

The Sentinel

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

9 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:
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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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Nepal earthquake: UN says it has only received fraction of necessary aid

Agence France-Presse in Kathmandu
Friday 8 May 2015 04.23 EDT

UN says aid contributions must be 'dramatically ramped up' because it has received only \$22m of the requested \$415m

The UN resident coordinator for Nepal, Jamie McGoldrick: 'The relief needs remain great and we urgently need funds to be able to continue our work.'

WHO committed to helping Nepal deliver health care to its citizens

7 May 2015 — More must be done to protect the health of Nepal's people following the recent earthquake said Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia, on a visit to Kathmandu today. High on her agenda are preparations to prevent disease outbreaks ahead of the oncoming rainy season, WHO's commitment to support the country's health system, and assistance for its heroic health workers as they recover from the disaster once the emergency phase has passed.

Nepal earthquake: Emergency immunisation campaign for hundreds of thousands of children – UNICEF

KATHMANDU, Nepal, 4 May 2015 – More than half a million children are being targeted in an emergency vaccination drive in Nepal – as fears grow of measles outbreaks in the informal camps that have sprung up since the earthquake on 25 April. The campaign was launched by the Nepalese Ministry of Health and Population, with support from UNICEF and the World Health Organisation.

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The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to Fund Disease Surveillance Network in Africa and Asia to Prevent Childhood Mortality and Help Prepare for the Next Epidemic

SEATTLE (May 6, 2015) – At its Global Partners Forum, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will announce the Child Health and Mortality Prevention Surveillance Network (CHAMPS), a network of disease surveillance sites in developing countries. These sites will help gather better data, faster, about how, where and why children are getting sick and dying. This data will help the global health community get the right interventions to the right children in the right place to save lives. The network will also be invaluable in providing capacity and training in the event of an epidemic, such as Ebola or SARS. The Gates Foundation plans an initial commitment of up to \$75 million on the effort.

"The world needs better, more timely public health data not only to prepare for the next epidemic, but to save children's lives now," said Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. "Over the past 15 years, deaths of children in developing countries have been dramatically reduced, but to continue that trend for the next 15 years, we need more definitive data about where and why children are dying. This will also better position us to respond to other diseases that may turn into an epidemic."

This network of disease surveillance sites in areas with high childhood mortality rates in Sub Saharan Africa and South Asia will offer a long-term approach to information management, laboratory infrastructure and workforce capacity – vital resources in geographies lacking sufficient public health infrastructure. This network could be repurposed quickly in the event of an epidemic, as in Nigeria where the national polio program's Emergency Operations Center was mobilized to fight Ebola.

A lead partner in the effort will be the Emory Global Health Institute, which houses the International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will provide technical assistance with laboratory infrastructure. Each site will have trained staff and technology capabilities.

"We are excited by and committed to this extraordinary opportunity to make a major contribution to children's health," said Dr. Jeffrey Koplan, vice president for Global Health at Emory University.

"A disease threat anywhere is a threat everywhere," said CDC Director Tom Frieden, M.D., M.P.H. "Strong networks such as CHAMPS will help us find, stop, and prevent outbreaks and will not only save children in Africa and Asia, but will help to make the world a safer, healthier place for everyone."

CHAMPS is a minimum twenty-year project to gather more accurate data about how, where and why children are dying in developing countries. It will help ensure that the right vaccines and treatments are delivered to the people who need them most and that the global health community invests in crucial new drugs and health tools.

The announcement will be made at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Partners Forum held in Seattle. The forum is a one-time event taking place in a milestone year for global health and development. Research and development, delivery, and advocacy partners are meeting to exchange perspectives on major global health challenges facing the world over the next 15 years. The event is expected to draw more than 1000 attendees including partners, high-level representatives from governments and organizations across the globe.

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Global Overview 2015 – People internally displaced by conflict and violence

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre www.internal-displacement.org

Norwegian Refugee Council

May 2015 :: 99 pages

Authors: Alexandra Bilak, Martina Caterina, Guillaume Charron, Sophie Crozet, Laura Rubio Díaz-Leal, Florence Foster, Justin Ginnetti, Jacopo Giorgi, Anne-Kathrin Glatz, Kristel Guyon, Caroline Howard, Melanie Kesmaecker-Wissing, Sarah Kilany, Johanna Klos, Frederik Kok, Barbara McCallin, Anaïs Pagot, Elizabeth Rushing, Clare Spurrell, Marita Swain, Wesli Turner, Nadine Walicki, Michelle Yonetani

About this report

The Norwegian Refugee Council's Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) has monitored internal displacement since 1998. Our annual Global Overview covers people forced to flee their homes by international or internal armed conflict as well as generalised violence – be it communal, ethnic, political or criminal. This report is based on data and analysis gathered between January and December 2014 in 60 countries and territories across the world.

Our research shows that the causes and impacts of displacement are multiple and often overlapping, including those related to disasters induced by natural hazards, which we report on separately....

...The report also includes a table of figures for each of the countries and territories monitored. These figures estimate the total number of people living in internal displacement as of December 2014. This includes both the number of people newly displaced and people displaced in previous years. Estimates of new displacement in 2014 and of reported returns of IDPs to their homes are also provided in separate columns in the table.

...To produce our Global Overview, we compiled and analysed the best data available from national governments, the UN and other international agencies, national and international NGOs, human rights organisations, media reports and IDPs themselves. We also undertook field missions to 29 countries during 2014. The availability of better data may have contributed to

changes in figures for 2014 compared with previous years, alongside actual increases or decreases in the scale of displacement. We also report for the first time on four countries where new displacement took place or where data on internal displacement became available: Cameroon, El Salvador, Papua New Guinea and Ukraine.

Press release

[A record 38 million internally displaced worldwide, as 30,000 people fled their homes each day in 2014](#)

GENEVA 6 MAY 2015: A record-breaking 38 million people have been displaced within their own country by conflict or violence. This is the equivalent of the total populations of London, New York and Beijing combined. "These are the worst figures for forced displacement in a generation, signalling our complete failure to protect innocent civilians" said Jan Egeland, secretary general at the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

Today, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), part of NRC, launched its Global Overview 2015: People internally displaced by conflict and violence at the United Nations in Geneva. With internal displacement figures reaching a record high for the third year in a row, the report also documents how 11 million people were newly displaced by violent events in 2014 alone...

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[UNESCO - Riga Declaration reaffirms importance of freedom of expression and press freedom for sustainable development](#)

Celebrations marking this year's World Press Freedom Day ended today in Riga with the adoption of the Riga Declaration, a non-binding statement expressing the commitment of over 500 participants to promote the significance of independent journalism for sustainable development.

04.05.2015

The Declaration aims to improve the quality of journalism, enhance gender equality in the newsroom and promote safety of journalists, and links this to the United Nations negotiations for a new package of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will be adopted next autumn.

In the Declaration, participants state that "freedom of expression, press freedom and the right of access to information are fundamental rights and enable the enjoyment of all other human rights and the goals of sustainable development."

Particular reference is made to Sustainable Development Goal 16 on the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies with access to justice for all. The Riga Declaration reiterates the essential contribution of journalists to the realization of this objective and insists on the need to end impunity for crimes against journalists and media workers.

The Declaration was adopted at the close of a two-day UNESCO conference in Riga which brought together media professionals and decision-makers on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day. The Conference focused on quality in journalism, gender equality and media safety in the digital age.

Meanwhile representatives of the Organization of American States, the Office of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights and the African Union, adopted a declaration on Freedom of Expression and Responses to Conflict Situations.

Also on World Press Freedom Day, 3 May, the Director-General of UNESCO awarded the 2015 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize to imprisoned Syrian journalist and press freedom activist Mazen Darwish. The event took place with the participation of the President of Latvia, Andris Bērziņš, Prime Minister Laimdota Straujuma, Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkēvičs and Culture Minister Dace Melbārde...

...World Press Freedom Day this year was celebrated in more than 80 countries around the world by both official bodies and civil society and profession organizations.

Riga Declaration

World Press Freedom Day International Conference, 2-4 May 2015

"Let Journalism Thrive! Towards Better Reporting, Gender Equality, and Media Safety in the Digital Age"

We, the participants at the UNESCO World Press Freedom Day International Conference held at the National Library in Riga, Latvia from 2-4 May 2015 and on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the founding of UNESCO

:: Recalling Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers";

:: Recognising that freedom of expression across all media platforms is an enabler of sustainable human development, including a culture of peace;

:: Believing that freedom of expression, which underpins press freedom and the right to access information, applies online and offline and is central to democracy, social equality, the enjoyment of other human rights as well as economic growth and welfare;

:: Honoring all those who work in media, in whatever context, who often risk their personal security in service of the public's right to information;

:: Further noting that 2015 is the 20th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action which calls on the international community to "increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision making in and through the media and new technologies of communication" and to "promote a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media";

:: Recognising that everyone's right to freedom of expression depends upon the safety of journalists and an end to impunity for crimes against them, as reflected in UN Human Rights Council Resolution A/HRC/27/5, the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/69/185, the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1738, UNESCO's Executive Board Decision 196 EX/Decision 31 as well as the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, which UNESCO is co-ordinating through various activities including the Journalist Safety Indicators;

:: Emphasising that international organisations, governments, media and other actors should work together to strengthen the safety of journalists and hold accountable those who attack them;

:: Acknowledging the principles and recommendations of the previous World Press Freedom Day Declarations, in particular the Washington Declaration on 21st Century Media: New Frontiers, New Barriers and the Paris Declaration on Media Freedom for a Better Future: Shaping the Post-2015 Development Agenda;

:: Noting that the 2015 World Press Freedom Day takes place at an important juncture, with the opportunity to rally attention to the importance of freedom of expression in the final processes of the global post-2015 development agenda negotiations;

We accordingly affirm that:

1. Freedom of expression, press freedom and the right of access to information are fundamental rights and enable the enjoyment of all other human rights and the goals of sustainable development;
2. The safety of journalists and the issue of impunity are directly relevant to implementing the proposed Sustainable Development Goal 16, particularly the targets on fundamental freedoms, access to information and the rule of law;
3. Journalism contributes to the rule of law, vigilance against corruption, the promotion of policy debates, the deepening of transparency in society, and the ability of citizens to make informed decisions, and thus enables them to actively participate in public affairs.
4. Overcoming poverty, social inequality and advancing sustainable development requires that citizens have access to reliable and quality information and inclusive platforms for public voice and different opinions;
5. Women and men have the right to equal access, expression and participation in decision-making in and through the media, as well as to balanced and non-stereotypical presentation;
6. Competency in media and information literacy as well as open-minded and critical thinking skills are essential to ensuring that everyone is empowered in seeking, receiving, and imparting information and ideas, regardless of frontiers;

We therefore:

Call on UNESCO Member States to:

1. Reaffirm the important roles that freedom of expression and a free, independent and pluralistic news media play in the advancement of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights;
2. Take positive measures, such as adopting and investing in gender-responsive initiatives to improve the gender representativeness of media content and services, as well as ensuring equal pay and decent work conditions for men and women;
3. Reaffirm their commitment to promote a legal and institutional environment which ensures the safety of journalists;
4. Condemn all attacks on journalists and ensure that such crimes are subject to independent, speedy and effective investigations and prosecutions, and to provide voluntarily comprehensive and timely responses to the call by the UNESCO Director-General for information about investigations into killings of journalists, in line with the decisions of the Organization's International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC);
5. Ensure a diversity of independent media whose ownership and financing are transparent to the public;
6. Support frameworks that can ensure greater independence of journalists and editorial boards from economic, political and other pressures that constrain their work;

7. Support the provision of quality training and education for journalists, as well as promote media and information literacy, as part of long-term efforts to promote media sustainability and professionalisation;
8. Ensure that surveillance and data collection regimes show respect for the privacy of journalists and protect the confidentiality of sources.

Call on journalists, professional and support associations, media outlets, internet intermediaries and social media practitioners:

1. To share good practices on the safety of journalists, particularly as implemented by the decision-makers of news organizations from all regions, including community media and small media outlets;
2. To support the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity with complementary or joint actions, and to enhance cooperation with each other;
3. To consider using Journalist Safety Indicators as a measurement and evaluation tool in their own activities.
4. To apply the same principles of protection to staff journalists and freelancers and favorably consider applying the Global Safety Principles and Practices adopted by dozens of organizations in February 2015.
5. To encourage journalism that seeks out voices and opinions from communities often excluded from public space, harassed online, or subject to other forms of official and unofficial abuse.
6. Take corrective action in support of gender equality in the newsroom and in news coverage, such as through adopting policies for gender-sensitive training and reporting, increased focus on women as newsmakers and news sources, and the provision of work conditions for men and women which allow the balancing of work and family responsibilities.

Call on UNESCO to:

1. Continue highlighting the importance of freedom of expression, public access to information and the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity within the post-2015 development agenda processes;
2. Promote the importance of free, independent and pluralistic media as an essential prerequisite for good governance and the rule of law;
3. Continue monitoring the safety of journalists and state of impunity, and submit reports about this on a regular basis;
4. Strengthen the implementation of the UN Plan of Action to further interested countries, and to continue coordinating the implementation of the UN Plan of Action throughout the UN system, in particular at country level;
5. Continue encouraging governments to harness the support of the UN Plan of Action on Safety and the Issue of Impunity, and to implement various UN resolutions mentioned in the Preamble above;
6. Strengthen cooperation with professional organizations and other actors in addressing the safety of journalists, with a specific focus on women journalists;
7. Make all appropriate efforts to strengthen and promote UNESCO's model curricula for journalism education, including safety of journalists, and to enhance the development of UNESCO's programmes on Media and Information Literacy;
8. Promote further application of the Gender-Sensitive Indicators for Media and the Journalist Safety Indicators;

9. Facilitate capacity-building in Member States, including through IPDC projects and South-South and North-South cooperation.
10. Respond to the issue of hate speech by promoting media and information literacy and fact-based counter-speech, and by highlighting that any limitations on expression have to be necessary, proportionate and for reasons of preventing advocacy of incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

Joint Declaration on Freedom of Expression and Responses to Conflict Situations

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

4 May 2015

Joint declaration by the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Organization of American States (OAS) Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information, presented at the UNESCO World Press Freedom Day event, May 4 2015.

[Excerpt; Text bolding by Editor]

1. Scope of the Joint Declaration

This Joint Declaration addresses systematic or targeted attacks on freedom of expression which are aimed at silencing certain perspectives or voices, whether internationally, nationally or locally, and State responses to such attacks. Such attacks are perpetrated in different contexts, including of international and non-international armed conflicts, terrorist attacks and widespread organised crime.

2. General Principles

- a. States have a direct responsibility under international human rights law to respect freedom of expression and they are also under a positive obligation to take effective measures to protect freedom of expression against attacks by third parties, including by ensuring accountability for any attacks on those exercising their right to freedom of expression and by raising awareness about the importance of freedom of expression.
- b. States should not respond to crisis situations by adopting additional restrictions on freedom of expression, except as strictly justified by the situation and international human rights law.
- c. Any restriction on freedom of expression must meet the three-part test under international human rights law, namely that it is provided for by law, it serves to protect a legitimate interest recognised under international law and it is necessary to protect that interest.
- d. In the context of systematic attacks on freedom of expression, non-State actors bear direct responsibility for their actions where these represent breaches of domestic law, or of international humanitarian or criminal law.

3. Criminal Restrictions on Content

- a. All criminal restrictions on content – including those relating to hate speech, national security, public order and terrorism/extremism – should conform strictly to international standards, including by not providing special protection to officials and by not employing vague or unduly broad terms.

b. In particular, States should refrain from applying restrictions relating to 'terrorism' in an unduly broad manner. Criminal responsibility for expression relating to terrorism should be limited to those who incite others to terrorism; vague concepts such as glorifying', 'justifying' or 'encouraging' terrorism should not be used...

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ILO: Mothers and children need more – not less – social protection

As several countries around the world prepare to celebrate Mother's Day, two new ILO studies provide new global and country data that point to the urgent need to increase social protection for mothers and children.

News | 07 May 2015

GENEVA (ILO News) – The lack of access to social protection* is still a reality for a large number of mothers and children worldwide, according to two studies released by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The Social protection for maternity: Key policy trends and statistics report shows that only 36 per cent of employed women are legally entitled to cash benefits during their maternity leave. In practice, however, maternity leave legislation is not implemented effectively, so only 28 per cent of working women are covered in case of maternity.

The study, Social protection for children: key policy trends and statistics, also paints a worrying picture. It shows that while there has been an explosion of small cash transfer schemes in recent years, there is also a considerable gap with regard to the availability of adequate child and family benefits. According to the study, 108 countries have specific child and family benefit programmes rooted in legislation, but they often cover small groups.

"Around 800 women die from childbirth every day. In addition, 18,000 children also pass away daily. The sad reality is that despite efforts carried out as part of the Millennium Development Goals process, maternal and child mortality rates in developing countries are still very high," says Isabel Ortiz, Director of the ILO Social Protection Department.

"Most of these deaths are preventable with adequate social protection. Universal maternal and child health care is key to reducing high mortality rates, together with cash transfers to ensure adequate food, clothing, and access to social services," she adds.

Fiscal adjustment reducing social protection for mothers and children

A worrying trend is that in some countries the levels of maternity and child protection benefits have dropped as a result of fiscal consolidation policies.

For example, several European countries have reduced the level of maternity and child benefits or have limited the level of coverage.

"Fiscal consolidation and adjustment measures threaten progress on social protection for children and their families," says Ortiz. "Child poverty increased in 18 of the 28 countries of the European Union between 2008 and 2013."

Universal coverage: How much does it cost?

On the other hand, several low- and middle-income countries have either extended the duration of paid maternity leave or introduced cash benefits for mothers and children. However, large coverage gaps remain.

The reports look at a sample of 57 low- and lower middle-income countries and show that introducing a basic universal maternity cash benefit would require, on average, 0.41 per cent of national gross domestic product (GDP).

Meanwhile, having universal child benefits would, on average, require 1.9 per cent of national GDP. The projected costs for a basic universal child benefit vary greatly between countries, ranging from 5.2 per cent of GDP for Niger to 0.2 per cent of GDP for Guyana, considering that children constitute a large proportion of the population in these countries.

The same variation applies to basic universal maternity protection, where it ranges from less than 0.1 per cent of GDP in Bhutan, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam to 1.1 per cent of GDP in Niger.

"At a time when the world is discussing a post-2015 development agenda, it is essential that the international community identifies financing sources for social protection," says Ortiz, recalling the ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202) .

"It is a question of choosing the right priorities: the total cost of universal benefits to all pregnant women and all children in 57 lower income countries is just 0.6 per cent of what G20 countries used to bail out the financial sector in 2009," concludes Ortiz.

The ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202) reflects a consensus among governments and employers' and workers' organizations from 185 countries on the need to extend social security.

Both studies include detailed national data on maternity protection and child and family benefits for 188 countries surveyed.

** Social protection is defined by the ILO as the set of public measures that a society provides for its members to protect them against economic distress and hardship caused by the absence or a substantial reduction of income from work because of illness, maternity, lack of employment, disability, old age and others; access to health care; and the provision of benefits for families with children. This concept of social protection (or social security guarantees) aimed at reducing/preventing poverty and vulnerability is reflected in various ILO standards, approved by countries.*

Social protection for children: Key policy trends and statistics

ILO – Social Protection Policy Paper. Paper 14

08 December 2014 :: 60 pages

ISBN: 9789221298557

PDF: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---soc_sec/documents/publication/wcms_366592.pdf

Abstract

This policy paper: (i) provides a global overview of the organization of child and family benefits in maternity cash benefits and maternity care in 183 countries; (ii) presents the negative impacts of fiscal consolidation and adjustment measures in a number of higher income economies; (iii) analyses trends and recent policies, e.g. extension of child and family benefit coverage in a large number of low- and middle-income countries; (iv) presents the costs of basic universal child and orphan benefits in 57 low and lower middle income countries; and (v) calls for the expansion of social protection for children and families in pursuit of crisis recovery, inclusive development and social justice.

Executive summary

:: Social protection policies are an essential element of realizing children's rights, ensuring their well-being, breaking the vicious cycle of poverty and vulnerability, preventing child labour, and helping all children realize their full potential.

:: Despite a large expansion of schemes in developing countries, existing social protection policies do not sufficiently address the income security needs of children, particularly in low and middle-income countries with a large child population. About 18,000 children die every day, mainly from preventable causes; many of these deaths could be avoided through adequate social protection.

:: More efforts are needed to step up measures to ensure income security for children and families. Specific child and family benefit programmes rooted in legislation exist in 108 countries, yet often cover only small groups of the population.

:: On average, governments allocate 0.4 per cent of GDP to child benefits, ranging from 2.2 per cent in Western Europe to 0.2 per cent in Africa, and in Asia and the Pacific. Underinvestment in children jeopardizes their rights and their future, as well as the economic and social development prospects of the countries in which they live.

:: Fiscal consolidation and adjustment measures in higher-income economies threaten progress on social protection for children and their families. Child poverty increased in 18 of the 28 countries of the European Union between 2008 and 2013.

:: Guaranteeing income security for all children, at least at a basic level, can be achieved by nearly all countries around the world. Even low income countries can make great strides in ensuring at least a basic level of income security for children and families anchored in national legislation. ILO estimates demonstrate that a universal child benefit would on average require 1.9 per cent of national GDP in 57 low income countries and lower middle income countries.

:: The case for social protection for children is compelling in our times. Social protection is both a human right and a sound economic policy. Social protection powerfully contributes to reducing poverty, exclusion, and inequality – while enhancing political stability and social cohesion. Social protection also contributes to economic growth by supporting household income and thus domestic consumption; this is particularly important during this time of slow recovery and depressed global demand. Further, social protection enhances human capital and productivity, so it has become a critical policy tool for transformative national development.

:: Social protection floors for children and their families are essential for global recovery, inclusive development and social justice, and therefore must be an integral part of the post-2015 development agenda.

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Putting science into practice for early child development

Anthony Lake, Margaret Chan

The debate between nature and nurture as determinants of early child development is over. Today, we understand that the two are inextricably linked. The degree of their interdependence—and the impact of this interplay on the developing brains of children—is even greater than we previously imagined.¹ This knowledge has tremendous implications for how we design and deliver early child development interventions.

During the past 24 years, the united efforts and shared goals of the global community have achieved substantial progress in child survival, and child mortality worldwide has declined by 49%.² We can build on those gains by focusing new effort and attention not only on saving children's lives, but also on supporting the healthy development of their brains. This is especially important for the millions of children growing up in the most disadvantaged and vulnerable communities and countries, who already face multiple adversities and whose societies also suffer the consequences of those deprivations.

We already know that the brain develops most rapidly in the first few years of a child's life. During these critical years, neuroplasticity is at a peak—neurons form new connections at the astounding rate of up to 1000 per second.³ These synaptic connections are the foundation of a child's physical and mental health, affecting everything from longevity to the lifelong capacity to learn, from the ability to adapt to change to the capacity for resilience.

New lines of research are expanding our understanding of the part environment plays in the formation of these neural connections. If children fail to get what they need—enough nutrition, nurturing, stimulation, and a sense of security—during the most critical years of early childhood, the impact on their lives and futures is enormous. For example, inadequate nutrition in the early years of childhood can result in stunting, which can cause diminished physical and cognitive development that undermine a child's ability to learn and earn later in life. Similarly, inadequate stimulation during the same critical period of earliest childhood can reduce learning capacity and ability to form social and emotional attachments.⁴

The impact of such deprivations can intensify in situations that produce toxic stress in children, including chronic deprivation and prolonged hunger, domestic violence and abuse, and the effects of living through violent conflicts and other catastrophes. Toxic stress increases the production of cortisol, a hormone that can disrupt the healthy development of the brain, affecting health, learning, and behaviour. Toxic stress also undermines the ability of the body to absorb nutrients, so potentially exacerbating malnutrition.⁵

We are just beginning to understand how environmental factors—including the quality of parenting—might modify the expression of genes, and possibly affect not just one, but multiple, generations.^{6, 7} This growing area of inquiry is beginning to change the way we think about development in early childhood and early childhood development interventions. As separate fields of study begin to come together to translate scientific evidence into practical action, some key recommendations are emerging.

First, early intervention is essential. Neuroplasticity begins to decline after early childhood. It becomes progressively harder to offset the effects of early childhood deprivation on the brain. Interventions are most effective during the period of most dynamic growth, and what happens in these early years affects a child for life.

Second, to be most effective, interventions must be intersectoral, going beyond education to encompass health, nutrition, and protection. The healthy development of a child's brain depends on multiple positive experiences. Nutrition feeds the brain; stimulation sparks the mind; love and protection buffer the negative impact of stress and adversity. And distinct interventions are mutually supportive, achieving the strongest results when delivered together. One example is Care for Child Development,⁸ an intervention jointly developed by WHO and UNICEF that instructs mothers and caregivers to stimulate language and learning in young children using everyday objects and activities. This intervention is designed to be delivered with instruction on the importance of improving nutrition for young children. Better nutrition, in turn, supports a child's ability to benefit from cognitive stimulation. By increasing the quantity and quality of caregiving, these interventions also strengthen affectionate bonds between children and parents. In doing so, this approach effectively reinforces a sense of responsibility to continue the interventions: a virtuous cycle.

Intersectoral interventions in early childhood are also important because of the complex interactions of toxic stress, nutrition, and brain development. Studies show that nutritional supplements alone will not fully alleviate the effects of malnutrition in children who also experience high levels of toxic stress.⁹ Similarly, failing to provide adequate nutrition undermines the development of neural connections: a vicious cycle. This knowledge has special significance in the context of humanitarian emergencies, and underlines the need to minimise the negative impact of toxic stress and inadequate nutrition in the lives of the most vulnerable of all children.

Third, designing interventions to optimise brain development must also take into account the entire lifecycle, beginning with maternal health and prenatal care. This means investing more in interventions to support mothers before conception, during pregnancy and childbirth, and beyond. Similarly, we must also focus attention and resources on adolescence, the period during which the developing brain consolidates the neural connections formed in the early years. We now understand that such interventions could help offset, although not fully ameliorate, the effects of earlier deprivation.

Today, 200 million children younger than 5 years are not achieving their developmental potential.¹⁰ Most of these children are growing up in the poorest households of their respective societies. They are the children living in remote rural communities and urban slums; children living through emergencies and chronic conflicts; children from minorities; and children with disabilities. This loss of potential for these children is a personal tragedy; but more broadly, it helps perpetuate cycles of poverty and inequality in their societies and undermines stability and prosperity. But investing in early interventions timed to take advantage of crucial phases of brain development can improve the lives of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children and their societies.

The long-term benefits of doing so are potentially great. Studies of children in Guatemala and Jamaica who participated in learning and nutrition programmes in their first 2–3 years of life

showed dramatic differences in earning capacity later in life. The interventions included a protein supplement for infants, and home visits by community health workers to guide mothers in the importance of early stimulation. The cost of delivering these interventions is exceeded by the short-term and long-term benefits: children who benefited from these interventions earned between 20% and 40% more in adulthood than those who did not.¹¹

As the Millennium Development Goal period comes to a close and the post-2015 development agenda takes shape, the global community has an opportunity to assess its progress in reducing poverty, and in expanding growth, prosperity, and sustainable development. Even more, it has the responsibility to address the barriers that remain. We have an opportunity now to do just that, by translating scientific knowledge into practical solutions to change the lives of millions of children.

.....

Forests, Trees and Landscapes for Food Security and Nutrition - A Global Assessment Report

International Union of Forest Research Organizations - IUFRO World Series Vol. 33

Editors: Bhaskar Vira, Christoph Wildburger, Stephanie Mansourian

ISBN 978-3-902762-40-5 :: 172 pages

[Download full report \(PDF, 4.7 MB\)](#)

Abstract

This report presents the results of the fourth global scientific assessment undertaken so far in the framework of GFEP. It reflects the importance of policy coherence and integration more than any previous GFEP assessment. It comes at a time when the United Nations General Assembly seeks to adopt a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which build upon the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and converge with the post-2015 development agenda. In this context, the eradication of hunger, realisation of food security and the improvement of nutrition are of particular relevance. By 2050, the international community will face the challenge of providing 9 billion people with food, shelter and energy. Despite impressive productivity increases, there is growing evidence that conventional agricultural strategies will fall short of eliminating global hunger and malnutrition. The assessment report in hand provides comprehensive scientific evidence on how forests, trees and landscapes can be – and must be – an integral part of the solution to this global problem. In other words, we must connect the dots and see the bigger picture.

Policy Brief

Forests, Trees and Landscapes for Food Security and Nutrition - Contributing to the "Zero Hunger Challenge"

International Union of Forest Research Organizations

ISBN 978-3-902762-41-2 :: 16 pages

[Download Policy Brief \(PDF, 1.5 MB\)](#)

Press Release

[New UN-backed report emphasizes possible contribution of forests to ending hunger](#)

6 May 2015, New York

A new United Nations-backed report on the link between forests and food production and nutrition says that woodlands could be the key to ending hunger and will be intimately linked to the global fight against climate change.

Launched today at UN Headquarters in New York, where the 11th session of the UN Forum on Forests, the Forests, Trees and Landscapes for Food Security and Nutrition report outlines the potential of forests to improve food security and nutrition, and to ensure the livelihoods of the world's most vulnerable people.

"What the report is trying to get us to focus on is the relatively neglected contribution that forests and trees make to food security and nutrition," said Bhaskar Vira, who serves as Chair of the Expert Panel on Forests and Food Security. "Not necessarily neglected by the people who actually consume them but possibly neglected in some of the policy discourses."

He stressed that it was understood in the report that conventional agriculture would remain the major source of people's nutrition needs but underlined the complementary role that forests and tree-based systems would also play in feeding the world. "We're not trying to suggest that forests and tree-based systems will replace agricultural in relation the critical relationship between crops and food," said Mr. Vira. "But what we document in extensive detail is the role that forests and tree-based systems already play in supplementing people's diets and the important roles they play in supplying people with a nutritionally balanced diet."

Apart from the importance of forests and trees to food security and nutrition, the report's other key messages are that integrated governance is important in the interaction between different areas of land-use, that local control of forests are vital to their well-being and to food security as a whole, and that there is a need going forward to reimagine forests and food security.

The report, which is based on existing knowledge, was put together by more than 60 renowned scientists who are part of the Global Forest Expert Panel (GFEP) on Forests and Food Security. The initiative was led by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) – a world-wide organization devoted to forest research and related sciences, and a member of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), which is an informal arrangement among 14 international organizations and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests.

The current session of the Forest Forum is trying to forge an international forest policy for the next 15 years that will be aligned with the new sustainable development agenda expected to be adopted in September. The current integration of forests into the new agenda demonstrates the increasing recognition of the critical role forests play in eradicating poverty, as well as addressing climate change.

"Conservation of forests and arresting deforestation remains the most affordable and most interesting and valuable cost-benefit option to decrease carbon emissions," said Manoel Sobral Filho, Director of the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat, who also stressed the how crucial the current year was as the international community discussed a new development agenda and he noted that forests were to be included in two of the proposed new sustainable development goals.



The Elders conclude three-day visit to Moscow

From Ukraine to Syria and Iran, The Elders held talks on geopolitical issues with Russian officials, including President Putin, Foreign Minister Lavrov and former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

29 April 2015 – Press Release [[Full text](#)]

Six members of The Elders, led by the organisation's Chair, Kofi Annan, today concluded a successful visit to Moscow with a meeting with President Vladimir Putin at his residence.

The Elders, concerned about increasing international confrontations and geopolitical tensions, held constructive and open talks with President Putin. The Elders intend to continue their discussions on these deeply worrisome developments with other governments.

Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General said: "We are pleased to have had the opportunity to discuss Russia's role in international affairs with the President. To be successful in defusing conflicts and building trust, high-level dialogue and effective action are essential."

Apart from President Putin, the Elders held in-depth discussions with Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and former Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov, as well as the heads of leading Moscow-based think tanks.

As this was the first visit by The Elders as an organisation to Moscow, the delegation was keen to listen to their Russian interlocutors. The Elders wanted to hear how the Government views current geopolitical crises around the world, in particular the situation in Ukraine and prospects for implementation of the Minsk II agreement. The Elders emphasised the importance of the urgent implementation of the agreement.

A recurrent topic of discussion was the complex and dangerous situation in the Middle East today. The Elders agreed with their Russian hosts on the dangers posed by the rise of terrorism and extremism in Syria and Iraq, and the worrying spread of its influence to other regions.

They also spoke with their interlocutors in Moscow about the need to bring the Iranian nuclear discussions with the "P5+1" group of major states, including Russia, to a successful conclusion by the end of June, and then to make sure the agreement is fully implemented. As an independent organisation dedicated to the pursuit of peace worldwide, The Elders are keen to encourage steps by all concerned that can help de-escalate global tensions and the risk of further conflict.

Those Elders who participated in the mission to Russia were: Martti Ahtisaari, former Finnish President; Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General; Lakhdar Brahimi, former Algerian Foreign Minister; Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Norwegian Prime Minister; Jimmy Carter, former US President; and Ernesto Zedillo, former Mexican President.

::::::

EBOLA/EVD [to 9 May 2015]

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

WHO: Ebola Situation Report - 6 May 2015

[Excerpts]

SUMMARY

:: A total of 18 confirmed cases of Ebola virus disease (EVD) was reported in the week to 3 May: Guinea and Sierra Leone each reported 9 cases. This is the lowest weekly total this year, and comes after a month-long period during which case

incidence fluctuated between 30 and 37 confirmed cases per week. That both countries have each reported fewer than 10 cases is encouraging, but it is important to guard against complacency. Liberia has reported fewer than 10 cases per week since the start of January this year, but the outbreak will be declared to have ended only if no new cases are reported up to 9 May, which marks 42 complete days since the burial of the last confirmed case...

COUNTRIES WITH WIDESPREAD AND INTENSE TRANSMISSION

:: There have been a total of 26,593 reported confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (figure 1, table 1), with 11,005 reported deaths (outcomes for many cases are unknown). A total of 9 new confirmed cases were reported in Guinea, 0 in Liberia, and 9 in Sierra Leone in the 7 days to 3 May.

[The Ebola outbreak in Liberia is over](#)

WHO statement

9 May 2015

Today, 9 May 2015, WHO declares Liberia free of Ebola virus transmission. Forty-two days have passed since the last laboratory-confirmed case was buried on 28 March 2015. The outbreak of Ebola virus disease in Liberia is over.

Interruption of transmission is a monumental achievement for a country that reported the highest number of deaths in the largest, longest, and most complex outbreak since Ebola first emerged in 1976. At the peak of transmission, which occurred during August and September 2014, the country was reporting from 300 to 400 new cases every week...

* * * *

:: 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 9 May 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases/Meetings Coverage

6 May 2015

SC/11883-AFR/3130-PKO/482

[Security Council Press Statement on MONUSCO Peacekeepers](#)

The following Security Council press statement was issued today by Council President Raimonda Murmokaitė (Lithuania):

The members of the Security Council condemned in the strongest terms the attack against United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

(MONUSCO) peacekeepers in Beni territory on 5 May 2015, in which two Tanzanian peacekeepers were killed and others injured.

The members of the Security Council expressed their deepest condolences to the families of the peacekeepers killed, as well as to the Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania, and to MONUSCO. The members of the Security Council also wished a speedy recovery to those injured.

The members of the Security Council called on the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to swiftly investigate this attack and bring the perpetrators to justice and stressed that those responsible for the attack shall be held accountable. The members of the Security Council underlined that attacks targeting peacekeepers may constitute war crimes under international law...

6 May 2015
ENV/DEV/1516

[Forest Forum Heads into Negotiations on Draft Declaration, Resolution Setting Out Elements for Post-2015 Arrangement, Possible Global Fund, Technical Advice Body](#)

The Chair of the United Nations Forum on Forests today described the contours of the draft ministerial declaration and draft resolution that the policy body planned to send to the Economic and Social Council for adoption, following the close of its eleventh session on 15 May.

5 May 2015
GA/11641

[Lessons of Second World War Must Continue to Guide United Nations Work, General Assembly Told During Meeting Marking Seventieth Anniversary](#)

The lessons of World War II — on whose ashes the United Nations was founded — must continue to guide the Organization's work, even as it adapted to meet the evolving challenges of the modern world, delegates commemorating the seventieth anniversary of the end of the war told the General Assembly today.

5 May 2015
SC/11882

[Milestone Expected to Be Reached in Liberia's Fight against Ebola, Senior Officials Tell Security Council](#)

With Ebola nearly eradicated from Liberia, it was now critical to address factors that contributed to the epidemic's spread in the country, particularly given the continued drawdown of peacekeepers, the Secretary-General's Special Representative told the Security Council this afternoon.

UN OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 9 May 2015]
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/media.aspx?IsMediaPage=true>

[UN rights experts condemn recent upsurge in executions in Iran, many of them unreported](#)

Special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Sp. Rapporteur on summary executions

5/8/2015

[Enforced disappearances: UN expert group examines almost 400 cases from 30 countries](#)
[WG on Disappearances](#)

5/6/2015

[Joint Declaration on Freedom of Expression and responses to conflict situations](#)

Sp. Rapporteur on freedom of expression

5/4/2015

[UN and international experts release key declaration on Freedom of Expression in Conflict Situations](#)

Sp. Rapporteur on freedom of expression

5/4/2015

SRSG/CAAC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict [to 9 May 2015]

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

06 May

[UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict Welcomes South Sudan's Accession to the Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)

SRSG/SVC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict [to 9 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 9 May 2015]

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

[UNHCR calls on Hungary to protect, not persecute, refugees](#)

8 May 2015

BUDAPEST (UNHCR) – The UN Refugee Agency on Friday spoke out against a growing expression of xenophobia in Hungary. It raised concerns over efforts by the Hungarian government to paint refugees as a threat to the country in leading questions being asked during a so-called national consultation.

"We are deeply concerned by the way the government increasingly vilifies people who have fled from war zones like Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq and who desperately need safety and protection in Hungary," said Montserrat Feixas Vihé, UNHCR Regional Representative for Central Europe based in Budapest...

[UNHCR calls for joint response in wake of "Rohingya mass grave" in Thailand](#)

6 May 2015

BANGKOK, May 6 – The UN refugee agency is deeply concerned at this week's discovery of dozens of bodies in smugglers' camps in southern Thailand. The agency calls on countries in the region to strengthen cooperation on counter-smuggling and counter-trafficking measures while ensuring the protection of victims...

UN OCHA [to 9 May 2015]

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

08 May 2015

[South Sudan: Statement by the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan, Mr. Toby Lanzer: "Up to 100,000 People Displaced in Unity State in May Alone"](#)

07 May 2015

[Vanuatu: Vanuatu: Cyclone Pam Response: Summary of Response Activities \(as of 07 May 2015\)](#)

[Yemen: Statement by the Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen, Johannes Van Der Klaauw \[EN/AR\]](#)

Yemen Amman, 7 May 2015 I am gravely concerned by reports coming out of Aden yesterday with accounts of scores of people, many of them civilians and including women and children, being killed and injured in hostilities. Civilians were reportedly targeted while they were trying to flee to safer areas, having been trapped in Aden with limited or no access to water, food and health care for weeks...

05 May 2015

[Niger: International support urgently needed as Niger, Chad shoulder burden of region in crisis](#)

OCHA Operations Director John Ging said today that Niger and Chad are making heroic efforts to cope with the impact of turmoil in the region but the international community is failing in its responsibility to share the burden. Speaking after his return from the two countries, Mr. Ging noted that between them, they host more than 850,000 refugees and returnees from neighbouring...

UNISDR UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 9 May 2015]

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

[UNISDR praises Geneva's flood management](#)

6 May 2015

The head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Margareta Wahlström, today praised Geneva for its management of the exceptional floodwaters which have threatened the city in recent days following torrential rain in the French Alps. Geneva is home to UNISDR and 40 other UN agencies.

UNICEF [to 9 May 2015]

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

Selected press release and news notes

[Nepal Earthquake: Education for nearly 1 million children in jeopardy - UNICEF](#)

KATHMANDU, 7 May 2015 – At least 950,000 children in Nepal will not be able to return to school, unless urgent action is taken to provide temporary learning spaces and repair damaged school buildings following the 25 April earthquake – according to UNICEF.

[UNICEF Innovation adopts new models of investment to give poorest children better opportunities](#)

NEW YORK, 7 May 2015 – UNICEF today launched a Global Innovation Centre and Innovation

Fund to bring to scale creative and cost-reducing approaches to better the lives of the poorest children.

[Media Advisory: J7 International Youth Summit](#)

NEW YORK, 6 May 2015 - J7 International Youth Summit organised by the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and UNICEF Germany, ahead of the G7 Summit in Germany.

[South Sudan: Put child rights first, UNICEF says](#)

JUBA, South Sudan, May 5, 2015 – UNICEF today welcomed South Sudan's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and urged the Government to make child rights the cornerstone of the world's youngest nation.

[Armed groups in Central African Republic agree to release thousands of children](#)

BANGUI, Central African Republic, 5 May 2015 - Leaders of armed groups in the Central African Republic agreed today to release all children associated with their forces and to immediately end any new child recruitment.

[Nepal Earthquake: UNICEF-EU partnership airlifts emergency supplies](#)

BRUSSELS/KATHMANDU, Nepal, 4 May 2015 – A cargo plane carrying 40 metric tons of life-saving supplies just landed in Kathmandu to provide assistance to some of the 1.7 million children affected by the April 25 earthquake.

[Nepal earthquake: Emergency immunisation campaign for hundreds of thousands of children - UNICEF](#)

KATHMANDU, Nepal, 4 May 2015 – More than half a million children are being targeted in an emergency vaccination drive in Nepal – as fears grow of measles outbreaks in the informal camps that have sprung up since the earthquake on 25 April.

UN Women [to 9 May 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[Restoring dignity: Women mobilize relief efforts in Nepal](#)

Date : May 7, 2015

UN Women and partner organizations are working to prevent violence against women and children, with dignity kits being distributed in many districts affected by the earthquake.

["Women and social inclusion: From Beijing to Post-2015"](#)

Date : May 7, 2015

Opening remarks by UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, at a global meeting to mark the 20th anniversary of the landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, on 6 May 2015, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

[Press release: UN Women announces bold commitments to gender equality from 10 partners across the world](#)

Date : May 5, 2015

UN Women's *HeForShe* campaign today announced 10 bold commitments from its IMPACT Champions, demonstrating strong leadership to advance women's rights and empowerment. The HeForShe IMPACT 10X10X10 is an initiative that aims to engage an initial 10 governments, corporations and universities around the world in activities to achieve gender equality....

Corporate Champions:

- :: Sébastien Bazin, Chair and CEO, Accor
- :: Mustafa Koç, Chair, Koç Holding
- :: Dennis Nally, Chair, PricewaterhouseCoopers International Ltd:
- :: Rick Goings, Chair and CEO, Tupperware Brands
- :: Paul Polman, CEO, Unilever

University Champions:

- :: Peter Mathieson, President and Vice-Chancellor, the University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong)
- :: Paul Boyle, President and Vice-Chancellor, Leicester University (UK)
- :: Seiichi Matsuo, President, Nagoya University (Japan)
- :: Feridun Hamdullahpur, President and Vice-Chancellor, the University of Waterloo (Canada)
- :: Adam Habib, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa)

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues [to 9 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

Statements from the session can be found on the [UN Papersmart page](#)

WHO & Regionals [to 9 May 2015]

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

:: [Improving access to lifesaving medicines for hepatitis C, drug-resistant TB and cancers](#)
8 May 2015 -- WHO today published the new edition of its Model List of Essential Medicines which includes ground-breaking new treatments for hepatitis C, a variety of cancers (including breast cancer and leukaemia) and multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (TB), among others. The move opens the way to improve access to innovative medicines that show clear clinical benefits and could have enormous public health impact globally.

[Press release on the new edition of the Essential Medicines list](#)

:: [WHO issues best practices for naming new human infectious diseases](#)

May 2015 -- WHO today called on scientists, national authorities and the media to follow best practices in naming new human infectious diseases to minimize unnecessary negative effects on nations, economies and people

:: [A commitment to improve global health information](#)

May 2015 -- WHO and the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) signed a Memorandum of Understanding defining areas where they will work together to improve the quality and use of global health estimates to measure the world's health challenges.

Stories from countries

[Nepali and international medical teams join forces to fill health care gaps in quake-ravaged Sindhupalchok](#)

6 May 2015

["Sin Tax" expands health coverage in the Philippines](#)

6 May 2015

[Syrian Arab Republic builds capacity for mental health care during conflict](#)

5 May 2015

[Mobile health clinics help tackle post-earthquake mental health problems in Nepal](#)

5 May 2015

[Sierra Leone: Helping health workers protect patients with clean hands](#)

4 May 2015

:: The [Weekly Epidemiological Record \(WER\) 8 May 2015](#), vol. 90, 19 (pp. 201–216) includes:

..Dracunculiasis eradication: global surveillance summary, 2014

..Monthly report on dracunculiasis cases, January– February 2015

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

..[8 May 2015](#) - Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Iran

..[8 May 2015](#) - Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia

:: [Global Immunization Meeting: "Protect, Innovate, Accelerate"](#)

23-25 June 2015, Sitges/Barcelona, Spain.

[Agenda pdf, 499kb](#)

:: **WHO Regional Offices**

WHO African Region AFRO

:: [WHO calls Experts' Meeting to promote responsible use of antimicrobials and combat antimicrobial resistance in the African Region](#)

Brazzaville, 8 May 2015 – The African Region is facing an increasing risk of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) that threatens the effective prevention and treatment of an ever-increasing range of infections caused by bacteria, parasites, viruses and fungi. AMR and its spread will compromise health security in the Region as many standard medical treatments will fail or turn into high-risk procedures causing prolonged illnesses, high health care expenditures, and greater risks of death.

:: [African Public Health Leaders Unite to End Preventable Deaths and Improve Health of Women, Children and Adolescents by 2030 - 06 May 2015](#)

WHO Region of the Americas PAHO

:: [Ten key actions by PAHO member countries that led to elimination of rubella](#) (05/04/2015)

WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO

:: [WHO committed to helping Nepal deliver health care to its citizens, says WHO South-East Asia Regional Director](#) 07 May 2015

:: [WHO setting up Gorkha field office to extend health-care reach in Nepal](#) 03 May 2015

WHO European Region EURO

:: [Health financing course on universal health coverage another success](#) 05-05-2015

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO

:: [WHO pushes health diplomacy agenda forward in fourth high-level seminar in Cairo](#)

Cairo, 2 May 2015 – The WHO Regional Office held the fourth seminar on health diplomacy in Cairo, Egypt, from 2 to 4 May 2015. Senior officials from ministries of health and foreign affairs, ministers and permanent missions at the United Nations in Geneva, ambassadors, heads of parliamentary health committees and public health institutes attended the meeting and discussed priority issues, such as: noncommunicable diseases; the post-2015 development agenda; health security; and crises and humanitarian response.

:: [Syrian Arab Republic builds capacity for mental health care during conflict](#) May 2015

:: [WHO/UNHCR issue new guide on mental health in humanitarian emergencies](#) 5 May 2015

WHO Western Pacific Region

No new digest content identified.

UNAIDS [to 9 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund [to 9 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNDP United Nations Development Programme [to 9 May 2015]

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

08 May 2015

[Access Afya joins the Business Call to Action with commitment to bring affordable healthcare to low-income Kenyans](#)

Some 15,000 residents of Nairobi's slums will gain access to quality healthcare following a commitment by Kenyan social enterprise Access Afya to the Business Call to Action (BCtA). The company has innovated a high-tech healthcare system that provides consistent, quality service and medication to low-income Kenyans in both micro-clinic and school settings.

08 May 2015

[Transgender Nepalis face isolation in quake's aftermath](#)

The 25 April earthquake in Nepal devastated communities across the country, and has had an especially profound impact on marginalized communities.

06 May 2015

[Helen Clark: Speech at the Opening Session of the Global Conference on Women and Social Inclusion: From Beijing to post-2015](#)

Buenos Aires, Argentina

03 May 2015

[UNDP assists 84 developing countries safely manage Persistent Organic Pollutants to protect human health, livelihoods and environment](#)

Geneva - At the 7th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (SC COP-7) in Geneva this week, UNDP will be reporting its contribution to the global effort to reduce the risks of persistent organic pollutants (POPs). As of May 2015, UNDP is supporting 84 countries implement POPs-related projects, amounting to US \$156 million in Global Environment Facility (GEF) grants and US \$392 million in co-financing. Consequently, 9,500 tonnes of POPs have been safely disposed and 335,000 tonnes of contaminated wastes have been safeguarded.

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are chemicals that negatively affect health and environment through air, water and soil, causing nervous system damage, immune system breakdown, reproductive system disorder and cancer. To help reduce the vulnerability, especially of the poor, to health and environmental hazards, UNDP helps countries meet the objectives of the Stockholm Convention with financial support from GEF and other co-financing partners. To ensure sustainability 300,000 people have been trained globally on POPs management and 65 national regulations on safe management of POPS have been adopted with UNDP support. These efforts have helped 220,000 people reduce their high-risk exposure to POPs....

UN Division for Sustainable Development [to 9 May 2015]

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

[Joint Post-2015 and Financing for Development session highlights common ambition](#)

5 May 2015 - The joint session between the [Financing for Development \(FfD\)](#) and [Post-2015](#) processes was held from 21 to 24 April 2015 at UN Headquarters. It focused on means of implementation, a global partnership for sustainable development, and the relationship between the post-2015 and FfD processes...

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme [to 9 May 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

["Energy - make it bird-friendly!" - UN Says](#)

World Migratory Bird Day 2015 highlights the importance of a clean energy future, which ensures the survival of migratory birds.

08/05/2015

[G7 Countries, Top Insurers Team Up for Climate Change Resilience](#)

At the G7 Climate Risk Insurance Conference

07/05/2015 00:00:00

[Leading Financial Experts and Central Bank Chiefs, Members of UNEP's Inquiry Advisory Council, Call for Alignment of Financial Markets with Sustainability Needs](#)

The UNEP Inquiry, launched in early 2014, is exploring what will potentially be one of the most important changes in our international economic landscape.

06/05/2015

[Swiss Government Calls for an Economy that Respects Planetary Boundaries](#)

Swiss Report Provides Input to UNEP Inquiry into the Design of a Sustainable Financial System
06/05/2015

[UNEP Chief Warns of Tsunami of E-Waste at Conference on Chemical Treaties](#)
At the Triple Conference of Parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
05/05/2015

UN DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 9 May 2015]
<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news.html>

[New UN-backed report emphasizes possible contribution of forests to ending hunger](#)

6 May 2015, New York

A new United Nations-backed report on the link between forests and food production and nutrition says that woodlands could be the key to ending hunger and will be intimately linked to the global fight against climate change

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

[Call for 'meaningful decision' on strengthened international forest arrangement](#)

4 May 2015, New York

Opening the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests today, the Deputy Secretary-General, Jan Eliasson, called on delegates to work on agreeing on a strengthened International Arrangement on Forests, which balanced ambition and practicality. "A meaningful decision on strengthening the International Arrangement on Forests will put us on a path towards a greener economy and a more equitable and sustainable future for all," said Mr. Eliasson in his [remarks to the Forum](#), which is holding its current session in New York through 15 May.

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 9 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme [to 9 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

FAO Food & Agriculture Organization [to 9 May 2015]

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

[FAO hails G20 focus on building sustainable food systems and reducing food loss and waste](#)

The G20 agriculture ministers noted "with great concern the significant extent of food loss and waste throughout food value chains" describing it as "a global problem of enormous economic, environmental and societal significance".

8-05-2015

[National forest funds can help tackle climate change](#)

National forest funds - publicly-managed financing mechanisms intended to support sustainable forest management - hold vast potential to catalyze greater investment in forestry, including investment aimed at addressing climate change. However, their role still remains largely unrecognized, according to a [new FAO policy paper](#).

8-05-2015

[FAO predicts world food import bill to fall to five-year low](#)

International prices for agricultural commodities continued to decline in April and "exceptionally high" inventories are poised to offset any pressure from the slight reduction in global harvests expected this year, according to FAO's biannual Food Outlook. FAO's Food Price Index declined 1.2 percent in April from March, 19.2 percent less than a year ago.

7-05-2015

[FAO, EBRD and UFM seek to boost food security in the Mediterranean region](#)

FAO, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Union for the Mediterranean co-organised the "Private Sector Forum on Food Security in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Region" conference to develop initiatives to increase investment in agricultural and food systems in the southern and eastern Mediterranean region.

5-05-2015

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 9 May 2015]

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

7 May: [IFAD to showcase the importance of investing in rural people at the G20 Agricultural Ministers Meeting](#)

7 May: [IFAD and the Solomon Islands invest in rural communities](#)

6 May: [IFAD's new financing framework means more investment in poor rural communities](#)
[Arabic](#) | [French](#) | [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

Rome, 6 May 2015 – The Executive Board of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) recently approved the Sovereign Borrowing Framework, a unique and innovative financial policy tool created to meet the increased need for investing in the Fund's agricultural development projects.

"This framework provides the means to leverage additional funding for our work in remote areas where few others venture," said Kanayo F. Nwanze, President of IFAD. "As we look to how we will finance the post-2015 agenda, IFAD believes that financing tools like this one are essential to transforming rural areas into vibrant places where women and men can thrive."

Meeting the ambition of the new Sustainable Development Goals that will be adopted in September will require a substantial range of domestic and international investments from both the public and private sectors. Development institutions need to broaden their financing instruments in order to attract additional finance and support their partners in making the best use of these resources.

The framework focuses on the parameters within which IFAD may borrow from sovereign states and state-supported institutions. IFAD's goal is to support rural people so they can improve their food and nutrition security, increase their incomes and strengthen their resilience by investing in agricultural development projects that bring about rural transformation. In order to reach more rural people and increase its impact, IFAD will continue to expand its funding

base by leveraging additional resources. As a first step in this direction late last year, the Fund signed a framework agreement with Germany's KfW Development Bank for up to EUR 400 million and a first loan of EUR 100 million.

ILO International Labour Organization [to 9 May 2015]

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

Inequalities

[Mothers and children need more – not less – social protection](#)

07 May 2015

As several countries around the world prepare to celebrate Mother's Day, two new ILO studies provide new global and country data that point to the urgent need to increase social protection for mothers and children.

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization [to 9 May 2015]

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

[ICAO Wraps up Successful Multi-Region Outreach Effort on Global MBM for International Air Transport](#)

MONTRÉAL, 1 May 2015 – The International Civil Aviation Organization successfully concluded its first round of Global Aviation Dialogues (GLADs) on Market-based Measures (MBMs) during April 2015, covering all ICAO regions. The two-day GLADs sessions were designed to share information on MBMs and their potential role in mitigating CO2 emissions from international aviation, update ICAO's progress on the development of its global MBM scheme, and provide an important opportunity for feedback and discussion amongst Member States and relevant organizations...

IMO International Maritime Organization [to 9 May 2015]

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

[Polar Code environmental provisions set for adoption at MEPC](#)

06/05/2015 IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee meets 11-15 May.

...Polar Code environmental provisions set for adoption

The MEPC is expected to adopt the environmental requirements of the mandatory International Code for ships operating in polar waters (Polar Code), and the associated MARPOL amendments to make the Code mandatory. This follows the adoption, by the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) in December 2014 of the Polar Code and related amendments to make it mandatory under the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS). The Polar Code is expected to enter into force on 1 January 2017.

The Polar Code covers the full range of design, construction, equipment, operational, training, search and rescue and environmental protection matters relevant to ships operating in waters surrounding the two poles.

Draft environmental provisions cover:

:: Prevention of pollution by oil: discharge into the sea of oil or oily mixtures from any ship is prohibited. Oil fuel tanks must be separated from outer shell;

:: Prevention of pollution by noxious liquid substances: discharge into the sea of noxious liquid substances, or mixtures containing such substances is prohibited;
:: Prevention of pollution by sewage; discharge of sewage is prohibited unless performed in line with MARPOL Annex IV and requirements in the Polar Code; and
:: Prevention of pollution by garbage: discharge of garbage is restricted and only permitted in accordance with MARPOL Annex V and requirements in the Polar Code

The adoption of the Polar Code and associated MARPOL amendments at MEPC 68 will complete the process to make the Code mandatory under both the SOLAS and MARPOL treaties...

WMO World Meteorological Organization [to 9 May 2015]

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

[Monthly Global CO₂ Average Concentration Passes Symbolic Threshold](#)

7 May 2015

The monthly global average concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere exceeded 400 parts per million in March 2015 for the first time on record, according to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

This threshold is of symbolic and scientific significance and reinforces evidence that the burning of fossil fuels and other human activities are responsible for the continuing increase in heat-trapping greenhouse gases warming our planet.

[Twenty Questions and Answers About the Ozone Layer](#)

5 May 2015

A new publication, Twenty Questions and Answers About the Ozone Layer, presents complex science in a straightforward manner. It complements the 2014 Scientific Assessment Report of Ozone Depletion by WMO and the U.N. Environment Programme.

Global ozone depletion is no longer increasing, and initial signs of recovery of the ozone layer have been identified. This is thanks to the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 9 May 2015]

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

[UNIDO organizes Balkans regional conference on tourism and cluster-based local economic development](#)

Friday, 08 May 2015

SKOPJE, 8 May 2015 - Tourism in the Balkans and the sector's role in sustainable economic development was the focus of a conference that ended today in Skopje. The two-day event was organized in collaboration with the Ministry...\\

[New public-private partnership to boost Ethiopian coffee production, benefit local farmers and consumers](#)

Monday, 04 May 2015

MILAN, 4 May 2015 – The Italian coffee roasting company illycaffè, the Ernesto Illy Foundation and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) will join forces to develop the value chain of Ethiopian coffee...

UNWTO World Tourism Organization [to 9 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

ITU International Telecommunications Union [to 9 May 2015]

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

[ITU to study the network standardization requirements of '5G'](#)

Open group to identify the standardization needs of future networks

Geneva, 5 May 2015 – ITU has established a new Focus Group to identify the network standardization requirements for the '5G' development of International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) for 2020 and beyond. The network studies will be hosted by ITU's Standardization Sector (ITU-T), benefiting from the strength of ITU-T standardization in wireline communications.

These "IMT-2020" systems will enable wireless communication to match the speed and reliability achieved by fibre-optic infrastructure. The potential application fields of IMT-2020 systems, in addition to voice and video, span from healthcare to industrial automation, virtual reality, automated driving, and robotic systems controlled with an imperceptible time lag. One-millisecond end-to-end latency is necessary for technical systems to replicate natural human interaction with our environment, a goal that experts say should be within reach of future networks...

UNESCO [to 9 May 2015]

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

04.05.15

[Riga Declaration reaffirms importance of freedom of expression and press freedom for sustainable development](#)

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization [to 9 May 2015]

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

[Negotiators to Attend Diplomatic Conference on Lisbon System](#)

Negotiators will gather next week to discuss a proposed adjustment to an international registration system providing international protection for names that identify the geographic origin of products such as coffee, tea, fruits, wine, pottery, glass and cloth.

May 4, 2015 [PR/2015/777](#)

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity [to 9 May 2015]

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

Press Releases

[The Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress comes closer to entry into force with the latest ratification by Slovakia](#)

Montreal, 7 May 2015 – With Slovakia's ratification on 29 April 2015, the Nagoya–Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety needs only nine more ratifications to enter into force

Web announcements

2015-05-06

[The pilot programme is targeting young](#) scholars who wish to gain experience by participating in the development of the regional and sub-regional assessments (Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe and Central Asia) or the thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration. Selected fellows will take part as contributing authors to the chapter of the assessment they are selected for.

:::::

USAID [to 9 May 2015]

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

[USAID Announces \\$11 million in Additional Assistance for Nepal Earthquake Response](#)

May 5, 2015

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Acting Administrator Alfonso Lenhardt announced an additional \$11 million in assistance for Nepal earthquake response and recovery efforts, bringing the total U.S. humanitarian assistance for this disaster to nearly \$26 million.

DFID [to 9 May 2015]

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

[Nepal earthquake: UK aid response](#)

Updated 7 May 2015 News story DFID, FCO and MOD

[2010 to 2015 government policy: conflict in fragile states](#)

Published 7 May 2015 Policy paper DFID, FCO and MOD

[2010 to 2015 government policy: governance in developing countries](#)

Published 7 May 2015 Policy paper DFID

[2010 to 2015 government policy: health in developing countries](#)

Published 7 May 2015 Policy paper DFID

[2010 to 2015 government policy: women and girls in developing countries](#)

Published 7 May 2015 Policy paper DFID

[2010 to 2015 government policy: sexual violence in conflict](#)

Published 7 May 2015 Policy paper CO, DFID and FCO

[2010 to 2015 government policy: education in developing countries](#)

Published 7 May 2015 Policy paper DFID

[2010 to 2015 government policy: overseas aid effectiveness](#)

Published 7 May 2015 Policy paper DFID

[2010 to 2015 government policy: hunger and malnutrition in developing countries](#)

Published 7 May 2015 Policy paper DFID

[2010 to 2015 government policy: humanitarian emergencies](#)

Published 7 May 2015 Policy paper DFID

[2010 to 2015 government policy: water and sanitation in developing countries](#)

Published 7 May 2015 Policy paper DFID

[Violence against women and cash transfers in humanitarian contexts](#)

Published 7 May 2015 Guidance DFID

ECHO [to 9 May 2015]

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

[European Civil Protection Forum 2015: No country can face all disasters alone](#)

07/05/2015

90% of European citizens say they would expect help from other EU countries if a disaster struck in their country, according to a recent poll. Over 900 experts are meeting today in Brussels to discuss how European countries can best be prepared...

[Turkey joins the EU Civil Protection Mechanism](#)

06/05/2015

Turkey has joined the European framework for cooperation in disaster management and emergency response. Today Christos Stylianides, EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, signed the agreement...

[EU releases humanitarian aid for Burundi refugees](#)

05/05/2015

The European Commission is providing €1.5 million to meet the immediate humanitarian needs for assistance and protection of Burundians who are fleeing to neighbouring countries in great numbers.

[EU funds humanitarian airlift to Nepal](#)

04/05/2015

Thanks to a €400 000 contribution from the European Commission, emergencies supplies are being airlifted to earthquake-stricken Nepal. The supplies will support UNICEF's response to the disaster, providing vitally needed aid to 1.7 million children...

[Nepal: EU increases its financial support](#)

04/05/2015

EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides, announced additional €3 million in humanitarian aid to Nepal after witnessing in person the destruction caused by the earthquake during his mission last week.

:::::

African Union [to 9 May 2015]

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

May.08.2015

[AU Commission Chairperson Congratulates China on the Opening of a Dedicated Mission to the African Union](#)

The African Development Bank Group [to 9 May 2015]

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

[AfDB's new fund paves the way for climate finance readiness in Africa: Africa Climate Change Fund Annual Report](#)

08/05/2015 - Launched in April 2014 with a EUR 4.725 million contribution from Germany for an initial three-year period, the African Development Bank-sponsored Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF) is working to address underlying challenges currently preventing many of the region's countries from accessing the climate finance they require for engaging in climate-smart development.

[AfDB now supports 30 countries to advance on environment-smart projects with GEF: annual report](#)

04/05/2015 - The African Development Bank (AfDB) is an implementing agency for the Global Environment Facility since 2008. The relatively young portfolio has 28 projects over 30 countries on the continent according to the 2014 AfDB and GEF annual report released on Monday, May 4. The portfolio size has been multiplied by 10 during the last five years and is now worth more than USD 200 million.

ASEAN [to 9 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]

[Going Beyond the Lab: ASEAN-U.S. Science and Technology Fellowship Integrates Scientists into Policymaking](#)

JAKARTA, May 4, 2015 – The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Committee on Science and Technology and the U.S. Mission to ASEAN today announced a second group of fellowships to ASEAN scientists to further drive policy debates and data-based decision making to address some of the region's most challenging development issues.

European Union [to 9 May 2015]

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

[EU sets out path for ambitious European cooperation in defence and security](#)

Business / External relations and foreign affairs | 08/05/2015 12:00 | European Commission

[EU Charter places fundamental rights at the heart of EU policies](#)

08/05/2015 12:00 | European Commission

[European Commission and Europe's local governments strengthen ties to combat natural disasters](#)

Regions and local development | 08/05/2015 02:00 | Committee of the Regions

The European Commission and regional and local authorities took the first steps towards a stronger alliance to counter natural disasters. The European Committee of the Regions' (CoR) Commission for Natural Resources (NAT) held a debate on the role of local and regional authorities in disaster prevention and agreed, together with EU Commissioner Stylianides, that disaster management in Europe is a collective responsibility.

OECD [to 9 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]

5-May-2015

English

[Launch of first major OECD report on harmful alcohol use and its public health impact - Tuesday 12 May 2015](#)

Alcohol consumption ranks among the leading causes of death and disability worldwide. In addition to the health and social consequences individuals suffer, society at large pays a heavy price from road traffic accidents and violence, policing and healthcare, and loss of productivity.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) [to 9 May 2015]

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

[Germany Appoints Special Envoy to OIC , Madani and German Foreign Minister Discuss Ending Injustice to the Rohingya](#)

On the sideline of the visit of the Ministerial Contact Group on Palestine and Al-Quds Ash-Shareef, the OIC Secretary General, Iyad Ameen Madani, met with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, to discuss issues of common interest.[...](#)

07/05/2015

[OIC Ministerial Contact Group Meets with German Foreign Minister to Discuss Palestinian Issue Developments](#)

The OIC Ministerial Contact Group on the issue of Palestine and Al Quds Al Sharif, comprised of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine, Republic of Turkey, Malaysia, and the Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), met with the German Foreign Minister, Mr. Frank Fallar Shtainmar, and conveyed to him the OIC's position as to the Israeli violations and aggressions against the Holy City of Al Quds/Jerusalem, and most particularly the repeated incursions and excavation works under and around the Holy Al Aqsa Mosque. In addition, the delegation expressed concern over violations perpetrated against the Palestinians living in Al Quds in terms of forced exile, property confiscation, the imposition of oppressive and illegitimate laws including the so- called "absentee properties", the ravaging of homes, the killing of young Jerusalemites and the continued settlement policy aimed at judaizing the Holy City of Al Quds/Jerusalem and cutting it off its natural Palestinian environment; all of which could lead to turn the political conflict into a religious one.[...](#)

07/05/2015

[4th Expert level meeting of regional, sub-regional and other international organizations kicks off in Brussels, Belgium](#)

Co-organized by the UN, EU, OIC and OSCE and hosted by the EU, the 4th expert level meeting of regional, sub-regional and other international organizations have started in Brussels, Belgium on 6 May 2015. A three member OIC delegation led by Amb. Tarig Bakheet, Director in the Department of Political Affairs is attending the two day-long meeting, which will focus on exploring possible practical steps to promote the complementarity, coordination and coherence of peace mediation efforts....

07/05/2015

Group of 77 [to 9 May 2015]

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

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

[Statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by the Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations, at the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests \(New York, 4 May 2015\)](#)

[Excerpts]

... The Group of 77 and China acknowledges the achievements of the current International Arrangement on Forests and is of the view that it must be strengthened for it to make a real impact, catalyse the implementation and facilitate the mobilisation of increased, predictable and sustainable financing for the implementation of sustainable forest management...

...Informed by the need to assist developing countries and to strengthen the financing of sustainable forest management, the group will engage in the informal consultations seeking to fulfil its call for the establishment of a dedicated Global Forest Fund. The Fund shall aim to provide new and additional financial resources to developing countries to continuously promote sustainable forest management and to ensure full implementation of the forest instrument, the Global Objectives on Forests and all goals and targets that relate to forests...

UNCTAD [to 9 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

World Trade Organisation [to 9 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]

5 and 6 May 2015

GENERAL COUNCIL

[Azevêdo launches 10th WTO Ministerial Conference logo](#)

Director-General Roberto Azevêdo at a General Council meeting on 5 May launched the logo for the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference, noting that the logo was being launched simultaneously by the Kenyan government in Nairobi. He expressed the hope that "each time we see this logo, it will remind us of the many people in Africa, and all over the world, who are counting on us to

deliver substantive outcomes in Nairobi which will support much-needed global growth and development".

[Summary of the General Council meeting](#)

[Report by the Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee](#)

[Audio: Statement by Roberto Azevêdo](#)

[Summary of the General Council meeting](#)

[Proposed agenda](#)

[Austria donates EUR 200,000 to enhance developing countries' trading capacity](#)

The government of Austria is contributing EUR 200,000 (CHF 210,000) to the WTO's technical assistance activities in 2015. This amount consists of EUR 100,000 (CHF 105,000) to the WTO's Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund (DDAGTF) and EUR 100,000 (CHF 105,000) to the Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF), the first contribution to the TFAF since it became operational.

[Press release](#)

[Liberia's WTO accession is a deliverable for Nairobi Ministerial Conference](#)

At the second meeting of the Working Party on Liberia's WTO accession on 7 May 2015, WTO members demonstrated consensus for the conclusion of Liberia's accession at the WTO's Tenth Ministerial Conference in December in Nairobi, Kenya.

[News item](#)

IMF [to 9 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 9 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]

[World Bank Group President's Statement on Senior Staff Announcements](#)

May 6, 2015

The following is a statement by the World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim

WASHINGTON, May 6, 2015— Today we announced some important leadership changes at the World Bank Group, which will continue to strengthen our processes and build upon the success and collaboration fostered by our new organizational model.

Delivering strongly for our country and private sector clients in support of our mission remains my exclusive focus. In the ten months since our new model was established delivery is not only on track but is likely to exceed our initial expectations. Lending for IBRD is projected to reach a record level for a non-crisis period and we are on course to achieve the strongest ever first year for IDA during its three-year cycle. Already we are seeing that knowledge and staff have begun to move around the globe more easily. During the Spring Meetings last month, we heard overwhelmingly that our clients appreciate the increased support and knowledge we are delivering on the ground.

This success is the result of impressive work carried out by each institution of the World Bank Group this year, and I wish to thank all those who have made positive contributions.

We now have the opportunity to make some adjustments to bolster and accelerate the progress we are making and ensure we are delivering the most efficient and highest possible quality of lending, and analytical and advisory services for our clients.

We have decided to organize our Global Practices into three groups that recognize and build upon existing patterns of collaboration. This change will further strengthen the global nature of the new model, reduce some transaction costs and allow us to respond more quickly and effectively to client demands. These improvements come as a result of close listening, feedback and analysis over the first few months of operation of our new model.

The three groups will be led by Vice Presidents Keith Hansen, Laura Tuck and Jan Walliser. They are all highly strategic and passionate leaders with deep operational experience. They will report to Kyle Peters, our Senior Vice President for Operations, who will also oversee the Cross-Cutting Solutions areas supporting the maximum level of collaboration and synergy with the Practices.

Jin Yong Cai is today also announcing the strengthening of his IFC leadership team, with Nena Stoiljkovic assuming the role of co-Vice President in IFC of Global Client Services. We have also appointed Saran Kebet-Koulibaly as Vice President of Corporate Sustainability and Risk at the IFC. Finally, Keiko Honda is today announcing the appointment of Karin Finkelston as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of MIGA.

* * * *

:: 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 9 May 2015]

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

Prioritise Training and Deployment of Midwives, African Governments Urged

:: Amref Health Africa calls for greater focus on this important health worker cadre to reduce maternal deaths on the continent

:: International Day of the Midwife, May 5 2015

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

Aravind Eye Care System [to 9 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

BRAC [to 9 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

CARE International [to 9 May 2015]

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

[Nepal Earthquake: CARE Scales Up Response in Hard Hit Remote Districts](#)

NEPAL

06 May 2015

Since the devastating earthquake that hit Nepal on April 25, international aid agency CARE has reached nearly 11,000 people with food, emergency shelter and hygiene items, and is scaling up its response to reach 100,000 of the most vulnerable people.

Danish Refugee Council [to 9 May 2015]

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

[Life-saving assistance at risk of collapsing in Yemen](#) (06.05.15)

A group of 22 major aid agencies said their operations risk coming to an abrupt end within a week unless land, sea and air routes are opened immediately for the importation of fuel.

Yemen's INGO Forum

Danish Refugee Council

Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development

ZOA

Islamic Relief

Norwegian Refugee Council

INTERSOS

ACTED

CARE

Mercy Corps

Handicap International

Action Contre la Faim

World Relief

Médecins du Monde

Oxfam

International Medical Corps

Relief International

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

Save the Children

Progressio

Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale

Islamic Help

Amideast

Casa Alianza [to 9 May 2015]

Covenant House [to 9 May 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

ECPAT [to 9 May 2015]
<http://www.ecpat.net/news>
No new digest content identified.

Fountain House [to 9 May 2015]
<http://www.fountainhouse.org/about/news-press>
No new digest content identified.

Handicap International [to 9 May 2015]
http://www.handicap-international.us/press_releases

[Nepal earthquake: Handicap International marks first full week of emergency response](#)
Posted on May 02, 2015 1:18 PM

More than 70 Handicap International staff members are providing immediate care to people injured in the earthquake that struck Nepal on April 25. The organization, present in Nepal since 2001, is planning to help transport humanitarian aid to each of the districts affected by the earthquake.

Heifer International [to 9 May 2015]
<http://www.heifer.org/about-heifer/press/press-releases.html>
No new digest content identified.

HelpAge International [to 9 May 2015]
<http://www.helpage.org/newsroom/press-room/press-releases/>

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

More than 2,100 older people aged 60 or over in Nepal have been given US\$75 each to spend on urgently needed items in distributions by HelpAge International working with local partners.
Posted: 08 May 2015

[Nepal earthquake: HelpAge set to reach 10,000 older people and their families](#)
We're working with our local partners to support older people affected by the Nepal earthquake. The huge earthquake, which struck on 25 April, has killed over 7,000 people and affected over 8 million.
Posted: 05 May 2015

International Rescue Committee [to 9 May 2015]
<http://www.rescue.org/press-release-index>

News
[Mothers in Burundi do their best to make a better life for their children and country](#)
Posted by [Sophia Jones](#) on May 7, 2015

As Burundi suffers ongoing political unrest, mothers do their best to make a better life for their children and country. The IRC's Sophia Jones recently spoke with some of them and shares their stories.

[Nepal Earthquake: Latest updates](#)

Posted by The IRC on May 7, 2015

More than 8 million people have been affected by the worst earthquake that Nepal has experienced in 80 years. The IRC is working with our partner, the Association for Aid and Relief Japan (AAR), which is directly responding to the crisis.

[Urgently needed medicines reach hospital in war-torn Aden, Yemen](#)

Posted by The IRC on May 6, 2015

Last week IRC aid workers were able to get lifesaving drugs and medical supplies through to the only hospital still operating in Aden, the port city in southern Yemen that has been bombarded for more than a month by air strikes on Houthi rebel targets.

ICRC [to 9 May 2015]

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

[Syria: More access needed as situation deteriorates](#)

News release

07 May 2015

The ICRC's director of operations, Dominik Stillhart, has said the humanitarian situation in Syria has deteriorated sharply during the past few weeks and the need for food, water and medical supplies is more urgent than ever. On a two-day visit to the Syrian capital, Damascus, Mr Stillhart appealed for more access to areas affected by the fighting...

[Nigeria: Aid reaches hundreds found in Sambisa Forest](#)

News release

07 May 2015

Abuja/Geneva (ICRC) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Nigerian Red Cross have delivered aid to a group of 275 people, mainly women and children, who had been found in Sambisa Forest, in north-east Nigeria. The group was found during military operations in the region last week.

[Yemen: ICRC and MSF alarmed by attacks on country's lifelines](#)

News release

04 May 2015

Joint statement - Sana'a/Geneva (ICRC/MSF) - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) are extremely concerned about the severe damage caused by recent Coalition attacks on airports in Sana'a and Hodeida, obstructing delivery of much needed humanitarian assistance and movement of humanitarian personnel.

"Yemen depends almost completely on imports of food and medication, especially for the treatment of chronic diseases," says Cedric Schweizer, who heads a team of 250 ICRC staff in Yemen. "Sana'a airport was an essential piece of civilian infrastructure, and the main lifeline for supplying essential humanitarian goods and services. The harsh restrictions on importations imposed by the Coalition for the past six weeks, added to the extreme fuel shortages, have made the daily lives of Yemenis unbearable, and their suffering immense," Mr Schweizer added.

The disruption of the key logistic infrastructure, including airports, sea ports, bridges and roads, is having alarming consequences on the civilian population, and the humanitarian situation has now become catastrophic. Checkpoints operated by the different armed factions have obstructed the delivery of urgent medical supplies to hospitals and have prevented patients and casualties from accessing essential health care.

"The current conflict has already caused extreme hardship for the population across the country," said Marie Elisabeth Ingres, who heads the MSF mission in Yemen. "The destruction of the runway at Sana'a means that countless lives are now more at risk, and we can no longer afford to stand and watch as people are forced to drink unsafe water and children die of preventable causes," Ms. Ingres added.

MSF and the ICRC demand that robust and unobstructed channels for the provision of humanitarian assistance are opened and respected by all parties to the conflict in this increasingly desperate situation. We call for an end to attacks on these vital lifelines and for the Yemeni civil aviation authority to be given the chance to repair the airports, so that humanitarian assistance can be sent to Yemen.

[Jordan: Humanitarian needs of Syrian refugees swell](#)

News release

03 May 2015

As the Syrian crisis enters its fifth year, the hardships endured by millions of people in Syria and neighbouring countries continue to grow. According to recent figures, the number of Syrian refugees in Jordan stands at almost 680,000, with approximately 85% of them living in host communities.

In an effort to address the humanitarian needs of Syrian refugees in Jordan, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has continued providing the newly arriving Syrians, who stay initially at four ICRC-supported transit facilities in the north-eastern border area, with often daily essential assistance, including three cooked meals per day, drinking water, blankets, mattresses, hygiene items and basic medical supplies.

IRCT [to 9 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières [to 9 May 2015]

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

Press releases

[Yemen: ICRC and MSF Alarmed By Attacks on Country's Lifelines](#)

May 04, 2015

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and MSF are extremely concerned about the severe damage caused by recent Coalition attacks on airports in Sana'a and Hodeida, obstructing delivery of much needed humanitarian assistance and movement of humanitarian personnel.

Press release

[Syria: Major Aleppo Hospital Suspends All Activities After Bombings](#)

May 04, 2015

One of the main hospitals in Aleppo has suspended all activities after it was bombed at least twice last week, the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said today, while calling for an end to attacks on civilians and medical services.

Press release

[MSF and MOAS Save Hundreds of People in Mediterranean](#)

May 04, 2015

More than 6,000 people making a treacherous crossing from Libya to Europe were rescued over the weekend in several operations in the Mediterranean Sea, among them 369 people rescued May 3 by a search and rescue vessel run in partnership by the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS).

Field News

[Fighting Ebola in Sierra Leone: "We Go Into the Heart of a Community"](#)

May 06, 2015

Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) health promoters go into the high-risk areas of Freetown, Sierra Leone, to educate communities to recognize and prevent Ebola. They also perform the delicate task of supporting survivors and families of Ebola's victims.

Field news

[Sierra Leone: Chasing Ebola in the Slums of Freetown](#)

May 06, 2015

Though the massive Ebola management centers run by Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) at the peak of the outbreak in West Africa are no longer full of patients, MSF's teams are still working to ensure that all traces of the disease are stamped out in local communities.

The residents of Moa Bay Wharf slum in central Freetown have ocean views from almost every side, but the cramped and chaotic living conditions make the environment anything but idyllic.

Field news

[Nepal: MSF Provides Assistance in Remote Regions](#)

May 05, 2015

Over a week has passed since a 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit the Nepali districts of Dhading, Gorkha, Rasuwa, and Sindhupalchowk, and many villages have yet to receive humanitarian assistance. While the most critically injured people were evacuated in the days immediately after the earthquake, those who remained are trapped in their villages, as avalanches and landslides have cut off roads and walking paths.

Mercy Corps [to 9 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Operation Smile [to 9 May 2015]

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

Upcoming Mission Schedule [Home page]

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 9 May 2015]

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

[Race to reach Nepal earthquake survivors before monsoon rains](#)

6 May 2015

Tens of thousands of people have seen their homes flattened or damaged to such an extent that it is not safe for them to return.

Norwegian Refugee Council

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

New Report

[A record 38 million internally displaced worldwide](#)

(06.05.2015)

A record-breaking 38 million people have been displaced within their own country by conflict or violence. This is the equivalent of the total populations of London, New York and Beijing combined.

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

Partners In Health [to 9 May 2015]

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

May 07, 2015

[Working in Global Health: Nataliya Zemlyanaya](#)

In this series, we ask a seasoned colleague to share professional experiences with those interested in forging a career in global health. For this edition, we asked Nataliya Zemlyanaya, the program manager of our office in Tomsk, Russia.

May 06, 2015

[Celebrating International Nurses Week 2015](#)

PATH [to 9 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Plan International [to 9 May 2015]

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

07/05/2015: [Liberia hopes to be declared free of Ebola on 9 May 2015](#)

06/05/2015: [Earthquake: Airlifts ramping up urgent aid deliveries](#)

04/05/2015: [Earthquake: Plan delivers emergency food, shelter to previously cut-off areas](#)

Save The Children [to 9 May 2015]

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

[American Moms More Likely to Die Than Peers in Developed Countries: U.S. Slips to 33rd Spot in Save the Children's Global Motherhood Ranking](#)

May 4, 2015

[Among 25 Wealthy Capital Cities, Washington D.C. Has Highest Infant Mortality Rate Despite City's Recent Progress in Reducing the Death Rate](#)

May 4, 2015

[For Babies in Big Cities, It's Survival of the Richest](#)

May 4, 2015

New Save the Children Report Reveals a Growing Divide in Child Survival between the Urban Rich and Poor

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 4, 2015) — As more and more mothers seek better opportunities for their children in urban areas, Save the Children's new report, [State of the World's Mothers 2015: The Urban Disadvantage](#), looks at the real story behind the bright lights of the big city. Focusing on the health and survival of urban children, the findings, released today, uncover a hidden truth.

"Our new report reveals a devastating child survival divide between the haves and have-nots, telling a tale of two cities among urban communities around the world, including the United States," said Carolyn Miles, president and CEO of Save the Children. "For babies born in the big city, it's survival of the richest."..

SOS-Kinderdorf International [to 9 May 2015]

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

[Why are Child Friendly Spaces important for Nepal recovery?](#)

01.05.2015 - Child Friendly Spaces are a central pillar of SOS Children's Villages' emergency response plan in Nepal, as in most of the 125 emergencies where we have helped families recover from catastrophe.

[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.

Tostan [to 9 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Women for Women International [to 9 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

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ChildFund Alliance [to 9 May 2015]

<http://childfundalliance.org/>

No new digest content identified.

Disasters Emergency Committee [to 9 May 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

The Elders [to 9 May 2015]

<http://theelders.org/news-media>

Opinion 1 May 2015

[Returning a normal life to Gazans](#)

At the press conference concluding The Elders' trip to Israel and Palestine, Gro Harlem Brundtland delivers a statement urging a complete paradigm shift on Gaza and explains how the two-state solution would benefit both countries.

[Press release 1 May 2015](#)

[Peace and justice in Israel and Palestine: the need for a two-state solution](#)

"Eight months after a devastating war, not one destroyed house has been rebuilt."

Gro Harlem Brundtland and Jimmy Carter say the people of Gaza deserve peace and dignity.

END Fund [to 9 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

GAVI [to 9 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Global Fund [to 9 May 2015]

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

07 May 2015

[Partnership Forum Focuses on Strategy](#)

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia – Partners in global health gathered here today to participate in consultations about the strategy the Global Fund partnership should implement to best accelerate the end of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as epidemics and to contribute to building resilient health systems.

The Partnership Forum, bringing together more than 130 participants, is engaging wide-ranging discussions that focus on developing the Global Fund's Strategy for 2017-2021, and will consider how best to take advantage of recent scientific advances and growing experience in implementation to prevent new infections and treat those affected by HIV, TB and malaria...

Hilton Prize Laureates [to 9 May 2015]

<http://prizelaureates.charity.org/about-us/>

May 5, 2015

PRESS RELEASE

[Hilton Prize Laureates Focus on Disaster Relief, Recovery and Resiliency in the Wake of Nepal Earthquake](#)

InterAction

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

No new digest content identified.

Start Network [to 9 May 2015]

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

[Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies]

[New speakers and agenda announced for Start for Change 2015](#)

May 5, 2015

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

With the Start Network's Annual Conference on 20 May fast approaching, we are delighted to announce our agenda for the day and an initial line up of exciting speakers.

Start for Change 2015 / Wednesday 20 May 2015

Annual Conference: 09.30 – 17.30

Muslim Charities Forum [to 9 May 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) [to 9 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

CHS International Alliance

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

18 March 2015

:: Humanitarian Practice Network (HPN) [to 9 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

:: People In Aid [to 9 May 2015]

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

[Tips for navigating talent in transition and the disruption of technology](#)

Last week, our HR Services Manager Em Lacroix attended a Future of Work Forum on how technology is rapidly disrupting workplace practices and the traditional talent model. In this blog, she examines three strategies to prepare our sector for the 'disruption'.

[The issues and challenges of including HR in evaluations of humanitarian action](#)

Very few references to HR and related recommendations are currently included in evaluation reports on humanitarian programmes. Ricardo Sole of dahlia (Development and Humanitarian Learning in Action) highlights the issues and challenges related to adequately evaluating HR in the overall evaluation process. The following is a short summary of his article that appeared in our research report the *State of HR 2014: A Question of Impact*.

EHLRA/R2HC [to 9 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

ODI [to 9 May 2015]

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

[The price of vegetables jumps by up to 91% while the cost of some processed foods drops by up to 20%, driving obesity – new report](#)

News | 5 May 2015

Press release | Embargoed until 11 May 2015 00:01The price of vegetables jumps by up to 91% while the cost of some processed foods drops by up to 20%, driving obesity – new report

People in newly-rich countries struggle to eat a healthy diet...

[Women's voice and leadership: assessing the evidence](#)

Research reports and studies | May 2015 |

Pilar Domingo; Rebecca Holmes; Tam O'Neil; Nicola Jones; Kate Bird; Anna Larson; Elizabeth Presler-Marshall and Craig Valters

This report reviews the global evidence on what enables women and girls to have substantive voice and leadership in decision-making, and whether this improves gender equity for women more broadly.

[Understanding humanitarian action in South Asia: responses to famine and displacement in nineteenth and twentieth century India](#)

Research reports and studies, Working and discussion papers | May 2015 |
Joanna Simonow

This Working Paper explores the concepts and practices underpinning humanitarian action in South Asia, looking at responses during British colonial rule up until independent India.

[Competitive or complementary? Industrial crops and food security in sub-Saharan Africa](#)

Research reports and studies | May 2015 |
Steve Wiggins, Giles Henley and Sharada Keats

This paper asks what has been the impact of industrial crop production on food and nutrition security.

The Sphere Project [to 9 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP) [to 9 May 2015]

<https://phap.org/>

[Launch of the PHAP Online Learning Series on Humanitarian Law and Policy](#)

6 May 2015

PHAP is pleased to announce the launch of the Online Learning Series on Humanitarian Law and Policy, which will provide an opportunity for continuous learning for those working in the humanitarian sector, as well as those interacting with humanitarian actors, to strengthen their understanding of legal and policy issues and to engage on topical and timely issues. The first session will be held on 21 May...

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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 9 May 2015]

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

MAY 06, 2015

[The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to Fund Disease Surveillance Network in Africa and Asia to Prevent Childhood Mortality and Help Prepare for the Next Epidemic](#)

SEATTLE (May 6, 2015) – At its Global Partners Forum, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will announce the Child Health and Mortality Prevention Surveillance Network (CHAMPS), a network of disease surveillance sites in developing countries. These sites will help gather better data, faster, about how, where and why children are getting sick and dying. This data will help the global health community get the right interventions to the right children in the right place to save lives. The network will also be invaluable in providing capacity and training in the event of an epidemic, such as Ebola or SARS. The Gates Foundation plans an initial commitment of up to \$75 million on the effort...

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

Clinton Foundation [to 9 May 2015]

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

Press Release

[CGI Middle East & Africa Attendees Make New Commitments to Action to Positively Impact Lives of More Than 800,000 People](#)

May 7, 2015

Marrakech – Today, President Clinton and Chelsea Clinton concluded the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) Middle East & Africa Meeting in Marrakech, where regional and global leaders from business, government, philanthropy, and NGOs highlighted regional successes and addressed pressing challenges by creating Commitments to Action, including ones focused on investing in youth; securing access to energy, food, and water; and expanding infrastructure for communities throughout the Middle East and Africa.

Participants developed and announced 29 new Commitments to Action - new, specific, and measurable plans to address a significant global challenge, which will positively impact the lives of more than 800,000 people. When fully funded and implemented, these efforts by CGI commitment makers will positively impact more than 132,000 girls and women through a variety of programs to improve quality of education and increase access to employment and skills development opportunities; more than 123,000 people through access to training programs; and more than 60,000 students who will become enrolled in school...

Ford Foundation [to 9 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation [to 9 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation [to 9 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Kellogg Foundation [to 9 May 2015]

<http://www.wkkf.org/news-and-media#pp=10&p=1&f1=news>
[Experts advance solutions for healing relationships between law enforcement and communities of color](#)

May 6, 2015

ASHEVILLE, N.C. – In the wake of multiple deaths of unarmed youths and people of color from encounters with the police, leading experts on policing and community building proposed ways to improve law enforcement-community relationships during a plenary session at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's (WKKF) 2015 America Healing Conference.

This week, more than 500 civil rights, social justice and community-based leaders gathered to discuss ways that Americans of all races, ethnicities and religions can heal divisiveness and work toward racial equity so children can thrive. Mistrust between communities and police, as well as health, economic and environmental conditions fashioned by a legacy of racism, are frequently cited for curtailing opportunities and creating unrest in communities of color...

MacArthur Foundation [to 9 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Open Society Foundation [to 9 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

David and Lucile Packard Foundation [to 9 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Pew Charitable Trusts [to 9 May 2015]

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

Press Release

[Pew, School Food FOCUS Announce Antibiotic Standard for Poultry](#)

Tyson Foods first company to adopt Certified Responsible Antibiotic Use, verified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture

May 07, 2015

WASHINGTON—School Food FOCUS and The Pew Charitable Trusts announced today a new designation for responsible antibiotic use in the production of chicken, the protein served most frequently in schools. The U.S. Department of Agriculture will verify compliance with the Certified Responsible Antibiotic Use (CRAU) standard by suppliers who opt to sell certified chicken to schools, hospitals, and other institutional customers. By reducing the amount of antibiotics given to poultry, CRAU could slow the emergence of drug-resistant bacteria in food animal production—protecting both human and animal health over time.

Rockefeller Foundation [to 9 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [to 9 May 2015]

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

[Most Foods Advertised to Children Fall Short of Federal Standards](#)

Fri May 08 2015

Major food and beverage companies are meeting their own pledges to advertise healthier products to children on TV, but three out of four of those products do not meet government guidelines for what constitutes a healthy diet for children.

[RWJF Hosts Culture of Health Forum in Camden, N.J.](#)

Thu May 07 EDT 2015

[RWJF Hosts Culture of Health Forum in Camden, N.J.](#)

RWJF hosts a forum in Camden, N.J., joined by Camden Mayor Dana Redd and other community stakeholders, to discuss how to make its community a healthier place to live, learn, work, play and pray.

Skoll Foundation [to 9 May 2015]

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

[Indigenous Reserve in Colombia Quintupled in Size](#)

May 6, 2015 by [Amazon Conservation Team](#)

After 20 years of diligent work, conservationists, human rights activists and indigenous communities are celebrating a massive achievement in southwest Colombia: the expansion of the Inga people's Yunguillo Indigenous Reserve—an area of extraordinary cultural and environmental importance—from 10,675 to 55,341 acres (more than 85 square miles).

The Yunguillo Indigenous Reserve is home to many sacred sites for the Inga people, as well as many threatened species including spectacled bears and jaguars. The expansion also protects the headwaters of the Caquetá River—a major tributary of the Amazon River whose watershed covers 250,000 square kilometers...

[The Elders Conclude Visit to Moscow](#)

May 1, 2015 by [Alison Gilbert](#)

This week, six members of [The Elders](#) visited Moscow for talks on geopolitical issues with Russian officials including President Vladimir Putin, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, and former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. The Elders is an independent group of former heads of state and key international organizations. Skoll Foundation Founder Jeff Skoll and President and CEO Sally Osberg sit on its Advisory Council...

[see more extensive treatment in Week in Review above]

Wellcome Trust [to 9 May 2015]

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

[Trial of new 'resistance-busting' skin cancer drug begins as first patient receives treatment](#)

A patient has become the first to receive a new 'resistance-busting' experimental skin cancer drug with the launch of a phase I clinical trial.

The patient has received a new panRAF inhibitor – a new type of drug under development to address the problem of drug resistance in advanced skin cancer and a number of other cancer types...

...The trial is funded by the Wellcome Trust, the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre at The Royal Marsden and the ICR, The Christie charity and the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute...

...The trial will recruit around 25 patients with advanced, solid tumours – focusing on advanced melanoma – with the aim of establishing the safe maximum dose for a planned phase II clinical trial...

5 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>

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Preventive Medicine

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

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

[No new digest content identified]

American Journal of Public Health

Volume 105, Issue 5 (May 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

May 2015; 92 (5)

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

Editorial

Malaria Control: Tortoises and Hares

Steven R. Meshnick*

Author Affiliations

Department of Epidemiology, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

How long will it take to effectively control and then eliminate malaria in sub-Saharan Africa? Is it a sprint to the finish line or a crawl? Will the tortoise or hare win the malaria race?

Malaria Transmission, Infection, and Disease at Three Sites with Varied Transmission Intensity in Uganda: Implications for Malaria Control

Moses R. Kamya, Emmanuel Arinaitwe, Humphrey Wanzira, Agaba Katureebe, Chris Barusya, Simon P. Kigozi, Maxwell Kilama, Andrew J. Tatem, Philip J. Rosenthal, Chris Drakeley, Steve W. Lindsay, Sarah G. Staedke, David L. Smith, Bryan Greenhouse, and Grant Dorsey

Am J Trop Med Hyg 2015 92:903-912; Published online March 16, 2015, doi:10.4269/ajtmh.14-0312

Abstract.

The intensification of control interventions has led to marked reductions in malaria burden in some settings, but not others. To provide a comprehensive description of malaria epidemiology in Uganda, we conducted surveillance studies over 24 months in 100 houses randomly selected from each of three subcounties: Walukuba (peri-urban), Kihhihi (rural), and Nagongera (rural). Annual entomological inoculation rate (aEIR) was estimated from monthly Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) light trap mosquito collections. Children aged 0.5–10 years were provided long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) and followed for measures of parasite prevalence, anemia and malaria incidence. Estimates of aEIR were 2.8, 32.0, and 310 infectious bites per year, and estimates of parasite prevalence 7.4%, 9.3%, and 28.7% for Walukuba, Kihhihi, and Nagongera, respectively. Over the 2-year study, malaria incidence per person-years decreased in Walukuba (0.51 versus 0.31, $P = 0.001$) and increased in Kihhihi (0.97 versus 1.93, $P < 0.001$) and Nagongera (2.33 versus 3.30, $P < 0.001$). Of 2,582 episodes of malaria, only 8 (0.3%) met criteria for severe disease. The prevalence of anemia was low and not associated with transmission intensity. In our cohorts, where LLINs and prompt effective treatment were provided, the risk of complicated malaria and anemia was extremely low. However, malaria incidence was high and increased over time at the two rural sites, suggesting improved community-wide coverage of LLIN and additional malaria control interventions are needed in Uganda.

Rotavirus Seasonal Distribution and Prevalence Before and After the Introduction of Rotavirus Vaccine in a Peri-Urban Community of Lima, Peru

Millie R. Chang, Grace Velapatiño, Miguel Campos, Elsa Chea-Woo, Nelly Baiocchi, Thomas G. Cleary and Theresa J. Ochoa*

Author Affiliations

Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru; Instituto de Medicina Tropical, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru; Department of Mathematics, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru; Department of Pediatrics, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru; Center for Infectious Diseases, University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston, Texas

Abstract.

We evaluated the monthly distribution of rotavirus diarrhea in a cohort of children 12–24 months of age followed as part of a diarrhea clinical trial in a peri-urban community of Lima. We observed a peak of rotavirus diarrhea in the winter months and a decrease in rotavirus prevalence after the introduction of the rotavirus vaccine in Peru.

BMC Health Services Research

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

(Accessed 9 May 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Infectious Diseases

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

(Accessed 9 May 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Medical Ethics

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

(Accessed 9 May 2015)

Research article

Ethics-sensitivity of the Ghana national integrated strategic response plan for pandemic influenza

Amos Laar¹* and Debra DeBruin²

Author Affiliations

BMC Medical Ethics 2015, 16:30 doi:10.1186/s12910-015-0025-9

Published: 7 May 2015

Abstract (provisional)

Background

Many commentators call for a more ethical approach to planning for influenza pandemics. In the developed world, some pandemic preparedness plans have already been examined from an ethical viewpoint. This paper assesses the attention given to ethics issues by the Ghana National Integrated Strategic Plan for Pandemic Influenza (NISPI).

Methods

We critically analyzed the Ghana NISPI's sensitivity to ethics issues to determine how well it reflects ethical commitments and principles identified in our review of global pandemic preparedness literature, existing pandemic plans, and relevant ethics frameworks.

Results

This paper reveals that important ethical issues have not been addressed in the Ghana NISPI. Several important ethical issues are unanticipated, unacknowledged, and unplanned for. These include guidelines on allocation of scarce resources, the duties of healthcare workers, ethics-sensitive operational guidelines/protocols, and compensation programs. The NISPI also pays scant attention to use of vaccines and antivirals, border issues and cooperation with neighboring countries, justification for delineated actions, and outbreak simulations. Feedback and communication plans are nebulous, while leadership, coordination, and budgeting are quite detailed. With respect to presentation, the NISPI's text is organized around five thematic

areas. While each area implicates ethical issues, NISPPPI treatment of these areas consistently fails to address them.

Conclusions

Our analysis reveals a lack of consideration of ethics by the NISPPPI. We contend that, while the plan's content and fundamental assumptions provide support for implementation of the delineated public health actions, its consideration of ethical issues is poor. Deficiencies include a failure to incorporate guidelines that ensure fair distribution of scarce resources and a lack of justification for delineated procedures. Until these deficiencies are recognized and addressed, Ghana runs the risk of rolling out unjust and ethically indefensible actions with real negative effects in the event of a pandemic. Soliciting inputs from the public and consultation with ethicists during the next revision of the NISPPPI will be useful in addressing these issues.

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 9 May 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Public Health

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

(Accessed 9 May 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Research Notes

(Accessed 9 May 2015)

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

[No new relevant content identified]

British Medical Journal

09 May 2015(vol 350, issue 8007)

<http://www.bmjjournals.org/lookup/doi/10.1136/bmjjournals.0000000000000000>

Editor's Choice

Towards a better epidemic

BMJ 2015; 350 doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjjournals.0000000000000000> (Published 07 May 2015) Cite this as:

BMJ 2015;350:h2419

Tony Delamothe, deputy editor, The BMJ

The consensus seems to be that no one had a particularly good Ebola epidemic, with the exception of the charity Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). This begs the question of who makes these judgment calls, and what was the last "good" epidemic you can remember?

The World Health Organization got it in the neck for delivering too little, too late, and its own report last week joined in the criticisms, listing lessons learnt and actions planned (doi:[10.1136/bmj.h2144](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.h2144)). MSF thought the problems went wider than WHO. The international response had been a “global coalition of inaction,” its report concluded (doi:[10.1136/bmj.h1619](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.h1619)). “For the Ebola outbreak to spiral this far out of control required many institutions to fail,” said its director. MSF also noted that the affected countries hadn’t always made the right choices—not easy for some of the poorest countries on earth.

In The BMJ Christian Gericke continues the generally critical line, saying that the epidemic attracted medical ethics commentators “like bees to a honey pot” (doi:[10.1136/bmj.h2105](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.h2105)). Were they of any use? He thinks that the short term use of experimental drugs (and their complex ethical challenges) attracted far more attention than it deserved and distracted from the urgent business of controlling the epidemic. He quotes approvingly the bioethicist Udo Schüklenk’s criticism of WHO’s recommendation to provide access to experimental drugs as “pointless grandstanding in the face of a pandemic that requires a public health response.”

In her feature this week Sophie Arie considers WHO’s support of clinical trials for experimental drugs as a bottle half full rather than empty (doi:[10.1136/bmj.h1938](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.h1938)). A year after the first case of Ebola virus disease was reported, several phase II and III trials of vaccines and other treatments are under way—“a process that normally can take as long as 10 years was compressed into a year.”

At least a dozen other neglected infectious disease pathogens have the potential to pose a similar threat to Ebola, and Arie describes how an international group of scientists has argued for fast tracking experimental vaccines and treatments for these, so that they’re available at the beginning of a disease outbreak. Such long range thinking comes as a welcome alternative to the attention deficit that usually afflicts the disasterazzi, as they flit from one trouble spot to the next...

Editorials

Ebola and ethics: autopsy of a failure

BMJ 2015; 350 doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.h2105> (Published 23 April 2015) Cite this as: BMJ 2015;350:h2105

Christian A Gericke, chief executive and director of research

Author affiliations

Thousands died while we argued over the wrong questions

Feature - Vaccines

Ebola: a game changer for vaccines, or a scare that will soon be forgotten?

BMJ 2015; 350 doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.h1938> (Published 06 May 2015) Cite this as:

BMJ 2015;350:h1938

Sophie Arie

Scientists say that it is only a matter of time before another neglected infectious disease causes a global public health emergency. So will the world now make these diseases a priority? Sophie Arie reports

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/>

[Reviewed earlier]

Chronicle of Philanthropy

May 4, 2015 Volume 27, Issue 9

<https://philanthropy.com/issue>

Cover Story

May 01, 2015

[Online Giving's Time Has Come, Like It or Not](#)

Many nonprofits see online giving as little more than a gimmick. But it may hold the key to strengthening ties with donors.

May 04, 2015

[A 'Yelp' for Migrant Workers](#)

Rachel Micah Jones's small charity is helping laborers fight back online against exploitation.

May 04, 2015

[Unicef Builds a Bridge Fund](#)

The group's system for making short-term internal loans while it waits for pledges to come through helps it fulfill needs as they arise.

Complexity

May/June 2015 Volume 20, Issue 5 Pages C1–C1, 1–76

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/cplx.v20.5/issuetoc>

The Simply Complex

[Ebola—challenge and revival of theoretical epidemiology: Why Extrapolations from early phases of epidemics are problematic](#)

Peter Schuster*

Article first published online: 28 APR 2015

DOI: 10.1002/cplx.21694

[Initial text]

At the beginning of the second half of the 20th century, there was a widespread belief that science and in particular medicine had progressed so far that Nature could be brought under complete control. It seemed that healthcare and pharmacology were in the position to prevent or to cure almost all diseases. In the 1980s, for example, the pharmaceutical industry stopped the search for new antibiotic drugs that would be badly needed nowadays in the light of the universal capabilities of bacteria to develop resistance factors. At about the same time previously unknown or unnoticed virus transmitted infectious human diseases appeared: acquired immunodeficiency syndrome caused by human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), Ebola caused by Ebola virus (EBOV) and four related other strains of filoviridae, as well as severe acquired respiratory syndrome (SARS) brought about by SARS coronavirus. Caused by prions and not by a virus is been bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Nevertheless, it gave rise to an equally serious new epidemic. These and other cases as well as the consequences of the "antivaccination movement" [1, 2], for example, the recent reoccurrence of pertussis and measles, revived a need of reliable models in epidemiology. In particular, the recent Ebola epidemic starting in December 2013 in West Africa [3] initiated a new boom in theoretical work

on infectious disease dynamics [4]. In PLoS Currents Outbreaks I counted 27 articles between the first publication on the recent Ebola epidemics on May 02, 2014 until March 09, 2015. In December 2014, researchers became aware that the predictions made 3 months earlier, in Fall 2014, apparently overstated the numbers of cases and deaths. A recent theoretical paper aims at an analysis of the prediction errors and provides suggestions how to make better forecasts [5]. In this essay, we shall be concerned with the predictive power of one frequently used model denoted as susceptible-exposed-infectious-removed (SEIR) model, and try to analyze typical general problems of predictions from early stages of exponentially growing systems to the final outcomes of the processes. In the focus are the model inherent limitations of reliabilities and not the lack of information or external problems like insufficient data or the uncertainty about the effectiveness of intervention strategies or countermeasures...

Conflict and Health

[Accessed 9 May 2015]

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

Letter to Editor

[Access to healthcare for the most vulnerable migrants: a humanitarian crisis](#)

Kevin Pottie¹*, Jorge Pedro Martin², Stephen Cornish³, Linn Maria Biorklund⁴, Ivan Gayton⁵, Frank Doerner⁶ and Fabien Schneider³

Author Affiliations

Conflict and Health 2015, 9:16 doi:10.1186/s13031-015-0043-8

Published: 7 May 2015

Abstract (provisional)

A series of Médecins Sans Frontières projects over the past decade have consistently documented high rates of physical and sexual trauma, extortion and mental illness amidst severe healthcare, food, and housing limitations. Complex interventions were needed to begin to address illness and barriers to healthcare and to help restore dignity to the most vulnerable women, children and men. Promising interventions included mobile clinics, use of cultural mediators, coordination with migrant-friendly entities and NGOs and integrating advocacy programs and mental health care with medical services. Ongoing interventions, research and coordination are needed to address this neglected humanitarian crisis.

Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation

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

(Accessed 9 May 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

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> [Reviewed earlier]
[Reviewed earlier]

Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology

Volume 10, Number 3 (May 2015)
<http://informahealthcare.com/toc/idt/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness

Volume 9 - Issue 02 - April 2015
<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayIssue?jid=DMP&tab=currentissue>
[Reviewed earlier]

Disasters

April 2015 Volume 39, Issue 2 Pages 185–405
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/dis.2015.39.issue-2/issuetoc>
[Reviewed earlier]

Emergency Medicine Journal

May 2015, Volume 32, Issue 5
<http://emj.bmjjournals.org/content/current>
[New issue; No relevant content identified]

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.bmjjournals.org/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 No. 1, Spring 2015

<http://www.utpjournals.press/toc/qsi/current>

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 9 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 9 May 2015]

Research

Medicines availability for non-communicable diseases: the case for standardized monitoring

Jane Robertson^{12*}, Cécile Macé¹, Gilles Forte¹, Kees de Joncheere¹ and David Beran³⁴

Author Affiliations

Globalization and Health 2015, 11:18 doi:10.1186/s12992-015-0105-0

Published: 7 May 2015

Abstract (provisional)

Background

In response to the global burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), the World Health Organization (WHO) has developed a Global Action Plan that includes a voluntary medicines target of 80% availability and affordability of essential medicines for the prevention and treatment of diabetes, cardiovascular disease and respiratory disease both in public and private health facilities. Reliable measures of medicines availability are needed to track progress towards meeting this target. The results of three studies measuring the availability of medicines for hypertension and diabetes conducted in Tanzania in 2012–2013 were compared to assess the consistency of the results across the studies.

Methods

Availability was defined by observation of the medicine (no minimum quantity) on the day of the survey. The three studies involved 24, 107 and 1297 health facilities. Estimates of the availability of medicines for hypertension and diabetes were compared for medicines availability overall, by managing authority (government, mission/faith-based, private-for-profit), by facility level (hospital, health centre, dispensary) and by setting (urban, rural).

Results

Comparisons of the availability of medicines were limited by differences in the definitions of the medicines and the classifications of the facilities surveyed. Metformin was variously reported as available in 33%, 39%, 46%, and 57% of facilities. Glibenclamide availability ranged from 19% to 52%. One study reported low levels of insulin availability (9–16% depending on insulin type) compared to 34% in a second study. Captopril (or angiotensin converting enzyme [ACE] inhibitor) availability ranged from 13% to 48% while availability of calcium channel blockers was 29% to 57% and beta-blockers 15% to 50%. Trends were similar across studies with lower availability in government compared to mission or private facilities, in dispensary and health centres compared to hospitals, and in rural compared to urban facilities.

Conclusions

All three studies showed suboptimal availability of NCD medicines, however the estimates of availability differed. Regular monitoring using reproducible methods and measuring key medicines must replace ad-hoc studies, small selected samples and differences in definitions. Low and middle-income countries need to implement monitoring and evaluation systems to track progress towards meeting the NCD medicines target and to inform country-level interventions to improve access to NCD medicines.

Health Affairs

May 2015; Volume 34, Issue 5

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

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 5 June 2015

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

Innovations in communication technologies for measles supplemental immunization activities: lessons from Kenya measles vaccination campaign, November 2012

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Accepted April 20, 2014.

Abstract

Background

To achieve a measles free world, effective communication must be part of all elimination plans. The choice of communication approaches must be evidence based, locally appropriate, interactive and community owned. In this article, we document the innovative approach of using house visits supported by a web-enabled mobile phone application to create a real-time platform for adaptive management of supplemental measles immunization days in Kenya.

Methods

One thousand nine hundred and fifty-two Red Cross volunteers were recruited, trained and deployed to conduct house-to-house canvassing in 11 urban districts of Kenya. Three days before the campaigns, volunteers conducted house visits with a uniform approach and package of messages. All house visits were documented using a web-enabled mobile phone application (episurveyor) that in real-time relayed information collected to all campaign management levels. During the campaigns, volunteers reported daily immunizations to their co-ordinators. Post-campaign house visits were also conducted within 4 days, to verify immunization of eligible children, assess information sources and detect adverse events following immunization.

Results

Fifty-six per cent of the 164,643 households visited said that they had heard about the planned 2012 measles vaccination campaign 1–3 days before start dates. Twenty-five per cent of households were likely to miss the measles supplemental dose if they had not been reassured by the house visit. Pre- and post-campaign reasons for refusal showed that targeted communication reduced misconceptions, fear of injections and trust in herbal remedies. Daily reporting of immunizations using mobile phones informed changes in service delivery plans for better immunization coverage. House visits were more remembered (70%) as sources of information compared with traditional mass awareness channels like megaphones (41%) and radio (37%).

Conclusions

In high-density settlements, house-to-house visits are easy and more penetrative compared with traditional media approaches. Using mobile phones to document campaign processes and outputs provides real time evidence for service delivery planning to improve immunization coverage.

Determinants of HIV testing among Nigerian couples: a multilevel modelling approach

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London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Global Health and Development Department, London, WC1H 9SH, UK

Accepted April 5, 2014.

Abstract

In this article we analyse the determinants of HIV testing among Nigerian couples using Demographic and Health Survey data set (2008). This study is motivated by the fact that although there is a strong willingness from the Nigerian Government to examine new HIV preventions approaches such as Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for HIV (PrEP) and Treatment as Prevention (TasP) for HIV serodiscordant couples, the implementation of such policies would require the HIV status of each partner in the couple to be known. This is far to be achieved in the Nigerian context since in Nigeria only 6% of couples know their HIV status. In order to identify potential policies that are needed to increase HIV testing uptake, we use a three-level random intercept logistic model to separately explore the determinants of knowing HIV status among female and male partners. The use of the multilevel modelling allows including the unobserved heterogeneity at the village and state level that may affect HIV testing behaviours. Our results indicate that education, wealth, stigma, HIV knowledge and perceived risk are predictors of HIV testing among both partners while routine provider initiated testing appears to be very effective to increase HIV testing among women. The introduction of financial incentives as well as an increase in routine testing and home-based testing may be needed for large scale increase in HIV testing prior to the implementation of new HIV prevention technologies among discordant couples.

Measuring political commitment and opportunities to advance food and nutrition security: piloting a rapid assessment tool

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Accepted April 6, 2014.

Abstract

Lack of political commitment has been identified as a primary reason for the low priority that food and nutrition interventions receive from national governments relative to the high disease burden caused by malnutrition. Researchers have identified a number of factors that contribute to food and nutrition's 'low-priority cycle' on national policy agendas, but few tools exist to rapidly measure political commitment and identify opportunities to advance food and nutrition on the policy agenda. This article presents a theory-based rapid assessment approach to gauging countries' level of political commitment to food and nutrition security and identifying opportunities to advance food and nutrition on the policy agenda. The rapid assessment tool was piloted among food and nutrition policymakers and planners in 10 low- and middle-income countries in April to June 2013. Food and nutrition commitment and policy opportunity scores were calculated for each country and strategies to advance food and nutrition on policy agendas were designed for each country. The article finds that, in a majority of countries, political leaders had verbally and symbolically committed to addressing food and nutrition, but adequate financial resources were not allocated to implement specific programmes. In addition, whereas the low cohesion of the policy community has been viewed a major underlying cause of the low-priority status of food and nutrition, the analysis finds that policy community cohesion and having a well thought-out policy alternative were present in most countries. This tool may be useful to policymakers and planners providing information that can be used to benchmark and/or evaluate advocacy efforts to advance reforms in the food and nutrition sector; furthermore, the results can help identify specific strategies that can be employed to move the food and nutrition agenda forward. This tool complements others that have been recently developed to measure national commitment to advancing food and nutrition security.

The cost of a knowledge silo: a systematic re-review of water, sanitation and hygiene interventions

Michael Loevinsohn1,* Lyla Mehta1,2 Katie Cuming1 Alan Nicol1,4 Oliver Cumming3 and Jeroen H J Ensink3

Author Affiliations

1Knowledge, Technology and Society Team, Institute of Development Studies, Library Road, Brighton BN1 9RE, UK, 2Noragric, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, P.O. Box 5003, NO-1432 Aas, Norway, 3Environmental Health Group, Department of Disease Control, Faculty of Infectious Tropical Disease, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT and 4Present address: CARE International in Uganda, Box 7280 Kampala, Uganda

Accepted April 5, 2014.

Abstract

Divisions between communities, disciplinary and practice, impede understanding of how complex interventions in health and other sectors actually work and slow the development and spread of more effective ones. We test this hypothesis by re-reviewing a Cochrane-standard systematic review (SR) of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions' impact on child diarrhoea morbidity: can greater understanding of impacts and how they are achieved be gained when the same papers are reviewed jointly from health and development perspectives? Using realist review methods, researchers examined the 27 papers for evidence of other impact pathways operating than assumed in the papers and SR. Evidence relating to four questions was judged on a scale of likelihood. At the 'more than possible' or 'likely' level, 22% of

interventions were judged to involve substantially more actions than the SR's label indicated; 37% resulted in substantial additional impacts, beyond reduced diarrhoea morbidity; and unforeseen actions by individuals, households or communities substantially contributed to the impacts in 48% of studies. In 44%, it was judged that these additional impacts and actions would have substantially affected the intervention's effect on diarrhoea morbidity. The prevalence of these impacts and actions might well be found greater in studies not so narrowly selected. We identify six impact pathways suggested by these studies that were not considered by the SR: these are tentative, given the limitations of the literature we reviewed, but may help stimulate wider review and primary evaluation efforts. This re-review offers a fuller understanding of the impacts of these interventions and how they are produced, pointing to several ways in which investments might enhance health and wellbeing. It suggests that some conclusions of the SR and earlier reviews should be reconsidered. Moreover, it contributes important experience to the continuing debate on appropriate methods to evaluate and synthesize evidence on complex interventions.

Monitoring the ability to deliver care in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review of health facility assessment tools

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Author Affiliations

¹Institute of Population Health, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, Canada, ²Bruyère Research Institute, Ottawa, ON, Canada, ³Orvill Adams and Associates, Ottawa, ON, Canada, ⁴Faculty of Common Law, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, Canada, ⁵Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, Canada, ⁶Canadian Society for International Health, Ottawa, ON, Canada and ⁷Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, The Ottawa Hospital, Ottawa, ON, Canada

Accepted April 25, 2014.

Abstract

Introduction

Health facilities assessments are an essential instrument for health system strengthening in low- and middle-income countries. These assessments are used to conduct health facility censuses to assess the capacity of the health system to deliver health care and to identify gaps in the coverage of health services. Despite the valuable role of these assessments, there are currently no minimum standards or frameworks for these tools.

Methods

We used a structured keyword search of the MEDLINE, EMBASE and HealthStar databases and searched the websites of the World Health Organization, the World Bank and the International Health Facilities Assessment Network to locate all available health facilities assessment tools intended for use in low- and middle-income countries. We parsed the various assessment tools to identify similarities between them, which we catalogued into a framework comprising 41 assessment domains.

Results

We identified 10 health facility assessment tools meeting our inclusion criteria, all of which were included in our analysis. We found substantial variation in the comprehensiveness of the included tools, with the assessments containing indicators in 13 to 33 (median: 25.5) of the 41 assessment domains included in our framework. None of the tools collected data on all 41 of the assessment domains we identified.

Conclusions

Not only do a large number of health facility assessment tools exist, but the data they collect and methods they employ are very different. This certainly limits the comparability of the data

between different countries' health systems and probably creates blind spots that impede efforts to strengthen those systems. Agreement is needed on the essential elements of health facility assessments to guide the development of specific indicators and for refining existing instruments.

Sexual violence in India: addressing gaps between policy and implementation

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Accepted February 6, 2014.

Abstract

The savage Delhi rape of 16 December 2012 was instrumental in generating the Verma Report that framed policies for amending the Criminal Laws related to sexual violence, professionalizing forensic/medical examination of victims, and sensitizing the police, electorate and the educational sectors. Unfortunately, even after a year, the Indian Home Ministry has abysmally failed to implement most recommendations, even underutilizing budgetary allocations. This article addresses gaps in governance systems and offers solutions to the problem of sexual violence in India.

Health Research Policy and Systems

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

[Accessed 9 May 2015]

[No new relevant content]

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.idpjurnal.com/content>

[Accessed 9 May 2015]

[No new relevant content]

International Health

Volume 7 Issue 2 March 2015

<http://inthealth.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
May 5, 2015, Vol 313, No. 17
<http://jama.jamanetwork.com/issue.aspx>
[New issue; No relevant content identified]

JAMA Pediatrics
May 2015, Vol 169, No. 5
<http://archpedi.jamanetwork.com/issue.aspx>
[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Journal of Community Health
Volume 40, Issue 3, June 2015
<http://link.springer.com/journal/10900/40/3/page/1>
Latino Parents' Perceptions of the HPV Vaccine for Sons and Daughters
Echo L. Warner, Djin Lai, Sara Carbajal-Salisbury, Luis Garza, Julia Bodson, Kathi Mooney, Deanna Kepka
Abstract
Latinas have the highest incidence of cervical cancer. Latino parents' perceptions of the human papillomavirus (HPV) and willingness to have their sons and daughters vaccinated in Utah is largely unknown. Latino parents/guardians of children ages 11–17 years were recruited from two community organizations (N = 52) to participate in a mini-survey and focus group. Guided by the social ecological framework, a Latina facilitator conducted five focus groups that were recorded, transcribed and translated. Descriptive statistics were calculated from the mini-survey. Two members of the research team performed inductive content analysis of the focus group transcriptions separately. Discrepancies were discussed and resolved during bi-weekly meetings with group members who were present during the focus groups. Parents reported low HPV vaccine knowledge, high vaccine costs, and lack of strong provider recommendations as the main barriers to vaccine receipt. Language appropriate educational resources and consistent provider recommendations may enrich Latino parents' perceptions about the HPV vaccine.
HPV Vaccination Completion and Compliance with Recommended Dosing Intervals Among Female and Male Adolescents in an Inner-City Community Health Center
Rula M. Wilson, Diane R. Brown, Dennis P. Carmody, Sushanna Fogarty
Abstract

Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination continues to lag behind other adolescent vaccines, especially in areas with pervasive disparities in HPV-related cancers. The purpose of this study was to examine HPV vaccine completion and dosing intervals among low-income adolescents in urban areas. The study included electronic health record data on HPV vaccination for 872 adolescents who received at least one dose of the HPV vaccine. Only 28.4 % completed the 3-dose series. For the whole sample, HPV vaccine completion was higher for non-English speakers and among adolescents seen at Newark-South and East Orange sites. Completion was higher among non-English speaking female and Hispanic adolescents, females seen in Newark-South and East Orange sites, and insured Black adolescents. Completion was also dramatically lower among non-English speaking Black adolescents seen at Newark-North, Irvington, and Orange sites (12.5 %) compared to other Black adolescents (22.0–44.4 %). The mean dosing intervals were 5.5 months (SD = 4.6) between dose 1 and 2 and 10 months (SD = 6.1) between dose 1 and 3. Longer durations between vaccine doses were found among uninsured adolescents and those seen at Newark-North, Irvington, and Orange sites. Non-English speakers had longer duration between dose 1 and 3. Further, durations between dose 1 and 3 were dramatically longer among insured adolescents seen at Newark-North, Irvington, and Orange locations for the whole sample ($M = 11.70$; $SD = 7.12$) and among Hispanic adolescents ($M = 13.45$; $SD = 8.54$). Understanding how the study predictors facilitate or impede HPV vaccination is critical to reducing disparities in cervical and other HPV-related cancer, especially among Black, Hispanic, and low-income populations.

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.bmjjournals.org/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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Global Infectious Diseases (JGID)

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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

Volume 26, Number 2, May 2015

<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal of health care for the poor and underserved/toc/hpu.26.2.html>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Management

Volume 5 Issue 1 2015

<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/toc/jhlsbm/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 national contexts

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies

Volume 13, Issue 1, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Infectious Diseases

Volume 211 Issue 9 May 1, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of International Development

May 2015 Volume 27, Issue 4 Pages 415–572

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

[Reviewed earlier]

The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics

Spring 2015 Volume 43, Issue 1 Pages 6–166

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Medical Ethics

May 2015, Volume 41, Issue 5

<http://jme.bmjjournals.org/content/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (JPIDS)

Volume 4 Issue 1 March 2015

<http://juids.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 11, No 1 (2015)

<http://journal.km4dev.org/journal/index.php/km4dj/index>

The Facilitator Role within Learning Networks at USAID

Ashleigh Mullinax, Cydney Gumann

Abstract

How can facilitation help to drive meaningful peer-to-peer learning in a formalized learning network? This article will explore the core role that facilitators play in implementing a learning network, as defined by USAID. USAID's model of learning networks differs from other peer-to-peer learning opportunities, such as communities of practice or networks of practice, in a number of ways including selection of grantees through a competitive process, dedicated funding of learning network partners, and creation of deliverables within a designated timeline. This paper outlines three core differences that make facilitating learning networks at USAID distinctive: 1) The organization of the learning network around evolving learning agendas that facilitate learning on multiple levels; 2) The time and process involved in the development and implementation of a learning network; and 3) The unique intra- and inter-personal dynamics of the learning network through the involvement of both the funded (network members) and the funder (the donor). In this article, the role of a learning network facilitator will be overlaid primarily with lessons learned generated from implementation of the Growing Organizational Value Chain Excellence (GROOVE) Learning Network.

Group facilitation in CGIAR: experiences and lessons from international agricultural research organizations

Simone Staiger, Ewen Le Borgne, Michael Victor, Juergen Hagmann, Cristina Sette, Petr Kosina

Abstract

This article describes CGIAR's experience with group facilitation over 10 years. CGIAR is a global partnership that unites organizations engaged in research for a food-secure future. Including 15 research centers with a total of nearly 9,000 staff, CGIAR embarked a decade ago on an effort to improve how teams meet, think collectively, and make decisions. Inspired by participatory approaches, which had been used since the 1980s to involve farmers in research,

the leaders of this effort aimed to tackle challenges faced by research teams and partnerships, and since then, the need for more effective stakeholder engagement and the consequent demand for group facilitation have steadily increased. Based on the experiences of the co-authors, a survey, complemented by follow-up conversations with CGIAR in-house facilitators and researchers, as well as professional consultant-facilitators and partners, this case study analyzes the evolution of facilitation, its added value, and current trends. In addition, the authors discuss the different ways and contexts in which facilitators have worked in CGIAR and some of the facilitation essentials that emerge from the author's enquiry. This article should be of particular interest to knowledge management practitioners working in research and development, as it offers hints on how to position facilitation as an essential tool for stakeholder engagement and participatory decision-making in research-for-development organizations.

Full Text: [PDF](#)

The Lancet

May 09, 2015 Volume 385 Number 9980 p1803-1916 e45-e46

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

Editorial

Rural health inequities: data and decisions

The Lancet

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)60910-2](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)60910-2)

70% of the world's 1.4 billion people who are extremely poor live in rural areas. A new report released on April 27 by the UN International Labour Organisation (ILO), Global evidence on inequities in rural health protection: new data on rural deficits in health coverage for 174 countries, presents the first global, regional, and national data on the extent and major causes of rural–urban inequities in coverage, and access to health care. 56% of rural residents worldwide are without legal health coverage (defined as protected by legislation or affiliation with a health insurance scheme)—compared with 22% of the urban population.

Editorial

Keeping watch on women's cancers

The Lancet

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)60911-4](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)60911-4)

Cancer is a perennial public health issue. With refined estimates of the global burden of disease (GBD), the picture of cancer has become clearer and has begun to yield crucial new details about where the challenges lie. According to the 2013 GBD study, the cancers that contribute to the most deaths are: lung (1·64 million), stomach (840 000), liver (820 000), colorectal (770 000), and breast (470 000). But other areas of concern emerge when aggregating across types of cancer, such as cancers that specifically affect women.

Comment

Global health security now

Richard Horton, Pamela Das

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)60909-6](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)60909-6)

The concept of security as an important dimension of health divides opinions. To invoke the idea of security risks giving permission to more authoritarian-minded governments to use health crises as justification for sometimes extreme curbs on liberty or the political, economic, and social rights of citizens. During the Ebola virus disease outbreak, photographs appeared in news media of police brutally attacking the public for breaching curfews. Invoking arguments of global health security might further encourage this kind of violent response.

Comment

Putting science into practice for early child development

Anthony Lake, Margaret Chan

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(14\)61680-9](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(14)61680-9)

Public Policy

Global health security: the wider lessons from the west African Ebola virus disease epidemic

Prof David L Heymann, MD, Lincoln Chen, MD, Prof Keizo Takemi, MA, Prof David P Fidler, BCL, Jordan W Tappero, MD, Mathew J Thomas, MPH, Thomas A Kenyon, MD, Thomas R Frieden, MD, Derek Yach, MBChB, Sania Nishtar, FRCP, Alex Kalache, Prof Piero L Olliaro, MD, Prof Peter Horby, MD, Els Torreele, PhD, Prof Lawrence O Gostin, JD, Margaret Ndomondo-Sigonda, MBA, Prof Daniel Carpenter, PhD, Simon Rushton, PhD, Louis Lillywhite, MSc, Prof Bhimsen Devkota, PhD, Prof Khalid Koser, PhD, Rob Yates, MBA, Ranu S Dhillon, MD, Ravi P Rannan-Eliya, DPH

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)60858-3](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)60858-3)

Summary

The Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa was unprecedented in both its scale and impact. Out of this human calamity has come renewed attention to global health security—its definition, meaning, and the practical implications for programmes and policy. For example, how does a government begin to strengthen its core public health capacities, as demanded by the International Health Regulations? What counts as a global health security concern? In the context of the governance of global health, including WHO reform, it will be important to distil lessons learned from the Ebola outbreak. The Lancet invited a group of respected global health practitioners to reflect on these lessons, to explore the idea of global health security, and to offer suggestions for next steps. Their contributions describe some of the major threats to individual and collective human health, as well as the values and recommendations that should be considered to counteract such threats in the future. Many different perspectives are proposed. Their common goal is a more sustainable and resilient society for human health and wellbeing.

Public Policy

A retrospective and prospective analysis of the west African Ebola virus disease epidemic: robust national health systems at the foundation and an empowered WHO at the apex

Prof Lawrence O Gostin, JD, Eric A Friedman, JD

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)60644-4](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)60644-4)

Summary

The Ebola virus disease outbreak in west Africa is pivotal for the worldwide health system. Just as the depth of the crisis ultimately spurred an unprecedented response, the failures of leadership suggest the need for innovative reforms. Such reforms would transform the existing worldwide health system architecture into a purposeful, organised system with an empowered, highly capable WHO at its apex and enduring, equitable national health systems at its foundation. It would be designed not only to provide security against epidemic threats, but also to meet everyday health needs, thus realising the right to health. This retrospective and prospective analysis offers a template for these reforms, responding to the profound harms posed by fragile national health systems, delays in the international response, deficient resource mobilisation, ill defined responsibilities, and insufficient coordination. The scope of the reforms

should address failures in the Ebola response, and entrenched weaknesses that enabled the epidemic to reach its heights.

Viewpoint

What is a resilient health system? Lessons from Ebola

Margaret E Kruk, Michael Myers, S Tornorlah Varpilah, Bernice T Dahn

Ebola vaccines: keep the clinical trial protocols on the shelf and ready to roll out

David L Heymann, Guenael R Rodier, Michael J Ryan

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 521 Number 7550 pp6-118 7 May 2015

http://www.nature.com/nature/current_issue.html

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

New England Journal of Medicine

May 7, 2015 Vol. 372 No. 19

<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

Volume 4, No. 2 December 2014
<http://oxmofm.com/current-issue/>
[Reviewed earlier]

Pediatrics

May 2015, VOLUME 135 / ISSUE 5
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/current.shtml>
[Reviewed earlier]

PLOS Currents: Disasters

[Accessed 9 May 2015]
<http://currents.plos.org/disasters/>

[Foreign Medical Teams in the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan 2013 – Who Were They, When Did They Arrive and What Did They Do?](#)

May 5, 2015 · [Research article](#)

Background:

Foreign medical teams (FMT) are international medical teams sent to provide assistance in the aftermath of a disaster. In the last decade, there has been an increase in FMTs deployed following disasters. Despite the potential benefit FMTs might have in substituting the collapsed health care and caring for excess morbidity after large-scale disasters, several studies have demonstrated the difficulties in determining the quality of the response, mainly due to lack of reliable data. In order to bridge the knowledge gap on functioning of FMTs, the aim of this study is to assess the timing, capacities and activities of FMTs deployed to the Philippines after typhoon Haiyan.

Methods:

This is a retrospective, descriptive study. Data on characteristics of FMTs present in the Philippines after typhoon Haiyan was provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) and compiled into a single database. Additional data was collected through a web survey, email correspondence and internet searches.

Results:

A total of 108 FMTs were identified as arriving to the Philippines within the first month following typhoon Haiyan. None of these were operational in the affected areas within the first 72 h and the average time between arriving and being on-site operational was three days. Of the 108 FMTs, 70% were FMT type 1, 11% were FMT type 2 and 3% were FMT type 3. 16% of FMTs had unknown status. The total number of staff within all these FMTs were 2121, of which 210 were medical doctors, 250 nurses and 6 midwives. Compared to previous sudden onset disasters, this study found no improvement in data sharing.

PLoS Currents: Outbreaks

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

(Accessed 9 May 2015)

[Assessing Measles Transmission in the United States Following a Large Outbreak in California](#)

May 7, 2015 · [Research](#)

The recent increase in measles cases in California may raise questions regarding the continuing success of measles control. To determine whether the dynamics of measles is qualitatively different in comparison to previous years, we assess whether the 2014-2015 measles outbreak associated with an Anaheim theme park is consistent with subcriticality by calculating maximum-likelihood estimates for the effective reproduction number given this year's outbreak, using the Galton-Watson branching process model. We find that the dynamics after the initial transmission event are consistent with prior transmission, but does not exclude the possibility that the effective reproduction number has increased.

[Epidemiological and Surveillance Response to Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak in Lofa County, Liberia \(March-September, 2014\): Lessons Learned](#)

May 6, 2015 · [Research](#)

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak was confirmed in Liberia on March 31st 2014. A response comprising of diverse expertise was mobilized and deployed to the country to contain transmission of Ebola and give relief to a people already impoverished from protracted civil war. This paper describes the epidemiological and surveillance response to the EVD outbreak in Lofa County in Liberia from March to September 2014. Five of the 6 districts of Lofa were affected. The most affected districts were Voinjama/Guardu Gbondi and Foya. By 26th September, 2014, a total of 619 cases, including 19.4% probable cases, 20.3% suspected cases and 44.2% confirmed cases were recorded by the Ebola Emergency Response Team (EERT) of Lofa County. Adults (20-50 years) were the most affected. Overall fatality rate was 53.3%. Twenty two (22) cases were reported among the Health Care Workers with a fatality rate of 81.8%. Seventy eight percent (78%) of the contacts successfully completed 21 days follow-up while 134 (6.15%) that developed signs and symptoms of EVD were referred to the ETU in Foya. The contributions of the weak health systems as well as socio-cultural factors in fueling the epidemic are highlighted. Importantly, the lessons learnt including the positive impact of multi-sectorial and multidisciplinary and coordinated response led by the government and community. Again, given that the spread of infectious disease can be considered a security threat every effort has to put in place to strengthen the health systems in developing countries including the International Health Regulation (IHR)'s core capacities.

PLoS Medicine

(Accessed 9 May 2015)

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

Essay

[Screening and Treating UN Peacekeepers to Prevent the Introduction of Artemisinin-Resistant Malaria into Africa](#)

Stan Houston, Adam Houston

Published: May 5, 2015

DOI: 10.1371/journal.pmed.1001822

Summary Points

:: The Haitian cholera epidemic provides a tragic demonstration of the potential for United Nations peacekeepers to introduce serious disease into vulnerable populations.

- :: Resistance to artemisinin derivatives, now the global standard therapy for falciparum malaria, has emerged and is spreading in Southeast Asia.
- :: UN peacekeeping troops from Southeast Asia are frequently deployed in sub-Saharan Africa.
- :: These circumstances entail a high risk of introducing artemisinin resistance into the populations most affected by malaria, with potentially disastrous consequences for malaria treatment and control in sub-Saharan Africa.
- :: The UN has a responsibility to prevent such an outcome; selective predeployment screening and treatment of UN peacekeeping troops is feasible and urgently needed.

Introduction: The Precedent of Cholera in Haiti

In the aftermath of the massive earthquake that devastated Haiti in 2010, an ongoing epidemic of cholera introduced by United Nations peacekeepers has resulted in over 730,000 cases and over 8,700 deaths—the largest single-country cholera epidemic in nearly a century [1,2]. This disaster should serve as an urgent warning about the potential for introduction by UN troops of other serious infectious diseases into the vulnerable populations they were sent to protect. Indeed, the UN has recently agreed to avoid rotation of African troops to Haiti because of concern about the introduction of Ebola [3]. But the tragedy in Haiti pales in comparison to the scale of long-term impact on malaria morbidity, mortality, and control programs that would result from the introduction of artemisinin-resistance into sub-Saharan Africa, where 85% of the world's falciparum malaria cases and over 90% of all malaria deaths now occur [4]. This threat demands urgent action, in particular on the part of the UN...

PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases

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

(Accessed 9 May 2015)

[No new relevant content]

PLoS One

[Accessed 9 May 2015]

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

Millennium Development Goal Four and Child Health Inequities in Indonesia: A Systematic Review of the Literature

Julia Schröders, Stig Wall, Hari Kusnanto, Nawi Ng

Research Article | published 05 May 2015 | PLOS ONE 10.1371/journal.pone.0123629

Abstract

Introduction

Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 4 calls for reducing mortality of children under-five years by two-thirds by 2015. Indonesia is on track to officially meet the MDG 4 targets by 2015 but progress has been far from universal. It has been argued that national level statistics, on which MDG 4 relies, obscure persistent health inequities within the country. Particularly inequities in child health are a major global public health challenge both for achieving MDG 4 in 2015 and beyond. This review aims to map out the situation of MDG 4 with respect to disadvantaged populations in Indonesia applying the Social Determinants of Health (SDH) framework. The specific objectives are to answer: Who are the disadvantaged populations? Where do they live? And why and how is the inequitable distribution of health explained in terms of the SDH framework?

Methods and Findings

We retrieved studies through a systematic review of peer-reviewed and gray literature published in 1995-2014. The PRISMA-Equity 2012 statement was adapted to guide the methods of this review. The dependent variables were MDG 4-related indicators; the independent variable "disadvantaged populations" was defined by different categories of social differentiation using PROGRESS. Included texts were analyzed following the guidelines for deductive content analysis operationalized on the basis of the SDH framework. We identified 83 studies establishing evidence on more than 40 different determinants hindering an equitable distribution of child health in Indonesia. The most prominent determinants arise from the shortcomings within the rural health care system, the repercussions of food poverty coupled with low health literacy among parents, the impact of low household decision-making power of mothers, and the consequences of high persistent use of traditional birth attendants among ethnic minorities.

Conclusion

This review calls for enhanced understanding of the determinants and pathways that create, detain, and overcome inequities in child health in resource constraint settings like Indonesia and the promotion of actionable health policy recommendations and tailored investments.

PLoS Pathogens

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

(Accessed 9 May 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

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

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

(Accessed 9 May 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

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#.V0kz6y5nBhW>

[Reviewed earlier]

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

February 2015 Vol. 37, No. 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Risk Analysis

March 2015 Volume 35, Issue 3 Pages 345–554

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Science

8 May 2015 vol 348, issue 6235, pages 605-728

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

Review

[Soil and human security in the 21st century](#)

Ronald Amundson^{1,*}, Asmeret Asefaw Berhe², Jan W. Hopmans³, Carolyn Olson⁴, A. Ester Sztein⁵, Donald L. Sparks⁶

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Structured Abstract

BACKGROUND

Earth's soil has formed by processes that have maintained a persistent and expansive global soil mantle, one that in turn provided the stage for the evolution of the vast diversity of life on land. The underlying stability of soil systems is controlled by their inherent balance between inputs and losses of nutrients and carbon. Human exploitation of these soil resources, beginning a few thousand years ago, allowed agriculture to become an enormous success. The vastness of the planet and its soil resources allowed agriculture to expand, with growing populations, or to move, when soil resources were depleted. However, the practice of farming greatly accelerated rates of erosion relative to soil production, and soil has been and continues to be lost at rates that are orders of magnitude greater than mechanisms that replenish soil. Additionally, agricultural practices greatly altered natural soil carbon balances and feedbacks. Cultivation thus began an ongoing slow ignition of Earth's largest surficial reservoir of carbon—one that, when combined with the anthropogenic warming of many biomes, is capable of driving large positive feedbacks that will further increase the accumulation of atmospheric greenhouse gases and exacerbate associated climate change.

ADVANCES

The study of soil is now the domain of diverse schools of physical and biological science. Rapid advances in empirical and theoretical understanding of soil processes are occurring. These advances have brought an international, and global, perspective to the study of soil processes and focused the implications of soil stewardship for societal well-being. Major advances in the past decade include our first quantitative understanding of the natural rates of soil production, derived from isotopic methods developed by collaboration of geochemists and geomorphologists. Proliferation of research by soil and ecological scientists in the northern latitudes continues to illuminate and improve estimates of the magnitude of soil carbon storage in these regions and its sensitivity and response to warming. The role of soil processes in global carbon and climate models is entering a period of growing attention and increasing maturity. These activities in turn reveal the severity of soil-related issues at stake for the remainder of this century—the need to rapidly regain a balance to the physical and biological processes that drive and maintain soil properties, and the societal implications that will result if we do not.

OUTLOOK

Both great challenges and opportunities exist in regards to maintaining soil's role in food, climate, and human security. Erosion continues to exceed natural rates of soil renewal even in highly developed countries. The recent focus by economists and natural scientists on potential future shortages of phosphorus fertilizer offers opportunities for novel partnerships to develop efficient methods of nutrient recycling and redistribution systems in urban settings. Possibly the most challenging issues will be to better understand the magnitude of global soil carbon feedbacks to climate change and to mitigating climate change in a timely fashion. The net results of human impacts on soil resources this century will be global in scale and will have direct impacts on human security for centuries to come.

Report

Long-term measles-induced immunomodulation increases overall childhood infectious disease mortality

Michael J. Mina^{1,2,*}, C. Jessica E. Metcalf^{1,3}, Rik L. de Swart⁴, A. D. M. E. Osterhaus⁴, Bryan T. Grenfell^{1,3}

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4Department of Viroscience, Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Abstract

Immunosuppression after measles is known to predispose people to opportunistic infections for a period of several weeks to months. Using population-level data, we show that measles has a more prolonged effect on host resistance, extending over 2 to 3 years. We find that nonmeasles infectious disease mortality in high-income countries is tightly coupled to measles incidence at this lag, in both the pre- and post-vaccine eras. We conclude that long-term immunologic sequelae of measles drive interannual fluctuations in nonmeasles deaths. This is consistent with recent experimental work that attributes the immunosuppressive effects of measles to depletion of B and T lymphocytes. Our data provide an explanation for the long-term benefits of measles vaccination in preventing all-cause infectious disease. By preventing measles-associated immune memory loss, vaccination protects polymicrobial herd immunity.

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 9 May 2015]

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Sustainability

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

TORTURE Journal

Volume 25, Nr. 1, 2015

<http://www.irct.org/torture-journal>

[Reviewed earlier]

Tropical Medicine and Health

Vol. 43(2015) No. 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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