subjected to torture and sexual violence.

The La Luz Fund supports work aimed at women and girls who are oppressed or in danger of being victims of human rights abuses because they belong to a vulnerable group, whether it is based on belief, ethnicity, sexual orientation or other minority group status...

...The grants were distributed to centres in 14 countries, seeking to empower and heal female victims. Five centres in Sub-Saharan Africa received the largest portion of the grants, totalling €47,000, while four centres in Asia were granted a total of €42,620. Three centres in the MENA region received grants amounting to €26,000, and two centres in both Latin America and Europe were awarded a total of €17,000 and €11,992, respectively.

Victims received medical services tailored to their individual needs, including examinations, clinical tests and medicine, provided free of charge. Taking into account the different cultural contexts, the centres also provided psychological assistance, offering both individual and group counselling.

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières [to 2 May 2015]

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

Press releases

[Yemen: Population Flees Haradh as Attacks Continue](#)

April 27, 2015

SANA'A, YEMEN – At least 11 people have been killed and 67 injured since April 21 during constant airstrikes and shelling in Haradh district, northwestern Yemen, the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said today.

Field News

[Yemen: Crisis Update, April 27, 2015](#)

April 30, 2015

The conflict in Yemen currently has the country divided between the Houthi movement, supported by former president Saleh, which controls the north of the country (including the capital Sana'a) and continues its southward advance, and an anti-Houthi coalition based mainly in the South. President Hadi of the transitional government fled to Saudi Arabia in March.

[South Sudan: Perpetual Displacement as Conflict Continues](#)

April 27, 2015

Continuing violence in South Sudan's Upper Nile State is leading to more death and displacement, the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said today. Many of those affected are already

displaced and living in dire conditions. MSF calls on all parties to the South Sudanese conflict to allow for necessary humanitarian access to all parts of the country.

[MSF Sending More Medical and Relief Teams to Assist Victims of the Nepal Earthquake](#)

April 26, 2015

A 7.8-magnitude earthquake [shook the Kathmandu Valley before noon on Saturday, April 25](#). Although the full extent of the damage is still unknown, initial reports say houses and buildings collapsed in Kathmandu and surrounding areas. Tremors were also strongly felt in northern India, in the states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

[MSF Sending Medical, Non-Medical Teams to Assist Victims of Nepal Earthquake](#)

April 25, 2015

The international medical humanitarian medical organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is sending four teams of medical and non-medical staff to Nepal to assist those affected by the earthquake. The teams will leave from Bihar state in India, which is close to the border with Nepal and where MSF has been working since 2007. MSF will also send 3000 kits non-food items and medical kits to Nepal.

Mercy Corps [to 2 May 2015]

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

[Mercy Corps Welcomes Nomination of Gayle Smith to Head USAID](#)

April 30, 2015

Urges Congress to quickly confirm her as administrator

[Mercy Corps Prepares Emergency Response in Nepal](#)

Nepal, April 25, 2015

Thousands of casualties after massive quake

...With more than 90 dedicated team members in the country, Mercy Corps has worked in Nepal since 2006 to help communities achieve greater prosperity, improve food security, increase opportunities for youth and women, and prepare for stronger recovery from natural disasters. Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world, with about one-third of its citizens living below the national poverty line on less than \$0.25 per day. Another one-third lives on less than \$2 per day....

Operation Smile [to 2 May 2015]

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

Upcoming Mission Schedule [Home page]

April 27 - 30 | Dumaguete, Philippines

May 9 - 15 | Kolkata, India

May 11 - 15 | Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

May 11 - 15 | Hanoi, Vietnam

May 13 - 16 | Monagas, Maturin, Venezuela

May 15 - 22 | Esteli, Nicaragua

May 15 - 22 | Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua

May 15 - 22 | Managua, Nicaragua

OXFAM [to 2 May 2015]

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

[Oxfam trucks in aid to Nepal by land for the first time from India](#)

30 April 2015

Three trucks carrying tarpaulins, foam sheets, water containers, chlorine tablets and solar lamps have left Gorkhpur and another two have departed Kolkata with water filters and latrine construction materials.

[Airport bottleneck and fuel shortages hampering aid efforts in Nepal](#)

29 April 2015

A bottleneck of people and supplies at Nepal's Kathmandu airport combined with nationwide fuel shortages, blocked roads and difficult terrain is hampering the efforts of aid agencies and emergency services to reach earthquake survivors.

[40 years of exile: Sahrawi refugees abandoned by the international community](#)

28 April 2015

The Western Sahara harbors one of the longest standing but yet unknown humanitarian disasters in recent history. Today, marking 40 years since the start, the UN Security Council is about to discuss the stalemate.

[Oxfam to help at least 350,000 hit by Nepal earthquake](#)

27 April 2015

Oxfam today stepped up its relief effort to help an initial 350,000 people hit by the earthquake in Nepal, providing clean water, toilets and shelter to thousands of people.

[One month on, humanitarian situation in Yemen deteriorating, as conflict spirals out of control](#)

27 April 2015

One month into the crisis, Oxfam warns that power stations in Yemen are almost out of fuel, phone networks are suffering extensive damage, and the banking system is at a standstill. The escalation in violence has also damaged the water infrastructure leaving millions of Yemenis without clean water.

Partners In Health [to 2 May 2015]

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

Apr 28, 2015

[Back for Good: Clinicians Return to West Africa](#)

PATH [to 2 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Plan International [to 2 May 2015]

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

[Nepal 1 week on: Aid is getting through but major needs remain](#)

2 May 2015:

Vital emergency aid is getting through to isolated rural communities devastated by the Nepal earthquake - but major needs remain to meet the enormous demand for humanitarian relief.

[Nepal: Heavy rains worsen humanitarian situation](#)

29/04/2015

With heavy rain falling and cold temperatures, Plan International is racing to get shelter and aid to children in earthquake affected areas of Nepal.

[Nepal earthquake: Race to meet children's needs as monsoon looms](#)

27 April 2015

With the start of the monsoon season only a few weeks away, Plan International is racing to get shelter and aid to remote communities affected by the Nepal earthquake.

Save The Children [to 2 May 2015]

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

[260,000 Children Homeless in Nepal](#)

May 1, 2015

[Statement from Save the Children on the Nomination of Gayle Smith as USAID Administrator](#)

April 30, 2015

[Nearly Two Million Children Affected by Nepal Earthquake, as Save the Children Begins Aid Distribution](#)

April 27, 2015

SOS-Kinderdorf International [to 2 May 2015]

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

[At SOS Child Friendly Space Nepali children draw out earthquake trauma](#)

01.05.2015 - An SOS Child Friendly Space in Bhaktapur is giving Nepali children whose families have lost everything in the earthquake a safe haven in which to play, relax and express their trauma through drawing and other activities. More

[SOS Children's Village safe haven for earthquake victims](#)

29.04.2015 - More than one thousand residents of Jorpati outside Kathmandu in Nepal have found shelter in their local SOS Children's Village after last week's earthquake. More

[SOS Nepal emergency teams now active in four areas](#)

27.04.2015 - As many as one million Nepali children have been affected by the earthquake. SOS Children's Villages is running relief camps, providing food and shelter, and will soon open a first child friendly space. More

[Nepal earthquake relief underway at SOS villages](#)

26.04.2015 - SOS Children's Villages Nepal emergency relief teams have begun to help hundreds of people at two locations close to the earthquake's epicenter. More

Tostan [to 2 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Women for Women International [to 2 May 2015]

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

[Carrying Farkhunda's Coffin](#)

April 29, 2015 | BBC World Service

WfWI-Afghanistan's Frozan Marofi shares how she and other women came together to bury Farkhunda, the woman killed by a mob outside a shrine in Kabul last month, and to demand justice for her killing.

:::::

ChildFund Alliance [to 2 May 2015]

<http://childfundalliance.org/>

[ChildFund respond to help children after earthquake in Nepal](#)

ChildFund Alliance are responding to provide urgent care and protection for children who've lost homes and loved ones in the powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal on Saturday April 27th, 2015

...ChildFund, which has been working in Nepal for 20 years, is responding in Sindhupalchok district, one of the worst-affected areas. Initial reports from our partner staff estimate 80 per cent of mud houses in the communities have been destroyed. Children and families are now staying outdoors in freezing temperatures and need immediate assistance....

Disasters Emergency Committee [to 2 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.

EHLRA/R2HC [to 2 May 2015]

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

[A Game Changer: The Importance of Anthropology in Public Health Interventions.](#)

01.05.2015

"It really has been a game changer, in the past anthropology has been given a minor role in public health interventions...

END Fund [to 2 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

GAVI [to 2 May 2015]

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

Press Releases

28 April 2015

[More than two million Congolese children per year to be protected against polio](#)

Democratic Republic of Congo to introduce Inactivated Polio Vaccine with Gavi and partners' support.

Statements

30 April 2015

[Gavi's relationship with India](#)

Clarification from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

27 April 2015

[Gavi shocked and saddened by devastating Nepal earthquake](#)

Statement from Gavi CEO Dr Seth Berkley

Global Fund [to 2 May 2015]

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

27 April 2015

News Releases

[Global Fund Launches Human Rights Complaints Procedure](#)

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

27 April 2015

Announcements

[Global Fund Stands by the People of Nepal](#)

Hilton Prize Laureates Collaborative [to 2 May 2015]

<http://hiltonprizelaureatescollaborative.net/>

No new digest content identified.

ODI [to 2 May 2015]

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

[European Report on Development 2015: combining finance and policies to implement a transformative post-2015 development agenda](#)

Research reports and studies | May 2015

This report analyses the considerable changes in the Financing For Development landscape since the 2002 Monterrey Consensus.

[Failing Adolescents: Social Control, Political Economy & Human Development in post-war Sri Lanka](#)

resource | April 2015 | Sarala Emmanuel, Kusala Wettasinghe, Fiona Samuels, Sivaprashanthi Thambaiiah, Indrani Rajendran, Ananda Galappatti

Drawing on a study from two war-affected villages in Sri Lanka, this paper examines the multi-faceted challenges that adolescents face in communities attempting to retain and redefine boundaries, identities, and social and moral regulation in a post-war context.

[Do digital information and communications technologies increase the voice and influence of women and girls?](#)

Research reports and studies | April 2015 | Tam O'Neil and Clare Cummings

Part of two-year Learning and Evidence Project on Women's Voice and Leadership in Decision-Making, this rapid evidence review looks at interventions that aim to build women and girls' voice and influence through their use of digital information and communication...

[Support to women and girls' leadership: a rapid review of the evidence](#)

Research reports and studies | April 2015 | Tam O'Neil and Georgia Plank, with Pilar Domingo

Part of a two-year Learning and Evidence Project on Women's Voice and Leadership in Decision-Making, this rapid evidence review looks at interventions that aim to build women and/or girls' leadership.

The Sphere Project [to 2 May 2015]

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

[CHS indicators and guidance notes now available for testing and feedback](#)

30 April 2015 | Sphere Project

A draft set of indicators and guidance notes to help implement the Core Humanitarian Standard are now available. Humanitarian actors are invited to test and provide feedback on them before 30 June 2015

["Sphere opened up a new world to the humanitarian community in Iran"](#)

28 April 2015

The representative of the International Consortium for Refugees in Iran, Nazanin Kazemi has worked with refugees for nearly 16 years. In the following interview, she discusses the impact of Sphere principles and standards on the country's humanitarian community.

Start Network [to 2 May 2015]

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

[Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies]

No new digest content identified.

Muslim Charities Forum [to 2 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.]

[New Office](#)

27th April 2015

From Monday 27 April 2015, our new office will be in Southwark. All correspondence should be sent to the following address: Muslim Charities Forum 6 Whitehorse Mews 37 Westminster Bridge Road London, SE1 7QD Our new office phone number is 020 3096 1982

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Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) [to 2 May 2015]

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

WORTH A REREAD

[Responding to earthquakes 2008 - Learning from earthquake relief and recovery operations](#)

July 2008 :: 40pp Cosgrave, J

Full report

This paper summarises lessons from 30 years of humanitarian response to earthquakes. It assumes that readers are already familiar with the more general lessons in the aid sector, such as the key roles of needs assessment, effective coordination, accountability, and consultation with the affected population. The main intended audiences are operational decision-makers and relief programme managers working in the response to sudden-onset natural disasters.

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 2 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

:: **People In Aid** [to 2 May 2015]

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

[New case study: TPO Uganda's staff reward programme improves performance and builds relationships](#)

In 2013, TPO Uganda introduced a new staff reward programme, made up of gifts in kind, to reward outstanding quality of work throughout the year. The HR department also organised a skills-building activity programme that enabled staff to reduce stress through structured exercises, including effective team building, zumba dance and relay exercises.

(1 May 2015)

[Consultation on the CHS Guidance Notes and Indicators launched to support organisations implementing the standard](#)

The global consultation on the draft Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) Guidance Notes and Indicators has now been launched. All humanitarian and development actors are encouraged to give feedback on how this key resource is supporting them in applying the CHS.

(29 April 2015)

[New case study: GOAL reviews its HR policies and practices to ensure they are in line with international good practice](#)

With a mission to ensure the world's most vulnerable people have access to fundamental human rights, GOAL works in 16 countries and has a workforce of 3800. In this case study, GOAL shares the process it undertook to review its HR policies and practices to meet international good practice standards.

(29 April 2015)

[Is performance management killing our business?](#)

Ann Start, People In Aid consultant and former board member, discusses how to improve personal and organisational achievement by transforming the performance management process.

(28 April 2015)

[New case study: ActionAid Denmark shares its measures to address stress in the workplace](#)

This case study describes how ActionAid Denmark reduced cases of stress-related workplace absence by introducing a stress management programme based on a Job Satisfaction policy.

(27 April 2015)

InterAction

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

No new digest content identified.

Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP) [to 2 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 2 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Clinton Foundation [to 2 May 2015]

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

Press Release

[UPDATED ADVISORY: President Clinton and Chelsea Clinton to Visit Clinton Foundation Projects in Africa April 29 – May 7](#)

April 24, 2015

Trip will highlight Clinton Foundation work and impact in economic growth and development, climate change, empowerment of women & girls, health and conservation

Ford Foundation [to 2 May 2015]

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

29 April 2015

[Foundation announces support for disaster relief and recovery in Nepal](#)

The grants will support both immediate relief and strengthen Nepali organizations that will be critical to longer-term recovery.

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation [to 2 May 2015]

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

[Hewlett Foundation, Getty Images Announce New Photography Resource on Women's Empowerment in Africa](#)

Apr 27, 2015

Press Release

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation [to 2 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Kellogg Foundation [to 2 May 2015]

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

[Statement of Support: Including sustainable agriculture and water in the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#)

April 27, 2015

W.K. Kellogg Foundation President and CEO La June Montgomery Tabron issues statement on 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans

MacArthur Foundation [to 2 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Open Society Foundation [to 2 May 2015]

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

[European Commission Targets Slovakia over Roma School Discrimination](#)

April 29, 2015 News

The Open Society Foundations applauded the European Commission's decision to initiate infringement proceedings against the Slovak Republic for breaching European Union (EU) anti-discrimination legislation.

[New Independent Panel will Monitor Election of Inter-American Human Rights Commissioners and Judges](#)

April 29, 2015 News

In a move to support and strengthen human rights in the Americas, a panel of five independent experts will monitor the forthcoming election of new members to the region's human rights commission and court.

[Español](#) [Português](#)

David and Lucile Packard Foundation [to 2 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Pew Charitable Trusts

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

No new digest content identified.

Rockefeller Foundation [to 2 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [to 2 May 2015]

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

[Babies Born Just Miles Apart in Cities Across the U.S. Face Large Gaps in Life Expectancy](#)

April 29, 2015

Resources aim to raise awareness of factors that shape health and spur action. Maps illustrate that babies born just miles apart face large gaps in life expectancy.

Skoll Foundation [to 2 May 2015]

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

[Putin to Meet with The Elders](#)

April 28, 2015 by [Alison Gilbert](#)

Russian President Vladimir Putin is scheduled to meet with representatives of [The Elders](#) on April 29, 2015. The Elders is an independent group of political and public leaders who have previously held top positions in their respective countries and international organizations. Skoll Foundation Founder Jeff Skoll and President and CEO Sally Osberg sit on its Advisory Council.

Wellcome Trust [to 2 May 2015]

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

[Wellcome Trust Researchers elected as Royal Society Fellows](#)

Seven members of the Wellcome Trust community, including Director Jeremy Farrar, have today been elected Fellows of the Royal Society.

1 May 2015

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:: Journal Watch

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

American Journal of Disaster Medicine

Vol. 9, No. 3–Summer 2014

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Infection Control

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

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

Cleaning and disinfecting environmental surfaces in health care: Toward an integrated framework for infection and occupational illness prevention

Margaret M. Quinn, Paul K. Henneberger, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Cleaning and Disinfecting in Healthcare Working Group

p424–434

Published online: March 17, 2015

Open Access

Preview

The Cleaning and Disinfecting in Healthcare Working Group of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, National Occupational Research Agenda, is a collaboration of infection prevention and occupational health researchers and practitioners with the objective of providing a more integrated approach to effective environmental surface cleaning and disinfection (C&D) while protecting the respiratory health of health care personnel.

Planning and response to Ebola virus disease: An integrated approach

Philip W. Smith, Kathleen C. Boulter, Angela L. Hewlett, Christopher J. Kratochvil, Elizabeth J. Beam, Shawn G. Gibbs, John-Martin J. Lowe, Michelle M. Schwedhelm

p441–446

Preview

The care of patients with Ebola virus disease (EVD) requires the application of critical care medicine principles under conditions of stringent infection control precautions. The care of patients with EVD requires a number of elements in terms of physical layout, personal protective apparel, and other equipment. Provision of care is demanding in terms of depth of staff and training. The key to safely providing such care is a system that brings many valuable skills to the table, and allows communication between these individuals.

Influenza vaccination uptake and its socioeconomic determinants in the older adult Iranian population: A national study

Parisa Taheri Tanjani, Mehran Babanejad, Farid Najafi
e1–e5

Published online: March 20, 2015

Preview

The relationship between socioeconomic status and influenza vaccine uptake has a different pattern in different societies. The objective of this study was to assess the socioeconomic factors influencing influenza vaccination uptake in the older adult Iranian population.

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

April 2015; 92 (4)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

BMC Health Services Research

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

(Accessed 2 May 2015)

Research article

Workforce interventions to improve access to emergency contraception pills: a systematic review of current evidence in low- and middle-income countries and recommendations for improving performance

Angela Dawson, Nguyen-Toan Tran, Elizabeth Westley, Viviana Mangiaterra, Mario Festin
BMC Health Services Research 2015, 15:180 (26 April 2015)

Research article

HIV service delivery models towards 'Zero AIDS-related Deaths': a collaborative case study of 6 Asia and Pacific countries

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

BMC Infectious Diseases

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

(Accessed 2 May 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Medical Ethics

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

(Accessed 2 May 2015)

Research article

[Clinical trialist perspectives on the ethics of adaptive clinical trials: a mixed-methods analysis](#)

Laurie J Legocki, William J Meurer, Shirley Frederiksen, Roger J Lewis, Valerie L Durkalski, Donald A Berry, William G Barsan, Michael D Fetters BMC Medical Ethics 2015, 16:27 (3 May 2015)

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

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

(Accessed 2 May 2015)

Research article

[Impact of a community-based perinatal and newborn preventive care package on perinatal and neonatal mortality in a remote mountainous district in Northern Pakistan](#)

Zahid A Memon, Gul N Khan, Sajid B Soofi, Imam Y Baig, Zulfiqar A Bhutta BMC Pregnancy & Childbirth 2015, 15:106 (30 April 2015)

Research article

[Effect of an integrated maternal health intervention on skilled provider's care for maternal health in remote rural areas of Bangladesh: a pre and post study](#)

Nafisa Huq, Anisuddin Ahmed, Nafis Haque, Moyazzam Hossaine, Jamal Uddin, Faisal Ahmed, MA Quaiyum BMC Pregnancy & Childbirth 2015, 15:104 (28 April 2015)

BMC Public Health

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

(Accessed 2 May 2015)

Research article

[Factors associated with appropriate home management of uncomplicated malaria in children in Kassena-Nankana district of Ghana and implications for community case management of childhood illness: a cross-sectional study](#)

Soter Ameh, Paul Welaga, Caroline W Kabiru, Wilfred Ndifon, Bassey Ikpeme, Emmanuel Nsan, Angela Oyo-Ita BMC Public Health 2015, 15:458 (2 May 2015)

Research article

[Current state and trends of access to sanitation in Ethiopia and the need to revise indicators to monitor progress in the Post-2015 era](#)

Abebe Beyene, Tamene Hailu, Kebede Faris, Helmut Kloos BMC Public Health 2015, 15:451 (2 May 2015)

Research article

Factors associated with stunting among children according to the level of food insecurity in the household: a cross-sectional study in a rural community of Southeastern Kenya

Chisa Shinsugi, Masaki Matsumura, Mohamed Karama, Junichi Tanaka, Mwatasa Changoma, Satoshi Kaneko

BMC Public Health 2015, 15:441 (30 April 2015)

Research article

Adherence to multiple micronutrient powder among young children in rural Bangladesh: a cross-sectional study

Mirak Angdembe, Nuzhat Choudhury, Mohammad Haque, Tahmeed Ahmed

BMC Public Health 2015, 15:440 (30 April 2015)

Research article

The feasibility of community mobilisation for child injury prevention in rural Nepal: a programme for female community health volunteers

Puspa Pant, Bharat Budhathoki, Matthew Ellis, Dharma Manandhar, Toity Deave, Julie Mytton

BMC Public Health 2015, 15:430 (28 April 2015)

Research article

Knowledge and attitude towards rape and child sexual abuse – a community-based cross-sectional study in Rural Tanzania

Muzdalifat Abeid, Projestine Muganyizi, Siriel Massawe, Rose Mpembeni, Elisabeth Darj, Pia Axemo

BMC Public Health 2015, 15:428 (28 April 2015)

BMC Research Notes

(Accessed 2 May 2015)

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

Research article

Palliative care in South Asia: a systematic review of the evidence for care models, interventions, and outcomes

Taranjit Singh, Richard Harding BMC Research Notes 2015, 8:172 (30 April 2015)

Research article

Uptake of influenza vaccination in pregnancy amongst Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women: a mixed-methods pilot study

Kerry-Ann F O'Grady, Melissa Dunbar, Linda G Medlin, Kerry K Hall, Maree Toombs, Judith Meiklejohn, Lisa McHugh, Peter D Massey, Amy Creighton, Ross M Andrews BMC Research Notes 2015,

Abstract (provisional)

Background

Influenza infection during pregnancy causes significant morbidity and mortality. Immunisation against influenza is recommended during pregnancy in several countries however, there are limited data on vaccine uptake, and the determinants of vaccination, in pregnant Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Islander women. This study aimed to collect pilot data on vaccine uptake and attitudes towards, and perceptions of, maternal influenza vaccination in this population in order to inform the development of larger studies.

Methods

A mixed-methods study comprised of a cross-sectional survey and yarning circles (focus groups) amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women attending two primary health care services. The women were between 28 weeks gestation and less than 16 weeks post-birth. These data were supplemented by data collected in an ongoing national Australian study of maternal influenza vaccination. Aboriginal research officers collected community data and data from the yarning circles which were based on a narrative enquiry framework. Descriptive statistics were used to analyse quantitative data and thematic analyses were applied to qualitative data.

Results

Quantitative data were available for 53 women and seven of these women participated in the yarning circles. The proportion of women who reported receipt of an influenza vaccine during their pregnancy was 9/53. Less than half of the participants (21/53) reported they had been offered the vaccine in pregnancy. Forty-three percent reported they would get a vaccine if they became pregnant again. Qualitative data suggested perceived benefits to themselves and their infants were important factors in the decision to be vaccinated but there was insufficient information available to women to make that choice.

Conclusions

The rates of influenza immunisation may continue to remain low for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander women during pregnancy. Access to services and recommendations by a health care worker may be factors in the lower rates. Our findings support the need for larger studies directed at monitoring and understanding the determinants of maternal influenza vaccine uptake during pregnancy in Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. This research will best be achieved using methods that account for the social and cultural contexts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Australia.

British Medical Journal

02 May 2015(vol 350, issue 8006)

<http://www.bmj.com/content/350/8006>

[No relevant content identified]

Brown Journal of World Affairs

Volume XXI Issue 1 Fall–Winter 2014

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Bulletin of the World Health Organization

Volume 93, Number 5, May 2015, 285-360

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/93/5/en/>

EDITORIALS

[Knowledge for effective action to improve the health of women, children and adolescents in the post-2015 era: a call for papers](#)

Flavia Bustreo & Robin Gorna

doi: 10.2471/BLT.15.156521

Research

Surveys of measles vaccination coverage in eastern and southern Africa: a review of quality and methods used

Reinhard Kaiser, Messeret E Shibeshi, Jethro M Chakauya, Emelda Dzeka, Balcha G Masresha, Fussum Daniel & Nestor Shivute

Abstract

Objective

To assess the methods used in the evaluation of measles vaccination coverage, identify quality concerns and provide recommendations for improvement.

Methods

We reviewed surveys that were conducted to evaluate supplementary measles immunization activities in eastern and southern Africa during 2012 and 2013. We investigated the organization(s) undertaking each survey, survey design, sample size, the numbers of study clusters and children per study cluster, recording of immunizations and methods of analysis. We documented sampling methods at the level of clusters, households and individual children. We also assessed the length of training for field teams at national and regional levels, the composition of teams and the supervision provided.

Findings

The surveys were conducted in Comoros, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Of the 13 reports we reviewed, there were weaknesses in 10 of them for ethical clearance, 9 for sample size calculation, 6 for sampling methods, 12 for training structures, 13 for supervision structures and 11 for data analysis.

Conclusion

We recommend improvements in the documentation of routine and supplementary immunization, via home-based vaccination cards or other records. For surveys conducted after supplementary immunization, a standard protocol is required. Finally, we recommend that standards be developed for report templates and for the technical review of protocols and reports. This would ensure that the results of vaccination coverage surveys are accurate, comparable, reliable and valuable for programme improvement.

Research

A multimedia consent tool for research participants in the Gambia: a randomized controlled trial

Muhammed Olanrewaju Afolabi, Nuala McGrath, Umberto D'Alessandro, Beate Kampmann, Egeruan B Imoukhuede, Raffaella M Ravinetto, Neal Alexander, Heidi J Larson, Daniel Chandramohan & Kalifa Bojang

Abstract

Objective

To assess the effectiveness of a multimedia informed consent tool for adults participating in a clinical trial in the Gambia.

Methods

Adults eligible for inclusion in a malaria treatment trial (n = 311) were randomized to receive information needed for informed consent using either a multimedia tool (intervention arm) or a standard procedure (control arm). A computerized, audio questionnaire was used to assess participants' comprehension of informed consent. This was done immediately after consent had been obtained (at day 0) and at subsequent follow-up visits (days 7, 14, 21 and 28). The acceptability and ease of use of the multimedia tool were assessed in focus groups.

Findings

On day 0, the median comprehension score in the intervention arm was 64% compared with 40% in the control arm ($P = 0.042$). The difference remained significant at all follow-up visits. Poorer comprehension was independently associated with female sex (odds ratio, OR: 0.29; 95% confidence interval, CI: 0.12–0.70) and residing in Jahaly rather than Basse province (OR: 0.33; 95% CI: 0.13–0.82). There was no significant independent association with educational level. The risk that a participant's comprehension score would drop to half of the initial value was lower in the intervention arm (hazard ratio 0.22, 95% CI: 0.16–0.31). Overall, 70% (42/60) of focus group participants from the intervention arm found the multimedia tool clear and easy to understand.

Conclusion

A multimedia informed consent tool significantly improved comprehension and retention of consent information by research participants with low levels of literacy.

Systematic Reviews

Strategies to increase the demand for childhood vaccination in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Mira Johri, Myriam Cielo Pérez, Catherine Arsenault, Jitendar K Sharma, Nitika Pant Pai, Smriti Pahwa & Marie-Pierre Sylvestre

Abstract

Objective

To investigate which strategies to increase demand for vaccination are effective in increasing child vaccine coverage in low- and middle-income countries.

Methods

We searched MEDLINE, EMBASE, Cochrane library, POPLINE, ECONLIT, CINAHL, LILACS, BDSP, Web of Science and Scopus databases for relevant studies, published in English, French, German, Hindi, Portuguese and Spanish up to 25 March 2014. We included studies of interventions intended to increase demand for routine childhood vaccination. Studies were eligible if conducted in low- and middle-income countries and employing a randomized controlled trial, non-randomized controlled trial, controlled before-and-after or interrupted time series design. We estimated risk of bias using Cochrane collaboration guidelines and performed random-effects meta-analysis.

Findings

We identified 11 studies comprising four randomized controlled trials, six cluster randomized controlled trials and one controlled before-and-after study published in English between 1996 and 2013. Participants were generally parents of young children exposed to an eligible intervention. Six studies demonstrated low risk of bias and five studies had moderate to high risk of bias. We conducted a pooled analysis considering all 11 studies, with data from 11 512 participants. Demand-side interventions were associated with significantly higher receipt of vaccines, relative risk (RR): 1.30, (95% confidence interval, CI: 1.17–1.44). Subgroup analyses also demonstrated significant effects of seven education and knowledge translation studies, RR: 1.40 (95% CI: 1.20–1.63) and of four studies which used incentives, RR: 1.28 (95% CI: 1.12–1.45).

Conclusion

Demand-side interventions lead to significant gains in child vaccination coverage in low- and middle-income countries. Educational approaches and use of incentives were both effective strategies.

Chronicle of Philanthropy

April 1, 2015 Volume 27, Issue 8
<https://philanthropy.com/issue>
[New journal addition]

Complexity

March/April 2015 Volume 20, Issue 4 Pages C1–C1, 1–80
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/cplx.v20.4/issuetoc>
[Reviewed earlier]

Conflict and Health

[Accessed 2 May 2015]
<http://www.conflictandhealth.com/>

Case study

Diabetes in an emergency context: the Malian case study

Besançon S, Fall IS, Doré M, Sidibé A, Hagon O, Chappuis F and Beran D Conflict and Health 2015, 9:15 (1 May 2015)

Abstract

Background

The World Health Organization proposes 6 building blocks for health systems. These are vulnerable to challenges in many contexts. Findings from a 2004 assessment of the health system in Mali for diabetes care found many barriers were present for the management and care of this condition. Following this assessment different projects to strengthen the healthcare system for people living with diabetes were undertaken by a local NGO, Santé Diabète.

Case description

In March 2012, following a Coup in Bamako, the northern part of Mali was occupied and cut-off from the rest of the country. This had a major impact on the health system throughout the country. Due to the lack of response by humanitarian actors, Santé Diabète in close collaboration with other local stakeholders developed a humanitarian response for patients with diabetes. This response included evacuation of children with Type 1 diabetes from northern regions to Bamako; supplies of medicines and tools for management of diabetes; and support to people with diabetes who moved from the north to the south of the country.

Discussion

It has been argued that diabetes is a good tracer for health systems and based on Santé Diabète's experience in Mali, diabetes could also be used as a tracer in the context of emergencies. One lesson from this experience is that although people with diabetes should be included as a vulnerable part of the population they are not considered as such. Also within a complex emergency different "diabetes populations" may exist with different needs requiring tailored responses, such as internally displaced people versus those still in conflict areas. From Santé Diabète's perspective, the challenge was changing the ways it operated from a development NGO to an emergency NGO. In this role it could rely on its knowledge of the local situation and its function as part of the post-conflict situation.

Conclusion

The lessons learnt from this experience by Santé Diabète in Mali may be useful for other NGOs and the humanitarian response in general in addressing the challenge of managing non communicable diseases and diabetes in conflict and disaster situations in countries with weak health systems.

Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation

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

(Accessed 2 May 2015)

Commentary

Health care: the challenge to deal with uncertainty and value judgment

Marcos Bosi Ferraz

Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation 2015, 13:8 (1 May 2015)

Abstract (provisional)

The exponential increase of knowledge in the life sciences field, more specifically in health sciences, in the past few years has brought additional levels of complexity when deciding and implementing strategies in the health care system. A predominantly paternalistic way to decide about available options to maintain or improve individual or collective health has been moving to a shared-decision model considering the empowered patient. In spite of the reduction of uncertainty when making health and health care decisions due to the advancement in scientific methods, and, in spite of the asymmetry of information, knowledge and power to make decisions, we are progressively recognizing the importance of individuals, the target of the intervention, to express their preferences and to take an active role in the decision making process. Health care stakeholders, recognizing the scarcity of resources available and the fortunate ever increasing amount of applicable knowledge and its corresponding interventions to improve the population quantity and quality of life, should stimulate society to address and discuss health care issues that will guide critical choices and define health care priorities based mostly on judgment and the best evidence available.

Research

Cost-effectiveness of live oral attenuated human rotavirus vaccine in Tanzania

Ruhago GM, Ngalesoni FN, Robberstad B and Norheim OF Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation 2015, 13:7 (28 April 2015)

Abstract (provisional)

Background

Globally, diarrhoea is the second leading cause of morbidity and mortality, responsible for the annual loss of about 10% of the total global childhood disease burden. In Tanzania, Rotavirus infection is the major cause of severe diarrhoea and diarrhoeal mortality in children under five years. Immunisation can reduce the burden, and Tanzania added rotavirus vaccine to its national immunisation programme in January 2013. This study explores the cost effectiveness of introducing rotavirus vaccine within the Tanzania Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI).

Methods

We quantified all health system implementation costs, including programme costs, to calculate the cost effectiveness of adding rotavirus immunisation to EPI and the existing provision of diarrhoea treatment (oral rehydration salts and intravenous fluids) to children. We used ingredients and step down costing methods. Cost and coverage data were collected in 2012 at one urban and one rural district hospital and a health centre in Tanzania. We used Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) as the outcome measure and estimated incremental costs and health outcomes using a Markov transition model with weekly cycles up to a five-year time horizon.

Results

The average unit cost per vaccine dose at 93% coverage is US\$ 8.4, with marked difference between the urban facility US\$ 5.2; and the rural facility US\$ 9.8. RV1 vaccine added to current diarrhoea treatment is highly cost effective compared to diarrhoea treatment given alone, with incremental cost effectiveness ratio of US\$ 112 per DALY averted, varying from US\$ 80–218 in sensitivity analysis. The intervention approaches a 100% probability of being cost effective at a much lower level of willingness-to-pay than the US\$609 per capita Tanzania gross domestic product (GDP).

Conclusions

The combination of rotavirus immunisation with diarrhoea treatment is likely to be cost effective when willingness to pay for health is higher than USD 112 per DALY. Universal coverage of the vaccine will accelerate progress towards achievement of the child health Millennium Development Goals.

Developing World Bioethics

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Development in Practice

Volume 25, Issue 4, 2015

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

[Increasing access to rural maternal health services in Zambia through demand-side interventions](#)

Cathy Green, Miniratu Soyoola, Mary Surridge, Abdul Razak Badru, Dynes Kaluba, Paula Quigley & Tendayi Kureya

pages 450-464

DOI:10.1080/09614524.2015.1027148

Published online: 24 Apr 2015

Abstract

This paper examines a demand-side intervention that significantly increased access to maternal health services in rural Zambia in a context where skilled birth attendance rates had been stagnant for over two decades. Aspects of the intervention design that were crucial to the programme's success were the participatory and adult learning-centred approach used to mobilise intervention communities, the use of a community volunteer model, and the design's sensitivity and responsiveness to underlying social factors and problems. The demand-side intervention is already being scaled up in six districts, and is highly suitable for national level scale-up.

[Co-producing a post-trafficking agenda: collaborating on transforming citizenship in Nepal](#)

Open access

DOI:10.1080/09614524.2015.1029436

Nina Laurie*, Diane Richardson, Meena Poudel, Shakti Samuha & Janet Townsend

pages 465-477

Published online: 24 Apr 2015

Abstract

This article discusses how a new agenda on post-trafficking is gaining momentum through academic and activist anti-trafficking collaborations focused on co-producing knowledge with women who have returned from trafficking situations. Co-production of this nature is important as the issues raised by post-trafficking scenarios are largely ignored in anti-trafficking strategies, and the stigmatisation and poverty which women in these circumstances encounter means they rarely have a voice in policy-making. Drawing on research in Nepal, we present four types of co-produced data around transforming citizenship post-trafficking, and reflect on the strategies for generating and using them for advocacy purposes.

Farmer-to-farmer extension: opportunities for enhancing performance of volunteer farmer trainers in Kenya

DOI:10.1080/09614524.2015.1029438

Evelyn Kiptot* & Steven Franzel

pages 503-517

Published online: 24 Apr 2015

Abstract

Farmer-to-farmer extension (FFE) is playing a complementary role to formal extension services in facilitating the spread of agricultural technologies and improving farmers' capacities. The effectiveness and sustainability of such programmes depend on volunteer farmer trainers (VFTs) having technical skills and overcoming process-related challenges that hinder them from achieving the desired outcomes. This article uses quantitative and qualitative data collected from seven sites to explore the challenges experienced by VFTs as they share their knowledge on livestock feed innovations in a dairy development project in Kenya. Sustainable opportunities for enhancing VFTs' performance are discussed.

Intersection of disability and gender: multi-layered experiences of Ethiopian women with disabilities

DOI:10.1080/09614524.2015.1031085

Hisayo Katsui* & Mina C. Mojtahedi

pages 563-573

Published online: 24 Apr 2015

Abstract

This article explores the intersection of disability and gender through the experiences of Ethiopian women with disabilities using household chores as an example. As these women are often hidden at home, little literature is available on them. Thus this article aims to highlight the lived experiences of women with disabilities who are or have been at home. The interviewed women introduce peer support as an important means to increase their self-esteem and face stigma in their daily lives in a positive manner through dialogue and negotiation. The paper further suggests employing women with disabilities as a means to enable them to play a significant role in development cooperation by changing the status quo towards equality.

Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology

Volume 10, Number 3 (May 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness

Volume 9 - Issue 02 - April 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Disasters

April 2015 Volume 39, Issue 2 Pages 185–405

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Emergency Medicine Journal

April 2015, Volume 32, Issue 4

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Epidemics

Volume 11, *In Progress* (June 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

End of Life Journal

2015, Volume 5, Issue 1

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

[No relevant content identified]

Epidemiology and Infection

Volume 143 - Issue 07 - May 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

The European Journal of Public Health

Volume 25, Issue 2, 01 April 2015

<http://eurpub.oxfordjournals.org/content/25/2>

[Reviewed earlier]

Food Policy

Volume 53, *In Progress* (May 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Food Security

Volume 7, Issue 2, April 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/12571/7/2/page/1>

Feeding More than 9 Billion by 2050: Challenges and Opportunities

[Reviewed earlier]

Forum for Development Studies

Volume 42, Issue 1, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Genocide Studies International

Volume 9, Number 1 /2015

<http://utpjournals.metapress.com/content/h3k3l734429m/?p=19a75d15156f4f52825de2a49ee054d1&pi=0>

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Global Health: Science and Practice (GHSP)

March 2015 | Volume 3 | Issue 1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Global Health Governance

<http://blogs.shu.edu/ghg/category/complete-issues/spring-autumn-2014/>

[Accessed 2 May 2015]

[No new relevant content]

Global Public Health

Volume 10, Issue 4, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rgph20/current#.VPudJy5nBhU>

[Reviewed earlier]

Globalization and Health

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

[Accessed 2 May 2015]

[No new relevant content]

Health Affairs

April 2015; Volume 34, Issue 4

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

Cost & Quality Of Cancer Care

[Reviewed earlier]

Health and Human Rights

Volume 16, Issue 2 December 2014

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

Papers in Press: Special Issue on Health Rights Litigation

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Economics, Policy and Law

Volume 10 - Issue 02 - April 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Policy and Planning

Volume 30 Issue 3 April 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Research Policy and Systems

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

[Accessed 2 May 2015]

[Reviewed earlier]

Human Rights Quarterly

Volume 37, Number 1, February 2015

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/human_rights_quarterly/toc/hrq.37.1.html

[Reviewed earlier]

Human Service Organizations Management, Leadership & Governance

Volume 39, Issue 2, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wasw21/current#.VTLPmJMw1hW>

[Reviewed earlier]

Humanitarian Exchange Magazine

ISSUE 63 January 2015

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

The Typhoon Haiyan response

[Reviewed earlier]

IDRiM Journal

Vol 4, No 2 (2014)
<http://idrimjournal.com/index.php/idrim/issue/view/12>
[Reviewed earlier]

Infectious Diseases of Poverty

<http://www.idpjournals.com/content>
[Accessed 2 May 2015]

Commentary

Sustaining the gains made in malaria control and elimination

Randall A Kramer, Adriane Lesser *Infectious Diseases of Poverty* 2015, 4:26 (3 May 2015)

Abstract (provisional)

Significant progress has been made in the last 25 years to reduce the malaria burden, but considerable challenges remain. These gains have resulted from large investments in a range of control measures targeting malaria. Fana and co-authors find a strong relationship between education level and net usage with malaria parasitemia in pregnant women, suggesting the need for targeted control strategies. Mayala and co-workers find important links between agriculture and malaria with implications for inter-sectoral collaboration for malaria control.

International Health

Volume 7 Issue 2 March 2015

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

Special issue: Digital methods in epidemiology

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment

Volume 6 Issue 1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction

Volume 13, *In Progress* (September 2015)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/22124209/13>

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Infectious Diseases

June 2015 Volume 35, p1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Mass Emergencies & Disasters

March 2015 (VOL. 33, NO. 1)

<http://www.ijmed.org/issues/33/1/>

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology

Volume 22, Issue 3, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/tsdw20/current#.VSj2SpMw1hX>

[Reviewed earlier]

International Migration Review

Spring 2015 Volume 49, Issue 1 Pages 3–268

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/imre.2015.49.issue-1/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

Intervention – Journal of Mental Health and Psychological Support in Conflict Affected Areas

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

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

New Frontiers issue of Intervention

[Reviewed earlier]

JAMA

April 28, 2015, Vol 313, No. 16

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

JAMA Pediatrics

April 2015, Vol 169, No. 4

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Community Health

Volume 40, Issue 2, April 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10900/40/2/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Development Economics

Volume 114, In Progress (May 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health

May 2015, Volume 69, Issue 5

<http://jech.bmj.com/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Global Ethics

Volume 11, Issue 1, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjge20/U2V-Elf4L0I#.VAJEj2N4WF8>

Forum: The Sustainable Development Goals [8 articles plus introduction below]

[INTRODUCTION: The Sustainable Development Goals Forum](#)

DOI:10.1080/17449626.2015.1021091

Eric Palmer*

pages 3-9

Abstract

This introduction notes the contributions of various authors to the first issue of the Journal of Global Ethics 2015 Forum and briefly explains the United Nations process through which the sustainable development goals have been formulated up to the receipt by the General Assembly, in August 2014, of the Report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals (UN A/68/970). The goals are identified as a confluence of distinct streams of UN work attended to variously by policy experts and political figures in the past several decades. Sources include, most obviously, the Millennium Declaration of 2000 and the Millennium Development Goals, but also the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Human Development Reports of 1990 forward, and the 1987 Brundtland Report.

Journal of Global Infectious Diseases (JGID)

January-March 2015 Volume 7 | Issue 1 Page Nos. 1-50

<http://www.jgid.org/currentissue.asp?sabs=n>

[Reviewed earlier]

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

Volume 26, Number 2, May 2015

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_health_care_for_the_poor_and_underserved/toc/hpu.26.2.html

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Management

Volume 5 Issue 1 2015

<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/toc/jhlscm/5/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health

Volume 17, Issue 2, April 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10903/17/2/page/1>

Special Focus: Food, Diet, and Nutrition

39 articles covering these themes in different ethic and nationals contexts
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies

Volume 13, Issue 1, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wimm20/current#.VQS0KOFnBhW>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Infectious Diseases

Volume 211 Issue 9 May 1, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of International Development

May 2015 Volume 27, Issue 4 Pages 415–572

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jid.v27.4/issuetoc>

[Why Aid is Unpredictable: An Empirical Analysis of the Gap Between Actual and Planned Aid Flows \(pages 440–463\)](#)

Gustavo Javier Canavire-Bacarreza, Eric Neumayer and Peter Nunnenkamp

Article first published online: 22 JAN 2015 | DOI: 10.1002/jid.3073

Abstract

Aid flows continue to be volatile and unpredictable, even though it is widely accepted that this erodes the effectiveness of foreign aid. We argue that fragmented donor–recipient relationships, notably the large number of minor aid relations that tend to be associated with donors' desire to 'fly their flag' around the world, increase aid unpredictability. Our empirical analysis of the determinants of aid unpredictability suggests that aid becomes less predictable with more fragmented donor–recipient relationships. Specifically, the effect of fragmentation on overshooting previous spending plans is statistically significant and substantively important. In contrast, fragmented donor–recipient relationships have no effect on the shortfall of actual aid compared with donors' spending plans.

[Poverty and Natural Resources Degradation: Analysis of their Interactions in Lake Tana Basin, Ethiopia \(pages 516–527\)](#)

Berihun Daregot, Bogale Ayalneh, Kassa Belay and Abebaw Degnet

Article first published online: 25 APR 2013 | DOI: 10.1002/jid.2914

Abstract

Developing a clear understanding of the links between poverty and natural resources degradation remained a vital task in the poverty reduction and sustainable resources conservation process. Accordingly, this paper explores the poverty and natural resources degradation linkages in Lake Tana Basin of Ethiopia. With the application of simultaneous order probit econometric model, this paper argues that a one-sided argument of poverty that causes natural resources degradation is challenged, as poverty not only contributes to natural resources degradation but also natural resources degradation contributes to poverty along with other factors.

[Multi-Local Livelihoods and Food Security in Rural Africa \(pages 528–545\)](#)

Agnes Andersson Djurfeldt

Article first published online: 4 FEB 2014 | DOI: 10.1002/jid.2991

Abstract

This article analyses household-based food transfers as an expression of multi-local livelihoods. Transfers of maize outside the co-resident household unit are analysed on the basis of data from 2857 smallholder households across nine African countries. The study complements a growing interest in the role of food transfers for urban food security, through considering the food security implications for sending households. Food transfers in the top income quintile consist of distributing surplus production, whereas in the lower quintiles, transfers clearly compromise the food security of the sending households. The spatial mismatch between household production and consumption points to the need for development strategies that consider these wider subsistence obligations.

The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics

Spring 2015 Volume 43, Issue 1 Pages 6–166

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Medical Ethics

May 2015, Volume 41, Issue 5

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

Feature article

Tsunami-tendenko and morality in disasters

Satoshi Kodama

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Accepted 11 March 2013

Published Online First 26 March 2013

Abstract

Disaster planning challenges our morality. Everyday rules of action may need to be suspended during large-scale disasters in favour of maxims that may make prudential or practical sense and may even be morally preferable but emotionally hard to accept, such as tsunami-tendenko. This maxim dictates that the individual not stay and help others but run and preserve his or her life instead. Tsunami-tendenko became well known after the great East Japan earthquake on 11 March 2011, when almost all the elementary and junior high school students in one city survived the tsunami because they acted on this maxim that had been taught for several years. While tsunami-tendenko has been praised, two criticisms of it merit careful consideration: one, that the maxim is selfish and immoral; and two, that it goes against the natural tendency to try to save others in dire need. In this paper, I will explain the concept of tsunami-tendenko and then respond to these criticisms. Such ethical analysis is essential for dispelling confusion and doubts about evacuation policies in a disaster.

Commentaries

Can self-preservation be virtuous in disaster situations?

Justin Oakley

J Med Ethics 2015;41:364-365 Published Online First: 13 September 2013

doi:10.1136/medethics-2013-101631

Tsunami-tendenko and morality in disasters

Atsushi Asai

J Med Ethics 2015;41:365-366 Published Online First: 22 July 2013 doi:10.1136/medethics-2013-101629

Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (JPIDS)

Volume 4 Issue 1 March 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Public Health Policy

Volume 36, Issue 2 (May 2015)

<http://www.palgrave-journals.com/jphp/journal/v36/n2/index.html>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of the Royal Society – Interface

06 May 2015; volume 12, issue 106

<http://rsif.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/current> [Reviewed earlier]

Knowledge Management for Development Journal

Vol 10, No 3 (2014)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

The Lancet

May 02, 2015 Volume 385 Number 9979 p1697-1802

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

Editorial

[Migrant crisis in the Mediterranean](#)

The Lancet

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)60875-3](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)60875-3)

Summary

In October, 2014, the British Government quietly announced its decision to withdraw support for Mare Nostrum, a search and rescue operation for migrants in the Mediterranean Sea. "We do not support planned search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean," said Baroness Anelay, to avoid "an unintended 'pull factor', encouraging more migrants to attempt the dangerous sea crossing and thereby leading to more tragic and unnecessary deaths." As of April 27, more than 1700 men, women, and children—each seeking a better and safer life in Europe—have drowned trying to cross the Mediterranean, compared with 96 over the same period in 2014.

Comment

[Ageing, health, and social care: reframing the discussion](#)

Daniel Davis, Carol Brayne

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)60466-4](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)60466-4)

Summary

The current age structure of the UK population is radically different from that at inception of the National Health Service (NHS) in 1948, and health inequalities are widening fastest in people aged 65 years and older.¹ On the one hand there are fit, highly advantaged people at advanced ages for whom functional limitations and disability are postponed (ie, compression of morbidity);² and, on the other, there are those who age faster and die earlier, with a higher prevalence of chronic diseases, at least partly related to lifetimes of disadvantage and social environments that have not led to healthy ageing.

Comment

Health and sustainable development: a call for papers

Richard Horton, Zoë Mullan

Open Access

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)60504-9](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)60504-9)

In just under 5 months' time, the aspiration for the next 15 years of development efforts will be signed off at the UN General Assembly in New York, USA. These Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are already at an advanced stage of drafting—17 ambitious goals and 169 targets (panel), which have been criticised even by the UN General Secretary for being too voluminous.¹ Amid this multitude of outcomes, those pertaining to health are reduced from three Millennium Development Goals to one SDG. What does this mean for global health research?

It means an opportunity. As we concern ourselves with the prominence of health in the new agenda, it's easy to forget that (human) development is by definition people-centred, and that living a long, healthy, and creative life is its cornerstone.² The expansion of the new goals to encompass many (if not all³) of the enablers of an enriched life, for our generation and for those that follow, represents an opportunity to lift ourselves out of the silos we so decry and to embrace other disciplines that underlie the purpose of our own.

As the SDGs, in whatever final form they take, are unveiled in September, 2015, The Lancet and The Lancet Global Health will begin to curate a special issue on sustainable development, to be published in April, 2016. As part of this special issue, we seek original research articles that cross two or more of the key disciplines of the SDGs: poverty, nutrition, health, education, economics, gender equality, water and sanitation, energy, urban planning, conservation, and climate change. Multidisciplinary authorship is a must. The deadline is Sept 15, 2015, and submissions should be made online.

Viewpoint

WHO's new End TB Strategy

Dr Mukund Uplekar, MD, Diana Weil, MSc, Knut Lonnroth, MD, Ernesto Jaramillo, MD, Christian Lienhardt, MD, Hannah Monica Dias, MSc, Dennis Falzon, MD, Katherine Floyd, PhD, Giuliano Gargioni, MD, Haileyesus Getahun, MD, Christopher Gilpin, MD, Philippe Glaziou, MD, Malgorzata Grzemska, MD, Fuad Mirzayev, MD, Hiroki Nakatani, MD, Mario Raviglione, MD, for WHO's Global TB Programme

Published Online: 23 March 2015

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)60570-0](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)60570-0)

Summary

On May 19, 2014, the 67th World Health Assembly (WHA) adopted WHO's "Global strategy and targets for tuberculosis prevention, care and control after 2015".¹ This post-2015 global tuberculosis strategy, labelled the End TB Strategy, was shaped during the past 2 years. A wide range of stakeholders—from ministries of health and national tuberculosis programmes to technical and scientific institutions, financial and development partners, civil society and health

activists, non-governmental organisations, and the private sector—contributed to its development.

The Lancet Global Health

May 2015 Volume 3 Number 5 e240-e296

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

[Reviewed earlier]

The Lancet Infectious Diseases

May 2015 Volume 15 Number 5 p487-614

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Maternal and Child Health Journal

Volume 19, Issue 5, May 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10995/19/5/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

The Milbank Quarterly

A Multidisciplinary Journal of Population Health and Health Policy

March 2015 Volume 93, Issue 1 Pages 1–222

[http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1468-0009/currentissue](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1468-0009/currentissue)

[Reviewed earlier]

Nature

Volume 520 Number 7549 pp585-716 30 April 2015

http://www.nature.com/nature/current_issue.html

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

New England Journal of Medicine

April 30, 2015 Vol. 372 No. 18

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly

April 2015; 44 (2)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration

Pediatrics

May 2015, VOLUME 135 / ISSUE 5

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

Review Article

Linear Growth and Child Development in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Meta-Analysis

Christopher R. Sudfeld, ScDa, Dana Charles McCoy, PhD_b, Goodarz Danaei, MD, ScDa_c, Günther Fink, PhD_a, Majid Ezzati, PhD_d, Kathryn G. Andrews, MPH_a, and Wafaie W. Fawzi, MBBS, DrPH_{a,c,e}

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dDepartments of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, MRC-PHE Centre for Environment and Health, Imperial College London, London, United Kingdom

Abstract

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE: The initial years of life are critical for physical growth and broader cognitive, motor, and socioemotional development, but the magnitude of the link between these processes remains unclear. Our objective was to produce quantitative estimates of the cross-sectional and prospective association of height-for-age z score (HAZ) with child development.

METHODS: Observational studies conducted in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) presenting data on the relationship of linear growth with any measure of child development among children <12 years of age were identified from a systematic search of PubMed, Embase, and PsycINFO. Two reviewers then extracted these data by using a standardized form.

RESULTS: A total of 68 published studies conducted in 29 LMICs were included in the final database. The pooled adjusted standardized mean difference in cross-sectional cognitive ability per unit increase in HAZ for children ≤ 2 years old was +0.24 (95% confidence interval [CI], 0.14–0.33; I² = 53%) and +0.09 for children >2 years old (95% CI, 0.05–0.12; I² = 78%). Prospectively, each unit increase in HAZ for children ≤ 2 years old was associated with a +0.22-SD increase in cognition at 5 to 11 years after multivariate adjustment (95% CI, 0.17–0.27; I² = 0%). HAZ was also significantly associated with earlier walking age and better motor scores ($P < .05$).

CONCLUSIONS: Observational evidence suggests a robust positive association between linear growth during the first 2 years of life with cognitive and motor development. Effective interventions that reduce linear growth restriction may improve developmental outcomes; however, integration with environmental, educational, and stimulation interventions may produce larger positive effects.

[Accessed 2 May 2015]

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

[A Systematic Review of the Health Impacts of Mass Earth Movements \(Landslides\)](#)

April 30, 2015 · [Research article](#)

Background. Mass ground movements (commonly referred to as 'landslides') are common natural hazards that can have significant economic, social and health impacts. They occur as single events, or as clusters, and are often part of 'disaster' chains, occurring secondary to, or acting as the precursor of other disaster events. Whilst there is a large body of literature on the engineering and geological aspects of landslides, the mortality and morbidity caused by landslides is less well documented. As far as we are aware, this is the first systematic review to examine the health impacts of landslides.

Methods. The MEDLINE, EMBASE, CINAHL, SCOPUS databases and the Cochrane library were systematically searched to identify articles which considered the health impacts of landslides.

Case studies, case series, primary research and systematic reviews were included. News reports, editorials and non-systematic reviews were excluded. Only articles in English were considered. The references of retrieved papers were searched to identify additional articles.

Findings. 913 abstracts were reviewed and 143 full text articles selected for review. A total of 27 papers reporting research studies were included in the review (25 from initial search, 1 from review of references and 1 from personal correspondence). We found a limited number of studies on the physical health consequences of landslides. Only one study provided detail of the causes of mortality and morbidity in relation a landslide event. Landslides cause significant mental health impacts, in particular the prevalence of PTSD may be higher after landslides than other types of disaster, though these studies tend to be older with only 3 papers published in the last 5 years, with 2 being published 20 years ago, and diagnostic criteria have changed since they were produced.

Discussion. We were disappointed at the small number of relevant studies, and the generally poor documentation of the health impacts of landslides. Mental health impacts were better documented, though some of the studies are now quite old. Further research on the health impacts of landslides needs to be undertaken to support those responding to landslide disasters and to aid disaster risk mitigation advocacy.

PLoS Currents: Outbreaks

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

(Accessed 2 May 2015)

[2014 Ebola Outbreak: Media Events Track Changes in Observed Reproductive Number](#)

April 28, 2015 · [Commentary](#)

In this commentary, we consider the relationship between early outbreak changes in the observed reproductive number of Ebola in West Africa and various media reported interventions and aggravating events. We find that media reports of interventions that provided education, minimized contact, or strengthened healthcare were typically followed by sustained transmission reductions in both Sierra Leone and Liberia. Meanwhile, media reports of aggravating events generally preceded temporary transmission increases in both countries. Given these preliminary findings, we conclude that media reported events could potentially be incorporated into future epidemic modeling efforts to improve mid-outbreak case projections.

PLoS Medicine

(Accessed 2 May 2015)

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

[No new relevant content]

PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases

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

(Accessed 2 May 2015)

[The Association between Nutritional Status and Malaria in Children from a Rural Community in the Amazonian Region: A Longitudinal Study](#)

Márcia Almeida Araújo Alexandre, Silvana Gomes Benzecry, Andre Machado Siqueira, Sheila Vitor-Silva, Gisely Cardoso Melo, Wuelton Marcelo Monteiro, Heitor Pons Leite, Marcus Vinícius Guimarães Lacerda, Maria das Graças Costa Alecrim

Research Article | published 30 Apr 2015 | PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases

10.1371/journal.pntd.0003743

[Helminth Elimination in the Pursuit of Sustainable Development Goals: A "Worm Index" for Human Development](#)

Peter J. Hotez, Jennifer R. Herricks

Editorial | published 30 Apr 2015 | PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases

10.1371/journal.pntd.0003618

PLoS One

[Accessed 2 May 2015]

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

[Health Providers' Perceptions of Clinical Trials: Lessons from Ghana, Kenya and Burkina Faso](#)

Vibian Angwenyi, Kwaku-Poku Asante, Abdoulaye Traoré, Lawrence Gyabaa Febir, Charlotte Tawiah, Anthony Kwarteng, Alphonse Ouédraogo, Sodiomon Bienvenue Sirima, Seth Owusu-Agyei, Egeruan Babatunde Imoukhuede, Jayne Webster, Daniel Chandramohan, Sassy Molyneux, Caroline Jones

Research Article | published 01 May 2015 | PLOS ONE 10.1371/journal.pone.0124554

Abstract

Background

Clinical trials conducted in Africa often require substantial investments to support trial centres and public health facilities. Trial resources could potentially generate benefits for routine health service delivery but may have unintended consequences. Strengthening ethical practice requires understanding the potential effects of trial inputs on the perceptions and practices of routine health care providers. This study explores the influence of malaria vaccine trials on health service delivery in Ghana, Kenya and Burkina Faso.

Methods

We conducted: audits of trial inputs in 10 trial facilities and among 144 health workers; individual interviews with frontline providers (n=99) and health managers (n=14); and group discussions with fieldworkers (n=9 discussions). Descriptive summaries were generated from audit data. Qualitative data were analysed using a framework approach.

Results

Facilities involved in trials benefited from infrastructure and equipment upgrades, support with essential drugs, access to trial vehicles, and placement of additional qualified trial staff. Qualified trial staff in facilities were often seen as role models by their colleagues; assisting with supportive supervision and reducing facility workload. Some facility staff in place before the trial also received formal training and salary top-ups from the trials. However, differential access to support caused dissatisfaction, and some interviewees expressed concerns about what would happen at the end of the trial once financial and supervisory support was removed.

Conclusion

Clinical trials function as short-term complex health service delivery interventions in the facilities in which they are based. They have the potential to both benefit facilities, staff and communities through providing the supportive environment required for improvements in routine care, but they can also generate dissatisfaction, relationship challenges and demoralisation among staff. Minimising trial related harm and maximising benefits requires careful planning and engagement of key actors at the outset of trials, throughout the trial and on its' completion.

PLoS Pathogens

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

(Accessed 2 May 2015)

Ebola Virus Entry: A Curious and Complex Series of Events

Sven Moller-Tank, Wendy Maury

Pearls | published 30 Apr 2015 | PLOS Pathogens 10.1371/journal.ppat.1004731

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

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

(Accessed 2 May 2015)

Energy and material flows of megacities

Christopher A. Kennedy¹, Iain Stewart^a, Angelo Facchin^b, Igor Cersosimo^b, Renata Mele^b, Bin Chenc, Mariko Uda^a, Arun Kansal^d, Anthony Chiue, Kwi-gon Kim^f, Carolina Dubeux^g, Emilio Lebre La Rovere^g, Bruno Cunha^g, Stephanie Pincetl^h, James Keirsteadⁱ, Sabine Barles^j, Semerdanta Pusaka^k, Juniati Gunawank, Michael Adegbile^l, Mehrdad Nazariham, Shamsul Hoquen, Peter J. Marcotullio^o, Florencia González Othar^{ánp}, Tarek Genena^q, Nadine Ibrahima, Rizwan Farooqui^r, Gemma Cervantess, and Ahmet Duran Sahint

Author Affiliations

Edited by Susan Hanson, Clark University, Worcester, MA, and approved April 2, 2015 (received for review March 6, 2015)

Significance

Our quantification of energy and material flows for the world's 27 megacities is a major undertaking, not previously achieved. The sheer magnitude of these flows (e.g., 9% of global electricity, 10% of gasoline; 13% of solid waste) shows the importance of megacities in addressing global environmental challenges. In aggregate the resource flows through megacities are consistent with scaling laws for cities. Statistical relations are established for electricity use, heating/industrial fuels, ground transportation, water consumption, waste generation, and steel production in terms of heating-degree days, urban form, economic activity, and population growth. Analysis at the microscale shows that electricity use is strongly

correlated with building floor area, explaining the macroscale correlation between per capita electricity use and urbanized area per capita.

Abstract

Understanding the drivers of energy and material flows of cities is important for addressing global environmental challenges. Accessing, sharing, and managing energy and material resources is particularly critical for megacities, which face enormous social stresses because of their sheer size and complexity. Here we quantify the energy and material flows through the world's 27 megacities with populations greater than 10 million people as of 2010. Collectively the resource flows through megacities are largely consistent with scaling laws established in the emerging science of cities. Correlations are established for electricity consumption, heating and industrial fuel use, ground transportation energy use, water consumption, waste generation, and steel production in terms of heating-degree-days, urban form, economic activity, and population growth. The results help identify megacities exhibiting high and low levels of consumption and those making efficient use of resources. The correlation between per capita electricity use and urbanized area per capita is shown to be a consequence of gross building floor area per capita, which is found to increase for lower-density cities. Many of the megacities are growing rapidly in population but are growing even faster in terms of gross domestic product (GDP) and energy use. In the decade from 2001–2011, electricity use and ground transportation fuel use in megacities grew at approximately half the rate of GDP growth.

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]

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>

Perspectives

[The Blind Spot in Risk Ethics: Managing Natural Hazards \(pages 354–360\)](#)

Neelke Doorn

Article first published online: 16 DEC 2014 | DOI: 10.1111/risa.12293

Abstract

Many risk scholars recognize the importance of including ethical considerations in risk management. Risk ethics can provide in-depth ethical analysis so that ethical considerations can be part of risk-related decisions, rather than an afterthought to those decisions. In this article, I present a brief sketch of the field of risk ethics. I argue that risk ethics has a bias toward technological hazards, thereby overlooking the risks that stem from natural and semi-natural hazards. In order to make a contribution to the field of risk research, risk ethics should broaden its scope to include natural and semi-natural hazards and develop normative distribution criteria that can support decision making on such hazards.

[More Than Fear Induction: Toward an Understanding of People's Motivation to Be Well-Prepared for Emergencies in Flood-Prone Areas \(pages 518–535\)](#)

Joop de Boer, W. J. Wouter Botzen and Teun Terpstra

Article first published online: 23 JAN 2015 | DOI: 10.1111/risa.12289

Abstract

This article examines the extent and manner to which evaluations of flood-related precautions are affected by an individual's motivation and perception of context. It argues that the relationship between risk perception and flood risk preparedness can be fruitfully specified in terms of vulnerability and efficacy if these concepts are put into the perspective of prevention-focused motivation. This relationship was empirically examined in a risk communication experiment in a delta area of the Netherlands ($n = 1,887$). Prevention-focused motivation was induced by contextualized risk information. The results showed that prevention-focused individuals were more sensitive to the relevance of potential precautions for satisfying their needs in the context they found themselves in. The needs included, but were not limited to, fear reduction. Due to the heterogeneity of the residents, the evaluations reflected individual differences in the intensity and the selectivity of precautionary processes. Four types of persons could be distinguished according to their evaluation of precautionary measures: a high-scoring minority, two more selective types, and a low-scoring minority. For policymakers and risk

communicators it is vital to consider the nature of prevention motivation and the context in which it is likely to be high.

Science

1 May 2015 vol 348, issue 6234, pages 473-604

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

In Depth

Seismology

Nepal disaster presages a coming megaquake

Eric Hand, Priyanka Pulla

Geophysicists studying the rupture mechanics of the magnitude-7.8 earthquake in Nepal have made a startling discovery: that the quake extended deep into the Himalayas, into a region that many scientists had deemed incapable of explosive tearing. The rupture extended past a "lock line" where brittle rock becomes more plastic in its behavior—a region where slip was expected to creep along quietly and not contribute to the overall power of the earthquake. The discovery suggests that, as awful as the present disaster is, future earthquakes in the Himalayas could end up being mightier and more calamitous than modelers assumed.

Infectious Diseases

In Guinea, a long, difficult road to zero Ebola cases

Martin Enserink*

Ebola is on the decline in Guinea, one of three West African hit hard by the epidemic. The country's teeming capital of 2 million, Conakry, had only a single known case last week. As part of the endgame, hundreds of local workers have gone house to house in the remaining Ebola pockets in recent weeks to explain how Ebola spreads, encourage people to report suspected cases, and try to find any hidden Ebola patients or corpses. Distrust of the government, resentment against teams raising awareness, and rumors about the origins of the epidemic are still a problem.

Policy Forum

Sustainability

Secure sustainable seafood from developing countries

Gabriel S. Sampson¹, James N. Sanchirico^{1,2,*}, Cathy A. Roheim³, Simon R. Bush⁴, J. Edward Taylor¹, Edward H. Allison⁵, James L. Anderson⁶, Natalie C. Ban⁷, Rod Fujita⁸, Stacy Jupiter⁹, Jono R. Wilson¹⁰

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⁵University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98105, USA.

⁶University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611, USA.

⁷University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia V8W 2Y2, Canada.

⁸Environmental Defense Fund, San Francisco, CA 94105, USA.

⁹Wildlife Conservation Society, Suva, Fiji.

¹⁰The Nature Conservancy, Santa Barbara, CA 93106, USA.

Demand for sustainably certified wild-caught fish and crustaceans is increasingly shaping global seafood markets. Retailers such as Walmart in the United States, Sainsbury's in the United Kingdom, and Carrefour in France, and processors such as Canadianbased High Liner

Foods, have promised to source all fresh, frozen, farmed, and wild seafood from sustainable sources by 2015 (1, 2). Credible arbiters of certifications, such as the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), require detailed environmental and traceability standards. Although these standards have been met in many commercial fisheries throughout the developed world (3), developing country fisheries (DCFs) represent only 7% of ~220 total MSC-certified fisheries (4, 5). With the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization reporting that developing countries account for ~50% of seafood entering international trade, this presents a fundamental challenge for marketers of sustainable seafood

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 2 May 2015]

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

Research Article

Community-Driven Development in Conflict-Affected Contexts: Revisiting Concepts, Functions and Fundamentals

Authors: Sheree Bennett, Alyoscia D'Onofrio

Abstract

Community-Driven Development (CDD) is a popular aid delivery strategy in conflict-affected contexts. While the strategy remains appealing, the growing body of evidence suggests that CDD does not systematically deliver on all the desired outcomes. This may potentially be explained by the lack of clarity around the objectives and theoretical underpinnings of CDD interventions. This paper proposes ways to clarify the objectives, outcomes, theories of change and core processes of the CDD strategy in an effort to improve the design and evaluation of CDD interventions. We suggest schemas for prioritizing the function and outcomes of a given intervention, provide examples of reduced form theories of change and identify a set of 'core processes.' We hope these suggestions will assist practitioners in making the theoretical motivations, assumptions and trade-offs of their design choices that much more explicit and in so doing, improve our ability to deliver better interventions to conflict-affected populations. This paper forms part of a wider conceptual project supported by UK Department for International Development (DFID)'s Research and Evidence Division.

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5334/sta.ff>

Commentary

Resilience and the Fragile City

Authors: John de Boer

Abstract

Humanitarian, security, and development actors are witnessing two distinct but intertwined trends that will have a dramatic impact on their operations. The first relates to the fact that the locus of global poverty and vulnerability to disaster are increasingly concentrated in fragile and conflict affected states. The second trend is associated with the notion that the world has entered a period of unprecedented urbanization. For the first time in history, more people live inside urban centres than outside of them. As the world continues to urbanize, global

emergencies will increasingly be concentrated in cities, particularly in lower income and fragile countries where the pace of urbanization is fastest. Yet, despite the growing risks facing urban populations living in fragile and conflict affected countries, there is very little understanding of what can be done to reduce the risks posed to these cities and their populations.

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. 1

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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