

The Sentinel

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

20 June 2015

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

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

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

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

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:: Week in Review

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

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UNHCR warns of dangerous new era in worldwide displacement as report shows almost 60 million people forced to flee their homes

18 June 2015

A UNHCR report, released today, shows that worldwide displacement from wars, conflict, and persecution is at the highest levels we have recorded, and accelerating fast.

UNHCR's new annual *Global Trends* report shows a sharp escalation in the number of people forced to flee their homes, with 59.5 million people forcibly displaced at the end of 2014 compared to 51.2 million a year earlier and 37.5 million a decade ago. The increase since 2013 was the highest ever seen in a single year.

The main acceleration has been since early 2011 when war erupted in Syria, propelling it into becoming the world's single largest driver of displacement. In 2014, an average of 42,500 people became refugees, asylum seekers, or internally displaced every day, representing a four-fold increase in just four years. Worldwide, one in every 122 humans is now either a refugee, internally displaced, or seeking asylum. Were this the population of a country, it would be the world's 24th biggest.

"We are witnessing a paradigm change, an unchecked slide into an era in which the scale of global forced displacement as well as the response required is now clearly dwarfing anything seen before," said UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres. "It is terrifying that on the one hand there is more and more impunity for those starting conflicts, and on the other there is seeming utter inability of the international community to work together to stop wars and build and preserve peace."

UNHCR's report shows that in region after region, the number of refugees and internally displaced people is on the rise. In the past five years, at least 15 conflicts have erupted or reignited: Eight in Africa (Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Libya, Mali, northeastern Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and this year in Burundi); three in the Middle East (Syria, Iraq, and Yemen); one in Europe (Ukraine) and three in Asia (Kyrgyzstan, and in several areas of Myanmar and Pakistan). Few of these crises have been resolved and most still generate new displacement. In 2014 just 126,800 refugees were able to return to their home countries, the lowest number in 31 years.

Meanwhile, decades-old instability and conflict in Afghanistan, Somalia and elsewhere means that millions of people from these places remain either on the move or – and increasingly commonly – stranded for years on the peripheries of society and amid the crippling uncertainty of being long-term internally displaced or refugees. Among recent and highly visible consequences of the world's conflicts and the terrible suffering they cause has been dramatic growth in numbers of refugees seeking safety by undertaking dangerous sea journeys, including on the Mediterranean, in the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea, and in Southeast Asia.

Half are Children

UNHCR's Global Trends report shows that in 2014 alone 13.9 million became newly displaced – four times the number in 2010. Worldwide there were 19.5 million refugees (up from 16.7 million in 2013), 38.2 million were displaced inside their own countries (up from 33.3 million in 2013), and 1.8 million people were awaiting the outcome of claims for asylum (against 1.2 million in 2013). Alarming, over half the world's refugees are children.

"With huge shortages of funding and wide gaps in the global regime for protecting victims of war, people in need of compassion, aid and refuge are being abandoned," said Guterres. "For an age of unprecedented mass displacement, we need an unprecedented humanitarian response and a renewed global commitment to tolerance and protection for people fleeing conflict and persecution."

Syria is the world's biggest producer of both internally displaced people (7.6 million) and refugees (3.88 million at the end of 2014). Afghanistan (2.59 million) and Somalia (1.1 million) are the next biggest refugee source countries.

Even amid such sharp growth in numbers, the global distribution of refugees remains heavily skewed away from wealthier nations and towards the less wealthy. Almost nine out of every 10 refugees (86 per cent) were in regions and countries considered economically less developed. A full quarter of all refugees were in countries ranking among the UN's list of Least Developed nations...

...The full Global Trends report with this information and more, and including data on individual countries, demographics, numbers of people returning to their countries, and available estimates of stateless population is available at <http://www.unhcr.org/2014trends>

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Statement by António Guterres on World Refugee Day 2015

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

20 June 2015

Fifteen years into a millennium that many of us hoped would see an end to war, a spreading global violence has come to threaten the very foundations of our international system.

More people fled last year than at any other time in our records. Around the world, almost 60 million have been displaced by conflict and persecution. Nearly 20 million of them are refugees, and more than half are children. Their numbers are growing and accelerating, every single day, on every continent. In 2014, an average of 42,500 people became refugees, asylum-seekers or internally displaced persons, every single day – that is four times more than just 4 years ago. These people rely on us for their survival and hope. They will remember what we do.

Yet, even as this tragedy unfolds, some of the countries most able to help are shutting their gates to people seeking asylum. Borders are closing, pushbacks are increasing, and hostility is rising. Avenues for legitimate escape are fading away. And humanitarian organizations like mine run on shoestring budgets, unable to meet the spiraling needs of such a massive population of victims.

We have reached a moment of truth. World stability is falling apart leaving a wake of displacement on an unprecedented scale. Global powers have become either passive observers or distant players in the conflicts driving so many innocent civilians from their homes.

In this world at war, where power relations are unclear, and unpredictability and impunity have become the name of the game, it is now urgent for all those with leverage over the parties to these conflicts to put aside their differences and come together to create the conditions for ending the bloodshed.

But in the meantime, the world must either shoulder collectively the burden of helping the victims of war, or risk standing by as less wealthy countries and communities – which host 86% of the world's refugees – become overwhelmed and unstable.

Since the beginnings of civilization, we have treated refugees as deserving of our protection. Whatever our differences, we have recognized a fundamental human obligation to shelter those fleeing from war and persecution.

Yet today, some of the wealthiest among us are challenging this ancient principle, casting refugees as gate crashers, job seekers or terrorists. This is a dangerous course of action, short-sighted, morally wrong, and – in some cases – in breach of international obligations.

It is time to stop hiding behind misleading words. Richer nations must acknowledge refugees for the victims they are, fleeing from wars they were unable to prevent or stop. And then wealthier countries must decide on whether to shoulder their fair share, at home and abroad, or to hide behind walls as a growing anarchy spreads across the world.

For me, the choice is clear: either allow the cancer of forced displacement to spread untreated, or manage the crisis together. We have the solutions and the expertise. It won't be easy or cheap, but it will be worth it. History has shown that doing the right thing for victims of war and persecution engenders goodwill and prosperity for generations. And it fosters stability in the long run.

The world needs to renew its commitment now to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its principles that made us strong. To offer safe harbor, both in our own countries and in the epicentres of the crises, and to help refugees restore their lives. We must not fail.

Editor's Note:

A number of agencies and NGOs released statements on World Refugee Day which are available below, integrated with other announcements and press releases by the respective organizations..

Joint statement on the occasion of the World Refugee Day

European Union

Brussels, 19 June 2015

On the occasion of World Refugee Day, Frans Timmermans, First Vice President for Better Regulation, Inter-institutional Relations, the Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights, Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, Neven Mimica, Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Dimitris Avramopoulos, Commissioner for Migration and Home Affairs, and Christos Stylianides, Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, made the following statement:

"Every day, thousands of people are forced to flee their homes to escape violence and seek refuge, in their own countries or abroad. Many leave behind family members without knowing when or whether they will see them again. They are forced to abandon their education and professions.

The scale of displacement is immense and, as conflicts persist, the numbers are growing. Almost 60 million people are displaced worldwide – the world has not seen so many people

fleeing conflict since the Second World War. Europe will not turn a blind eye. Nor can we when many of these displaced persons are seeking out safe haven on European shores.

With a crisis situation in the Mediterranean and instability at our borders, in May, the Commission set out a European response on managing migration better, addressing all parts of the chain – from the immediate need to save lives to working on root causes with partner countries and fighting against traffickers to a long term strategy on strengthening our asylum system and borders – making best use of EU agencies and tools, and involving all actors: Member States, EU institutions, International Organisations, civil society, local authorities and third countries. A week before a European Summit where EU leaders will discuss these proposals, solidarity and responsibility are the order of the day. We will be counting on leaders to match our level of ambition.

As part of these efforts, the Commission is working to open up legal channels for people to reach Europe without having to risk their lives on treacherous journeys in unseaworthy boats. We are calling on Member States to follow the Commission's recommendation by committing to an EU wide pledge to resettle 20,000 refugees from outside Europe over the next two years. Offering protection to those in need is a global responsibility – this is also about alleviating the pressure on our international partners such as Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, where refugees now make up a considerable proportion of the population.

Beyond our borders, the EU is at the forefront in supporting refugees and internally displaced persons, and addressing the conflicts that force them to flee their homes in the first place. The EU provides humanitarian aid to refugees and internally displaced persons in 33 countries, and EU development assistance supports refugees in their host countries. The Commission is also a leading international donor, supporting refugees in developing countries with €200 million in ongoing projects from development funds and has provided more than €850 million of humanitarian assistance during 2014. Regional Development and Protection Programmes also provide shelter to those in need of international protection, often in close cooperation with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

As long as there is instability, people will continue to flee and seek refuge. There is no simple solution to this complex problem, but it is clear that there is no solution a single country can provide alone. This is why we are working everyday with international partners to try to build stability and preserve peace.

On World Refugee Day, the Commission calls on leaders in Europe to follow through on their commitment to greater solidarity and shared responsibility in addressing refugee crises. These are human lives at stake, and the European Union as a whole has a moral and humanitarian obligation to act."

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[Global Humanitarian Overview: Status report – June 2015](#)

A consolidated appeal to support people affected by disaster and conflict

OCHA - Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

June 2015 :: 28 pages

PDF:

http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/GHO%20status%20report%20press%20release%2016%20June%202015%20Geneva_DRAFT.pdf

Executive Summary

Intensifying conflict and slow and sudden-onset disaster are taking their toll. The result is that global financial requirements for the remainder of 2015 have risen by \$2.4 billion. In early June 2015 they stand at \$18.8 billion, to meet the needs of 78.9 million vulnerable people in 37 countries.

In February, a regional appeal for the Sahel was launched, requesting \$1.98 billion to enable partners to meet the needs of some 9.3 million people in nine countries with food assistance. In Djibouti, partners have revised the multi-year strategy first developed in 2014. They now seek \$81 million. Over 40 per cent of Djibouti's population is food insecure. The humanitarian landscape continues to evolve in Djibouti. By May, 9,700 people from Yemen had crossed the border. So far 1,600 of them have been registered as refugees. The latest global ask of \$18.8 billion includes inter-agency response plans for Guatemala and Honduras, where persistent droughts have resulted in crop failures and deepening food insecurity. In Libya humanitarian conditions have worsened considerably in 2015. Ongoing hostilities and increased presence of non-state armed groups have affected 2 million people in the country while approximately 2.5 million others need access to health services. In addition, 400,000 people require food assistance. The escalation of the conflict in Yemen, the devastation wrought by Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu, and the highly destructive earthquakes in Nepal all led to the development of flash appeals.

Across the 37 countries, humanitarian crises show no sign of abating. Violence and insecurity due to the scale of conflict in Syria, Yemen, Iraq and Nigeria continue to cause internal and cross-border displacements. In Syria, for example, some 7.6 million people have been internally displaced, while another 4 million have fled the country. Humanitarian partners require \$7.4 billion to respond to the needs of 12.2 million people inside Syria, including more than 5.6 million children, and to help people affected by this crisis in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

Although millions of people are receiving desperately needed aid, access problems are still limiting the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Conditions are harsh for the 4.8 million people living in hard-to-reach and besieged locations in Syria where there is little or no access to humanitarian assistance for months at a time. In Iraq, the scale of the conflict has increased significantly. About 2.8 million people are internally displaced, half of whom are children. The number of newly displaced people has increased by 700,000 this year alone. Recently improved tracking methods have helped identify these numbers. In Nigeria, sustained attacks by the Boko Haram armed group have displaced an estimated 1.5 million people and forced 210,000 to flee across Nigeria's border, where they have become refugees in Cameroon, Chad, and Niger.

Violence, insecurity and restricted access continue to aggravate risk and hamper humanitarian operations in DRC, Libya, Somalia and Sudan. In addition, protection of civilians due to unrelenting hostilities in Iraq, Nigeria, Syria and Yemen remains a grave concern. Gross and flagrant violations of human rights and international humanitarian law are rife. In Iraq, targeted attacks on civilians and sexual and gender-based violence prevail.

Food insecurity remains a recurring theme in most of the countries covered in this document. In Iraq, for example, food insecurity has increased by 60 per cent in six months. In DRC, 6.4 million people are food insecure — half are chronically undernourished children under age five. Malnutrition is even more endemic in Kasais and Bas-Congo Provinces, where it has caused 35 per cent of deaths among children under age five. In Nigeria, 4.6 million people are food insecure and 100,000 children are at risk of severe malnutrition this year. In Sudan, some 4.2 million people are expected to experience acute food insecurity during the upcoming lean season. In South Sudan, failure to intervene effectively could put millions at risk of starvation. Twenty per cent of Chad's population of over 2.4 million people is food insecure. In Somalia, about 731,000 Somali people face acute food insecurity, while an additional 2.3 million are at risk of sliding into the same situation. In The Gambia, an estimated 500,000 people will be food insecure.

Donors have generously contributed \$4.8 billion to humanitarian response plans, but that only represents 26 per cent of requirements, leaving a vast shortfall of \$14 billion. Over half of the funding received (55 per cent) has gone to the highest-level emergencies, categorized as Level 3 crises, in Central African Republic, Iraq, South Sudan and Syria. These crises have dominated 2015 and will continue to do so. The appeal for Vanuatu is the best funded at 54 per cent; the least funded humanitarian response plan is The Gambia, at 2 per cent. Clearly, the level of funding cannot match the level of need. Operations in several countries have been curtailed and risk shutdown if additional donor support is not secured immediately. In Iraq, for example, 60 per cent of frontline operations risk cut backs or complete stoppage. Health services in camps have been interrupted and food distributions scaled back due to underfunding. In Libya, underfunding has caused some agencies to decrease or shut down humanitarian programmes, with food distribution interrupted due to lack of funds.

The financial demands of the combined appeals are not only substantial, they are also essential for protecting, feeding, sheltering and saving

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Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2015

Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) <http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/>

2015 :: 164 pages

Report Synopsis

Humanitarian financing is in the spotlight like never before. An extraordinary combination of crises continues to test international, national and local capacity to prevent, prepare and respond as needs continue to outstrip available resources. Global processes taking place during 2015 and 2016 – including the Financing for Development process and the World Humanitarian Summit – offer important opportunities to shape global strategies and address needs across development and humanitarian spheres for years to come.

The Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) report 2015 shows that poverty and vulnerability to crises are intrinsically linked and that international humanitarian assistance continues to go predominantly to long-term recipients. This emphasises the need to build resilience, address the underlying causes of crisis and meet the long-term needs of people affected by crisis. For this to happen, a shared responsibility between humanitarian, development, climate change and other actors is critical as is the mobilisation of other resources beyond humanitarian assistance.

Key findings of the report include:

:: International humanitarian assistance rose for a second year running to a record US\$24.5 billion in 2014. All of 2013's largest donors gave more in 2014, and many gave their largest amounts. Despite this rise, funding was not sufficient to meet needs. In response to the scale of need in 2014, UN-coordinated humanitarian appeals requested the highest amount of funding to date – a total of US\$19.5 billion – yet a record US\$7.5 billion of requirements went unmet.

:: 2013 saw a shift in the geography of displacement – with more people displaced now in the Middle East than in Africa. As a result, Gulf donors rose in prominence, and Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) became the 6th and 15th largest government donors, respectively.

:: Two thirds (66%) of international humanitarian assistance continues to go to long-term recipients such as Syria, Somalia and Pakistan, as crises are protracted or disasters recur in the same places year on year.

:: An estimated 93% of people living in extreme poverty (defined as less than US\$1.25 a day) are in countries that are either fragile or environmentally vulnerable or both, emphasising the need to address the underlying causes of crises.

:: Domestic response and capacities often play an important role in best meeting needs and reducing the need for international finance, as case studies of Turkey and Mexico show.

:: Of total international humanitarian assistance, only 0.2% went directly to local and national NGOs and 3.1% to the governments of affected states.

The report uses unique methodologies to gather and analyse data to provide the most up-to-date and comprehensive picture of global humanitarian financing. It includes in-depth analysis of international financing to national and local actors, as well as wider resource flows to the most crisis-affected, fragile and environmentally vulnerable countries.

We have produced this report annually since 2000, to present a shared and independent evidence base for anyone engaged in providing, using, receiving and understanding assistance in crisis settings. In a year when financing for crisis preparedness and response is under scrutiny as never before, our report provides the data to inform discussion, which we hope will deliver change...

...All of the data contained within this report is available to download. We are always pleased to hear from you, so do share with us your feedback and ideas for how we can get better data or make it more useful. You can also join the discussion on twitter #GHA2015

Full report [PDF](#)

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[Improving Humanitarian Aid – How to Make Relief More Efficient and Effective](#)

David Miliband and Ravi Gurumurthy

Foreign Affairs July/August 2015

Refugees & Migration, Essay

Every month, nearly one million people flee their homes because of conflicts or natural disasters. With few wars ending, and new wars starting, the number of people displaced by conflict now exceeds 50 million. Not since World War II have people sought refuge—in their own countries or in neighboring states—on such a scale. The disorder driving mass displacement is unlikely to be transitory. In a growing number of countries, the glue of national identity and state authority is unable to patch ethnic, sectarian, or tribal divisions, all of which are exacerbated by regional rivalries. Faced with such threats, multilateral institutions may be strong enough to prevent interstate war but too weak or divided to stop the fighting, as is the case in Iraq, South Sudan, Syria, and Ukraine. Further adding to the tide of humanitarian misery are climate change and demographic pressures.

The humanitarian sector sustains and improves life for people caught in these crises. Its staff are heroic, skillful, and inspiring. Yet the sector is struggling to cope with new realities, and there is a growing gulf between the needs of people affected by crises and the help they are receiving. One measure is humanitarian aid flows: the amounts pledged to address the consequences of crises now regularly fail to reach 40 percent of the UN's targets. It is logical, then, to argue for increases in humanitarian aid funding. The total global budget for humanitarian aid stands at just \$22 billion. And at 0.3 percent of GDP, the \$135 billion spent on all aid last year—on poverty reduction as well as humanitarian crises—by members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) fell well short of the UN's target of 0.7 percent. But with Europe and the United States still emerging from economic crisis, overall aid is unlikely to grow much in the short term.

More resources would help. But resources also need to be used for greater impact. Environmentalists like to speak of "factor 4" improvements, which cut resource use in half while doubling productivity so as to quadruple overall efficiency. The concept provides a useful benchmark for the humanitarian sector, too. Over the next decade, donors need to not just double the amount of aid directed to the places of greatest need but also undertake reforms that seek to double the productivity of aid spending. Doing that would require significant shifts in practices and assumptions. Given the growing scale of the problem, however, anything less risks being marginal...

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Kellogg Foundation [to 20 June 2015]

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

Civil rights organizations issue joint statement on the shooting at the Emanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston, South Carolina

June 18, 2015

Washington, D.C. – Leading national health, equity and civil rights groups, joining together as America Healing grantees of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, issued the following joint statement in response to the shooting at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, that left nine people dead, on June 17, 2015.

Last night the unspeakable happened in an historic church in Charleston, South Carolina. The resulting death of worshippers practicing their faith, at the hands of a killer intent on instilling fear and terror in the community, deeply grieves and saddens us. We offer our deepest condolences to the victims and their families.

As members of communities who have faced bigotry and who are working to eliminate hate, injustice and violence, we stand in solidarity with the community of Charleston, the Emanuel A.M.E. Church, the Black community and all those who reject hatred and violence. It is important for us to stand with one another now and affirm that an attack against one group is an attack against all and is destructive to our entire nation.

These are troubling times in our country, not unlike a few generations ago when assaults on Black churches were frequently in the headlines. Many among us still carry the scars of that history and are reminded of them by this shooting in Charleston. Our deep faith, our strong commitment to community, our willingness to make the sacrifices needed to “stay in the struggle” supplied us with courage and determination then and can support us now.

It is especially important to affirm in this moment our commitment to all life but our particular support for Black life. “Black life matters” is a frequently heard refrain in the streets across our country today. We think it appropriate to echo that refrain in this statement and invite you to affirm it in your work and as you link arms with one another.

We join all communities mourning the loss of innocent lives in Charleston and we lift up prayers for the healing of individuals, families, communities and our nation. We will continue to work for greater understanding, justice and civil rights for all Americans.

Our nation was founded on the core values of liberty and justice for all – we are united and determined in ensuring that this ideal becomes the reality for all.

Advancement Project, Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum, DEMOS, NAACP, National Collaborative for Health Equity, National Congress of American Indians, National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, National Council of La Raza, National Urban League, PICO, Poverty & Race Research Action Council and Race Forward are part of America Healing, a long-term effort of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, working to improve life outcomes for vulnerable children by promoting racial equity and eliminating barriers to opportunity.

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Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons

Organization of American States (OAS) – General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH REGULAR SESSION

June 15 to 16, 2015

Washington, D.C.

OEA/Ser.P :: AG/doc.5493/15 corr. 1 :: 27 pages

Sample Article from Convention:

Article 29

Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies

States Parties shall adopt all necessary specific measures to ensure the safety and rights of older persons in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian

emergencies, and disasters, in accordance with the norms of international law, particularly international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

States Parties shall adopt assistance measures specific to the needs of older persons in preparedness, prevention, reconstruction, and recovery activities associated with emergencies, disasters, and conflict situations.

States Parties shall foster the participation of interested older persons in civil protection protocols in the event of natural disasters....

Press Release

[The Americas Becomes First Region in the World to Have an Instrument for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Older Persons](#)

June 15, 2015

The member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) today approved the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons during the General Assembly of the institution, which was immediately signed by the governments of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica and Uruguay at OAS headquarters in Washington DC.

The purpose of the Convention -the first regional instrument of its kind in the world-, is to promote, protect and ensure the recognition and the full enjoyment and exercise, on an equal basis, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of older persons, in order to contribute to their full inclusion, integration and participation in society. The starting point of the Convention is the recognition that all existing human rights and fundamental freedoms apply to older people, and that they should fully enjoy them on an equal basis with other segments of the population.

"This is a very important step for everyone. Our slogan of 'More rights for more people' is fully in the logic of the Convention, which reaffirms the hemispheric dimension of our work, in this case the commitment to ensure the full enjoyment of the rights of older people, taking into account their needs and specific requirements," said Secretary General Luis Almagro during the signing of the document, which urges States to adopt "legislative or other measures" that are necessary to give effect to the rights and freedoms of older adults, including awareness campaigns.

At present, people aged 60 or older in the Americas represent 14 percent of the hemisphere's population (over 135 million). By 2030, nearly two in five people will be 60 or older, and in total there will be more than 215 million older people in the Americas. The Convention will strengthen the legal obligations to respect, promote and ensure the human rights of older persons. Its ratification will carry the obligation of States parties to adopt measures to guarantee a differentiated and preferential treatment to older persons in all spheres.

For the Convention to enter into force it is necessary that at least two signatory countries have ratified it.

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Nepal Earthquakes: UNICEF speeds up response to prevent child trafficking

GENEVA/KATHMANDU, 19 June 2015 - At least 245 children have been intercepted from being trafficked and unnecessarily or illegally placed in children's care homes since the first earthquake hit Nepal almost two months ago, said UNICEF.

The children's organisation is working with the government and the Nepal Police to reduce the risk of trafficking through targeted action and policy measures.

"UNICEF feared a surge in trafficking cases after the two earthquakes", said Tomoo Hozumi, UNICEF Nepal Representative. "Loss of livelihoods and worsening living conditions may allow traffickers to easily convince parents to give their children up for what they are made to believe will be a better life. The traffickers promise education, meals and a better future. But the reality is that many of those children could end up being horrendously exploited and abused."

Trafficking was rife in Nepal even before the 25 April earthquake, with an estimated 12,000 Nepalese children trafficked to India every year, according to a 2001 International Labour Organisation study. Girls not recruited into prostitution could be also sold as domestic slaves in India and other countries and boys taken into forced labour. After disasters such as earthquakes, there is a risk that trafficking will increase.

Families may also be more easily convinced to send their children to orphanages in Kathmandu and Pokhara, a trend that began following the civil war with promises of safety and education. Prior to the Nepal earthquake, approximately 15,000 children lived in child care homes in Nepal, and were potentially at risk of poorly-regulated adoption, exploitation and abuse. More than 85 per cent of these children had at least one living parent.

UNICEF has been working closely with the Government of Nepal and other partners to speed up and bolster the response on child trafficking prevention.

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EBOLA/EVD [to 20 June 2015]

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

WHO: Ebola Situation Report – 17 June 2015

[Excerpts]

SUMMARY

:: There were 24 confirmed cases of Ebola virus disease (EVD) reported in the week to 14 June, compared with 27 cases the previous week. In Guinea, 10 cases were reported from 4 prefectures (Boke, Conakry, Dubreka, and Forecariah). A total of 14 cases were reported from 2 districts (Kambia and Port Loko) in Sierra Leone.

:: Of 76 confirmed cases reported from Guinea and Sierra Leone in the 21 days to 14 June, 69 (91%) have come from 3 prefectures in Guinea (Boke, Dubreka, and Forecariah) and 2 districts in Sierra Leone (Kambia and Port Loko). Most (55) of these 69 cases came from well-characterised chains of transmission, and arose among registered, monitored contacts of previous cases. Each of these cases presents a risk of further transmission, but in most instances that risk is well understood and can be planned for accordingly. However, 14 of those

69 cases, and 5 of the 7 cases that were reported from other prefectures and districts during the same period, arose from unknown sources of infection, and/or are associated with a large number of high-risk contacts, some of whom it was not possible to trace. Effectively managing the risks associated with cases such as these will be crucial to getting to zero. To that end, a package of enhanced surveillance and response measures has been introduced in both Guinea and Sierra Leone:

...In Guinea, health checkpoints have been established in the western prefectures of Boke and Coyah. A 6-day door-to-door case-finding and sensitization campaign was carried out in Dubreka from 7 June, leading to the detection of 1 confirmed case. In addition, intensive investigations are underway to trace a number of high-risk contacts associated with 3 cases reported from the Guinean capital, Conakry, over the past 2 weeks. All of the 3 cases acquired infection outside the capital.

...In Sierra Leone, a large-scale operation is planned in the districts of Kambia and Port Loko, aimed at ending the secret movement of cases, contacts, and dead bodies that has propagated transmission over the past 2 months. Measures include broadened criteria for identifying and tracing contacts, improved incentives to increase compliance with quarantine measures and encourage the timely reporting and isolation of cases, and expanded use of rapid diagnostic tests.

:: As at 14 June, there were 1927 contacts being monitored across 8 prefectures in Guinea. In Sierra Leone, 443 contacts were under follow-up in 3 districts. A total of 660 laboratory samples were tested in Guinea in the week to 14 June: 4% tested positive. Over the same period, 1787 new samples were tested in Sierra Leone, with less than 1% testing positive.

:: In Guinea there were a total of 15 unsafe burials in the week to 14 June, representing 4% of 357 community deaths. In the week to 7 June, 1 unsafe burial was reported in Sierra Leone.

COUNTRIES WITH WIDESPREAD AND INTENSE TRANSMISSION

:: There have been a total of 27,305 reported confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (figure 1, table 1), with 11,169 reported deaths (this total includes reported deaths among probable and suspected cases, although outcomes for many cases are unknown). A total of 10 new confirmed cases were reported in Guinea and 14 in Sierra Leone in the 7 days to 14 June. The outbreak in Liberia was declared over on 9 May.

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:: Agency/Government/IGO Watch

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

United Nations System Organizational Chart

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

United Nations – Secretary General, Security Council, General Assembly

[to 20 June 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases/Meetings Coverage

19 June 2015

GA/11656

[General Assembly Adopts 5 Resolutions, 1 Decision Including on Conservation of Marine Biological Diversity, Eliminating Sexual Violence in Conflict](#)

Addressing a range of items on its agenda, the General Assembly today adopted five resolutions and one decision, including texts on the Law of Sea, on the establishment of the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict and on achieving peace in Africa by 2020.

18 June 2015

SC/11932

[Security Council, Adopting Resolution 2225 \(2015\), Adds Parties Abducting Children During Armed Conflict to List Monitoring Grave Human Rights Violators](#)

Decrying a marked increase in grave violations committed against children in conflict zones, the Security Council today added abduction to the list of such crimes to be closely monitored, during an open debate on the issue that heard from some 80 speakers.

18 June 2015

SG/SM/16858-OBV/1485-REF/1209

[Secretary-General, in Message for World Refugee Day, Calls for Celebrating Tolerance, Diversity](#)

18 June 2015

SG/SM/16850-ENV/DEV/1527

[Welcoming Papal Encyclical Calling Climate Change Major Challenge Facing Humanity, Secretary-General Reaffirms World's Obligation to 'Protect Our Common Home'](#)

15 June 2015

SG/SM/16844-OBV/1483-WOM/2041

[Secretary-General Urges Action to Advance Human Rights, End Discrimination against Widows, in Message for International Observance](#)

UN OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 20 June 2015]

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

[Council opens annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women, discusses domestic violence against women and girls](#)

Human Rights Council

6/19/2015

[Natural resources sector: UN expert calls for binding human rights treaty for corporations](#)
[Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association](#)

6/18/2015

GENEVA (18 June 2015) – The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, Maina Kiai, called for a new treaty binding businesses to respect fundamental human rights, and for States and corporations to fully engage with civil society organizations in the context of natural resource exploitation.

"Corporations play an outsized role in the decision-making processes about exploitation of natural resources. But they are not subject to legally binding human rights obligations," Mr. Kiai

told the UN Human Rights Council during the presentation of his latest report*. "It is time to address this issue more robustly; corporations must not escape responsibility to safeguard human rights."

In response to these concerns, the Special Rapporteur called upon States to enact a legally binding human rights instrument that applies to all corporations, regardless of their size or geographical scope...

[Sustainable development: UN expert group calls for accountability of public and private sectors](#)
Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises
6/16/2015

Committee on the Rights of the Child [to 20 June 2015]
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/CRCIndex.aspx>
No new digest content identified.

Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
[to 20 June 2015]
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Children/Pages/ChildrenIndex.aspx>
No new digest content identified.

SRSG/CAAC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict [to 20 June 2015]
<https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/virtual-library/press-release-archive/>
19 Jun [Special Representatives welcome creation of International Day for Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict](#)

18 Jun [Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict Welcomes UN Security Council Resolution on Abduction as "Trigger" Violation](#)

18 Jun [SRSG Leila Zerrougui addresses UN Security Council's Children and Armed Conflict debate: Stepped-up international response necessary to protect children in conflict zones, she says](#)

SRSG/SVC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict [to 20 June 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 20 June 2015]
<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/search?page=&comid=4a0950336&cid=49aea93a7d&scid=49aea93a40>
[Statement by António Guterres on World Refugee Day 2015](#)

20 June 2015

[UNHCR warns of dangerous new era in worldwide displacement as report shows almost 60 million people forced to flee their homes](#)

18 June 2015

UN OCHA [to 20 June 2015]

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

19 Jun 2015

[Chad: Revue de Presse Humanitaire au Tchad, du 23 mai au 19 juin 2015](#)

19 Jun 2015

[Yemen: Aid Agencies Appeal for \\$1.6 Billion to Respond to Immense Humanitarian Needs in Yemen](#)

Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Country: Yemen (Sana'a/ Geneva, 19 June 2015): Aid agencies today called for US\$1.6 billion to help the most vulnerable 11.7 million people affected by the devastating humanitarian crisis in Yemen. Of this total, a funding shortfall of more than US\$1.4 billion remains up till the end of the year. "A looming humanitarian catastrophe is facing Yemen," warned the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency...

18 Jun 2015

[World: Under-Secretary-General For Humanitarian Affairs And Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien - Opening Remarks to The Panel on Addressing Capacity and Resource Challenges Through Humanitarian Financing, Geneva, 18 June 2015](#)

17 Jun 2015

[World: Under-Secretary-General For Humanitarian Affairs And Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien - Opening Remarks to The Humanitarian Affairs Segment of The 2015 Economic and Social Council, Geneva, 17 June 2015](#)

16 Jun 2015

[World: Humanitarian Status Report reveals record needs and growing funding gap](#)

16 Jun 2015

[South Sudan: EU and UN mobilise fresh humanitarian aid for South Sudan and the region amid worsening crisis](#)

16 Jun 2015

[South Sudan: Under-Secretary-General For Humanitarian Affairs And Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien - Opening Remarks to The High-Level Event on The South Sudan Humanitarian crisis and Its Effect on The Region, Geneva, 16 June 2015](#)

UNICEF [to 20 June 2015]

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

Selected press release and news notes

[Statement attributable to UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern & Southern Africa, Leila Gharagozloo-Pakkala, on school attack in Burundi](#)

NAIROBI, 19 June 2015 – "The grenade attack on school grounds in Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi, which resulted in the injury of a 15-year-old boy is a deplorable assault on a place that should always be safe for every child.

[Nepal Earthquakes: UNICEF speeds up response to prevent child trafficking](#)

GENEVA/KATHMANDU, 19 June 2015 - At least 245 children have been intercepted from being trafficked and unnecessarily or illegally placed in children's care homes since the first earthquake hit Nepal almost two months ago, said UNICEF

[Unspeakable violence against children in South Sudan – UNICEF chief](#)

Statement by UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake: NEW YORK, 17 June 2015 – "The violence against children in South Sudan has reached a new level of brutality.

[Media Advisory: Millions of world's poorest children left behind, says UNICEF MDG report](#)

UNICEF issues its final assessment of the impact of the child-related Millennium Development Goals, Progress for Children 2015: Beyond Averages.

[Young African activists share powerful stories on child marriage in first ever UNICEF Twitter takeover](#)

NEW YORK, 16 June 2015 – Five young activists from across Africa are sharing their powerful personal experiences of child marriage in UNICEF's first ever global Twitter takeover on this year's Day of the African Child (June 16).

[Statement attributable to Julien Harneis, UNICEF Representative in Yemen](#)

SANA'A, Yemen, 16 June 2015 – "The number of children in Yemen who have been killed as a result of conflict over the last 10 weeks is four times that of all those confirmed to have been killed in 2014*. At least 279 children have been killed and 402 injured since the escalation of violence in Yemen which began on 26 March 2015, compared with 74 and 244, respectively, that were reported in the whole of last year.

IOM / International Organization for Migration [to 20 June 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[IOM Urges Dominican Republic to Extend Deadline for Migration Status Applications](#)

06/19/15

Switzerland - IOM urged Dominican Republic authorities to extend the registration period to regularize the status of thousands of Haitian migrants.

[IOM Releases Revised USD 112 M Humanitarian Appeal for South Sudan](#)

06/19/15

South Sudan - Midway into 2015 and 19 months since the crisis in South Sudan began, humanitarian concerns within South Sudan are as pressing as ever.

[Addressing the Health Needs of Families Left Behind by Sri Lankan Migrants](#)

06/19/15

Sri Lanka - Nearly two million Sri Lankans are employed abroad, with remittances contributing to more than 10 per cent of Sri Lanka's annual GDP.

[Sierra Leone Doubles Up Efforts to Achieve Zero New Ebola Cases by Mid-July](#)

06/19/15

Sierra Leone - This week saw the weekly confirmed Ebola case count in Sierra Leone reaching a two-month high of 16 cases, up from only two a month ago. Each day, thousands of travelers cross the international border between Kambia in Sierra Leone and Forecariah in Guinea.

[Assistance to Migrants Rescued at Sea in Tunisia](#)

06/19/15

Tunisia - In the aftermath of the Libyan crisis, many migrant boats set sail from Libya with the hope of reaching Europe. Some of these boats were rescued off the Tunisian coast.

[IOM Announces October Conference on Migrants and Cities](#)

06/19/15

Switzerland - On 26 and 27 October in Geneva IOM will bring ministers and mayors to debate for the first time in a global policy forum – the High-level Conference on Migrants and Cities (CMC) – the complex dynamics of human mobility in cities and assess how challenges can be managed and development opportunities maximized.

[IOM Jordan Marks World Refugee Day with Events for Children at Azraq and Za'atari Camps](#)

06/19/15

Jordan - As part of activities to mark World Refugee Day, in coordination with the Jordanian authorities and UNHCR, IOM Jordan held a series of events for children at Azraq and Za'atari refugee camps in Jordan on Thursday, June 18.

[IOM Cites Discovery of More Victims in Sahara among Migrants Bound for Libya](#)

06/16/15

Niger - The discovery Monday of the remains of 30 migrants in Dirkou, Niger brings to 48 the total of dead migrants found in the Sahara this week.

[Displacement Increases in Earthquake-Struck Nepal at Onset of Monsoon Season](#)

06/16/15

Nepal – IOM warns of a worrying increase in post-earthquake displacement in Nepal as it releases the latest results from its Displacement Tracking Matrix.

[New Funding for Pacific Climate Change Programme](#)

06/16/15

Micronesia – To help mitigate the effects of climate change, IOM has signed an agreement with Australia to further fund the CADRE programme.

[IOM/FAO/Unicef: Survival Kits Provide Lifeline to Displaced in South Sudan](#)

06/16/15

South Sudan - UN and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in South Sudan have undertaken an emergency airlift operation to deliver survival kits, containing lifesaving supplies, to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in hard-to-reach areas of Unity State. Recent violence has affected an estimated 750,000 people in Greater Upper Nile and forced approximately 150,000

people to flee their homes, many to extremely remote areas. Most were rural households, forced to abandon their lands before they could plant this season's main crops.

[IOM-Japan Project Implemented in Mauritania and Mali](#)

06/16/15

Mauritania – IOM has launched a two-year (2015 -2017) project, "Enhancing the collective capacity for managing borders and for protecting border communities between Mauritania and Mali," financed by the Government of Japan through a grant for conflict prevention and peace building of USD 3 million.

[Joint IOM-Brookings Launch of Study on Durable Solutions to Displacement Post-Haiyan](#)

06/16/15

Switzerland – The results of a study produced by IOM and the Brookings Institution entitled: "Resolving Post-Disaster Displacement: Insights from the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda)" were presented today at IOM's Geneva Headquarters.

[IOM Trains Iraq Government Authorities in Migration Crisis Management](#)

06/16/15

Iraq - IOM Iraq held a migration crisis response training this past week for representatives of the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD), the governor's office, and provincial council members from the governorates of Baghdad, Babylon, Kerbala, Missan, Najaf and Qadissiya.

[IOM Reports Discovery of Remains of 18 West African Migrants in Sahara](#)

06/14/15

Niger - Authorities of Niger and IOM's teams in the field learned on 11 June that the bodies of 18 migrants have been found in the Sahara.

UN Women [to 20 June 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

["We have identified men and boys as critical contributors to the struggle for gender equality" – Executive Director](#)

Date : June 19, 2015

Opening remarks by UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, at the launch of the HeForShe campaign in Stockholm, Sweden, on 18 June 2015

[UN Women announces bold commitments to gender equality from 18 partners](#)

Date : June 18, 2015

UN Women's HeForShe campaign today announced the commitments of 18 IMPACT champions (eight Heads of State, five global companies and five universities), completing the initial slate of 30 global partners, following the launch of the pilot initiative in January.

[Africa must rise with and through women, says UN Women Executive Director](#)

Date : June 16, 2015

While attending the 25th African Union Summit in Johannesburg, UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka called on both the public and private sector to invest in women in order to achieve sustainable development in Africa.

["We – you – will accept nothing less than a 50-50 Planet" – Executive Director](#)

Date : June 16, 2015

Lecture delivered by UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, on 11 June, addressing the Gender Equality: 50-50 by 2030 commitment, at Chatham House, London.

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues [to 20 June 2015]

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

[Report on 14th session of Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#)

June 19, 2015

The report on the Fourteenth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is out. The report contains conclusions and recommendations

WHO & Regionals [to 20 June 2015]

[Nepal Earthquake - Global Health Cluster](#)

Health Cluster Bulletin No. 6 pdf, 1.11Mb

19 June 2015

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

[20 June 2015](#) - Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Republic of Korea

[20 June 2015](#) - Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia

[5 June 2015](#) - Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Republic of Korea

[4 June 2015](#) - Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Republic of Korea

[4 June 2015](#) - Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia

The [Weekly Epidemiological Record \(WER\) 19 June 2015](#), vol. 90, 25 (pp. 309–320) includes:

:: Update on vaccine-derived polioviruses worldwide, January 2014–March 2015

:: **WHO Regional Offices**

WHO African Region AFRO

:: [WHO mobilizes 164 500 doses of oral cholera vaccine to help control the cholera outbreak in Tanzania](#)

Kigoma, 18 June 2015 – The cholera risk remains high in villages around entry points for asylum seekers in Kigoma region, Western Tanzania. The daily influx of asylum seekers has caused the population in the Nyarugusu camp in Tanzania to swell to over 55,500.

:: [Rural mothers in Namibia given access to quality maternal and newborn care - 17 June 2015](#)

:: [Experts meet to discuss a range of public health issues in the African Region - 16 June 2015](#)

WHO Region of the Americas PAHO

No new digest content identified

WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO

:: [WHO calls for stepping up vigil for MERS, Thailand confirms case](#)

18 June 2015

WHO European Region EURO

:: [Stepping up action on migrant and refugee health](#) 18-06-2015

:: [Health a priority for European Development Days](#) 17-06-2015

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO

:: [Kuwait donation supports scaling up of health care services to displaced populations and host communities in Iraq](#)

18 June 2015

:: [WHO airlifts from Damascus medical supplies to the besieged Deir ez-Zor city and Qamishly](#)

18 June 2015

:: [WHO welcomes new Kuwait donation for Syrians in need](#)

15 June 2015

WHO Western Pacific Region

:: [WHO recommends continuation of strong disease control measures to bring MERS-CoV outbreak in Republic of Korea to an end](#)

MANILA, 13 JUNE 2015 - A joint mission by the World Health Organization and the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Health and Welfare to review the outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS CoV) in the Republic of Korea has recommended that continuing strengthening of contact tracing, monitoring and quarantine as well as expanded laboratory testing will prevent further spread of the virus.

UNAIDS [to 20 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund [to 20 June 2015]

<http://www.unfpa.org/press/press-release>

No new digest content identified.

UNDP United Nations Development Programme [to 20 June 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[Helen Clark: Statement on Pope Francis Encyclical on the Environment and the Poor](#)

Jun 18, 2015

[Gina Casar: Opening Remarks, High-Level Event: Financing for Development: The Critical Role of Risk and Resilience](#)

Jun 15, 2015 New York, USA

UN Division for Sustainable Development [to 20 June 2015]

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

[High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development / ECOSOC](#)

The HLPF will meet from Friday, 26 June through Wednesday, 8 July 2015. The ministerial segment will be from Monday, 6 July, through Wednesday, 8 July 2015.

The forum will debate the theme: *"Strengthening integration, implementation and review - the HLPF after 2015"*. It will be meeting this year under the auspices of ECOSOC.

A major focus will thus be the role of the forum and ways to implement its functions in following up on and reviewing the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

The meeting will occur at a time when the negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda will be reaching their final stage. It takes particular significance as sustainable development goals will be at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda. The forum will thus be able to advance the discussions on how best to review progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the overall agenda, and its important role in this regard...

UN Statistical Commission :: UN Statistics Division [to 20 June 2015]

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/default.htm>

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/commission.htm>

No new digest content identified.

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme [to 20 June 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[IEA Report Offers Strategy for Peak in Global Energy Emissions by 2020](#)

The report by the International Energy Agency highlights the need for COP 21 climate pledges to be viewed as the basis from which to create a "virtuous circle" of increasing ambition.

19/06/2015

[UNEP Chief Achim Steiner Welcomes Papal Encyclical on Environment](#)

18/06/2015

[UN Leaders React to Pope Francis' Release of Encyclical on Climate and Environment](#)

In September, countries will gather in New York at the UN General Assembly to agree on a new set of sustainable development goals and chart a path towards a sustainable future that decouples human growth from pollution and environmental degradation.

18/06/2015

UNISDR UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 20 June 2015]

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

[Central America steps up for Sendai Framework](#)

Central American countries are driving forward to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, a global pact which focuses strongly on regional cooperation and the incorporation of integrated disaster risk management within existing national development priorities and policies

17 Jun 2015

UN DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 20 June 2015]
<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news.html>

[Negotiations on financing for sustainable development agenda enter critical phase](#)

18 June 2015, New York

Negotiations over proposals that would finance the ambitious sustainable agenda that world leaders will adopt this September are entering a critical phase, ahead of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development that will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 13-16 July

[Keeping up momentum following successful Water for Life Decade](#)

16 June 2015, New York

Heads of state and United Nations leaders gathered last week in Dushanbe, Tajikistan to celebrate the achievements of the Decade for Action: Water for Life 2005-2015, and to begin looking at proposals for moving forward with the Decade's work.

[On World Day, UN chief shines spotlight on once-taboo topic of elder abuse](#)

15 June 2015, New York

The distressing crime of elder abuse often occurs in quiet, private settings, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said today on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, as he reminded people around the world of the importance of making "a vocal, public response" to support the rights of older persons to a life free of violence and abuse.

UNESCO [to 20 June 2015]

<http://en.unesco.org/news>

[UNESCO launches Countering Online Hate Speech publication](#)

19 June 2015

[Protecting cultural and natural diversity to feed the planet](#)

18 June 2015

Organised as part of 'Venice to EXPO 2015', Behind Food Sustainability asks visitors to think about the important role of cultural and natural heritage and community participation in achieving food sustainability, in line with the EXPO 2015 theme "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life". The exhibition will run until 31 October at Palazzo Zorzi, premises of the UNESCO Venice Office.

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 20 June 2015]

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

[Successful operation highlights growing international cooperation to combat wildlife crime](#)

Vienna, 18 June 2015 - The [International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime](#) (ICWC) welcomed today the results achieved during Operation COBRA III, an international law enforcement operation conducted in May 2015 with the aim of combating wildlife crime and bringing the criminals involved to justice.

Operation COBRA III resulted in 139 arrests and more than 247 seizures, which included elephant ivory, medicinal plants, rhino horns, pangolins, rosewood, tortoises and many other plant and animal specimens. Key successes during the operation included the arrest of a Chinese national believed to have been coordinating rhino horn smuggling from Namibia, the

arrest of a notorious elephant poacher in India and the seizure of 340 elephant tusks and 65 rhino horns in Mozambique. Over 50,000 illegal wildlife items were seized in the United Kingdom, as well as an additional 10,000 in Austria and 5,000 in Germany, which included large volumes of illegal supplement capsules containing wildlife products. Other countries where large numbers of illegal items were seized include China, Singapore and South Africa. In total, 37 countries reported seizures and/or arrests during the operation...

UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme [to 20 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

FAO Food & Agriculture Organization [to 20 June 2015]

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

[More than \\$20 million urgently needed to help Nepal's farmers recover from earthquake](#)

Some \$20 million is urgently needed to support farmers in earthquake-hit Nepal resume agricultural activities and stave off the threat of prolonged food insecurity facing an estimated one million people.

19-06-2015

[FAO Director-General welcomes Papal Encyclical](#)

FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva has welcomed the Papal Encyclical Laudato Si on Climate Change and Environment, released by Pope Francis.

18-06-2015

[A body of evidence: What climate change implies for global food security and trade](#)

"Climate Change and Food Systems" collects the findings of a group of scientists and economists who have taken stock of climate change impacts on food and agriculture at global and regional levels over the past two decades.

18-06-2015

[FAO hunger report shows changing face of food insecurity in Europe, Central Asia](#)

Multiple trends are shaping the nutrition map for Europe and Central Asia, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's first-ever report on food insecurity and malnutrition in Europe and Central Asia, released today. The problems of food insecurity have changed away from that of caloric sufficiency toward the quality of peoples' diets – a trend that will likely continue in this way.

18-06-2015

[Survival kits provide lifeline to displaced in South Sudan](#)

United Nations agencies and Non-governmental Organizations in South Sudan have undertaken an emergency airlift operation to deliver survival kits, containing lifesaving supplies, to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in hard-to-reach areas of Unity State.

16-06-2015

[FAO launches digital platform on family farming](#)

Recognizing the contributions of family farmers to food security and poverty eradication worldwide, FAO today launched a new digital platform that aims to become a "one-stop shop" for information, data and legislation on the sector that produces some 80 percent of the world's food.

16-06-2015

[New guide on preventing child labour in agriculture](#)

A new guide by FAO aims to help ensure anti-child labour measures are included in agricultural and rural development programmes, in particular those targeting family farmers.

15-06-2015

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 20 June 2015]

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

18 June: [IFAD awards excellence in remittances for social and economic development](#)

[French](#) | [Spanish](#)

17 June: [IFAD financing to boost wool and mohair production and increase smallholder farmers' incomes in the Kingdom of Lesotho](#)

16 June: [International Day of Family Remittances to be observed for the first time](#)

15 June: [Remittances from Europe top \\$109 billion, providing lifeline to millions worldwide](#)

[Arabic](#) | [French](#) | [Italian](#) | [Russian](#) | [Spanish](#)

ILO International Labour Organization [to 20 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization [to 20 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

IMO International Maritime Organization [to 20 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

WMO World Meteorological Organization [to 20 June 2015]

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

[Norwegian partnership adds new capacity for climate services](#)

19 June 2015

The Norwegian Refugee Council has signed an agreement with the World Meteorological Organization to send experts into the field to increase the capacity of national institutions to

develop climate information and products that will help vulnerable African countries to cope with climate change, extreme weather and uncertain rainfall patterns.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) will loan meteorologists, hydrologists and other qualified personnel to help with the practical operationalization of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS). This is a multi-partner international initiative, spearheaded by WMO, to improve the provision and use of climate services like seasonal outlooks and drought monitors. The priority focus is on agriculture and food security, disaster risk reduction, water management, health and energy.

[New Renewable Energy App](#)

17 June 2015

Smartphone users can now access the most reliable data on global renewable energy potential, for free, thanks to an application launched today by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). The Global Atlas pocket, now available on all platforms including BlackBerry® 10, iOS, Android™ and Windows Phone®, is the only global tool of its kind, combining 1,000 maps from 67 governments and 50 data centres to provide information on renewable energy resources anywhere in the world. "One of the major hurdles to worldwide renewable energy deployment is to mobilise investment flows commensurate with global needs," said Adnan Z. Amin, IRENA Director-General. "The Global Atlas pocket helps bring more investment certainty to renewable energy prospectors and investors. Users can freely access data from geothermal potentials in the Caribbean to solar potentials in the Middle East and anything in between. It is an incredibly powerful tool."

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 20 June 2015]

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

[Sustainable energy crucial for inclusive development and action on climate change, say participants of Vienna event](#)

VIENNA, 18 June 2015 – Sustainable energy is the golden thread that connects both inclusive development and efforts to combat climate change, said participants at the Vienna Energy Forum (VEF) that opened in the capital of... The three-day major international event brought together over 1,000 participants, including high-ranking government officials and experts in the field. It precedes the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Summit in New York and the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP 21) in Paris. By emphasizing the multiple benefits of both the post-2015 development and the climate agendas and showcasing best practices and actions on the ground, the VEF 2015 aims to contribute to both the SDGs Summit and COP21...

[World Investment Conference supports inclusive and sustainable industrialization](#)

MILAN, 16 June 2015 – Participants at the 20th annual World Investment Conference, a flagship event of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), which ended in Milan today, voiced support for inclusive and sustainable industrialization. The three-day event brought together over a hundred leading Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs), heads of financial institutions, some leading political figures, private sector leaders, prominent economists and researchers...

UNWTO World Tourism Organization [to 20 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

ITU International Telecommunications Union [to 20 June 2015]

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

[ITU defines vision and roadmap for 5G mobile development](#)

Future mobile technologies usher in new paradigms for connected society

Geneva, 19 June 2015 – ITU has established the overall roadmap for the development of 5G mobile and defined the term it will apply to it as “IMT-2020”...

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization [to 20 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity [to 20 June 2015]

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

[The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity welcomes Pope Francis' call to action in the face of global biodiversity loss, climate change and environmental degradation.](#)

2015-06-18

[Statement of the CBD Executive Secretary, Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, on the occasion of the Encyclical Letter Laudato Si' of the Holy Father Francis on Care for Our Common Home](#)

2015-06-18

.....

USAID [to 20 June 2015]

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

[USAID, DFID Partner to Advance Girls' Education Worldwide](#)

June 16, 2015

Commitment includes up to \$180 million for girls education—particularly adolescent girls—in conflict-affected areas of the DRC

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced today an expanded partnership with the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) to advance girls' education around the world. As part of that commitment, USAID and DFID announced a new partnership of up to \$180 million over five years in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) (£36M committed by DFID; up to \$125M by USAID) that will enable girls who are not in school to access accelerated and alternative learning programs in conflict-affected areas (North and South Kivu and Katanga). This program will benefit more than 755,000 girls ages 10-18 over the next five years.

DFID [to 20 June 2015]

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

[World Refugee Day 2015: Statement from Justine Greening](#)

Published 19 June 2015 News story DFID

[Justine Greening: Food crisis in Yemen could kill millions](#)

Published 19 June 2015 Press release DFID

[Justine Greening statement in response to UNHCR Global Trends report](#)

Published 18 June 2015 News story DFID

[UK and US join forces to support girls' education in poor countries](#)

Published 16 June 2015 News story DFID

ECHO [to 20 June 2015]

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

[World Refugee Day: Nearly 60 million people displaced worldwide](#)

19/06/2015

Every year natural disasters, conflicts and human rights violations force millions of people to leave their homes and to flee to save their lives. Today, there are more than 59.5 million people in need of help and protection as a consequence of...

[EU and UN mobilise fresh humanitarian aid for South Sudan amid worsening crisis](#)

16/06/2015

Around €245 million were pledged today in support of the victims of the deepening humanitarian crisis in South Sudan and the region. The funding will translate into vital assistance for the most vulnerable people affected by the crisis. The European...

[Boko Haram: More EU funds to help the affected populations](#)

18/06/2015

In response to the growing humanitarian consequences of the Boko Haram attacks, the European Commission is providing €21 million to help the populations in Nigeria and the neighbouring countries who are affected by the violence inflicted by the...

.....

African Union [to 20 June 2015]

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

Jun.19.2015 - Jun.23.2015

[COMMEMORATION OF THE 2015 AFRICA PUBLIC SERVICE DAY \(APSD\) Under the theme "The Role of Public Services in Women Empowerment, Innovation and Accessible Service Delivery in Africa"](#)

Jun.19.2015

[25th Assembly of the African Union Commits to Mainstreaming Women as the Continent begins to Implement Agenda 2063](#)

Jun.17.2015

[African Union Adopts Common Position on Ending Child Marriage Agreement signals AU's commitment to empower women and girls and protect their human rights](#)

Jun.16.2015

[African leaders adopt experts report to end AIDS, TB and malaria by 2030](#)

The African Development Bank Group [to 20 June 2015]

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

[AfDB provides support to strengthen economic governance and management in South Sudan](#)

19/06/2015 - Construction of South Sudan Customs Service headquarters in Juba is underway. Funded by the African Development Bank, the activity is part of support provided through the Public Finance Management and Aid Coordination Project (PFAID).

[Africa's infrastructure drive must take into account health and gender to be sustainable](#)

19/06/2015 - As African countries undertake significant infrastructure development to transform their economies, it is critical that they take into account the impact of these capital projects on the health of workers and nearby communities, and on women and girls in particular, to ensure inclusive and sustainable growth.

[Call for Papers - African Economic Conference 2015: "Addressing Poverty and Inequality in the Post 2015 Development Agenda"](#)

From: 02/11/2015

To: 04/11/2015

Location: Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo

Jointly organized by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the African Economic Conference (AEC) 2015 will take place in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, from November 2 to 4, 2015 under the following theme: "Addressing Poverty and Inequality in the Post 2015 Development Agenda".

[AfCoP annual meetings conclude with renewed commitment to results-oriented regional integration](#)

16/06/2015 - The second Africa for Results (AfriK4R) Forum and seventh annual meetings of the African Community of Practice on Managing for Development Results (AfCoP-MfDR) concluded on June 10, 2015 with a renewed commitment to advancing results-oriented regional integration and policy coherence in Africa.

ASEAN [to 20 June 2015]

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

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

[ASEAN Convenes its Services Forum 2015](#)

on Friday, 19 June 2015. Posted in [2015, ASEAN Secretariat News](#)

JAKARTA, 19 June 2015 – The ASEAN Services Forum, an event for substantive discussion on the trends and challenges in trade in services integration among the policy makers and stakeholders in the region, was conducted on 18-19 June at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta.

European Union [to 20 June 2015]

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

[We generally limit coverage to regional and global level initiatives]

[Joint statement on the occasion of the World Refugee Day](#)

External relations and foreign affairs | 20/06/2015 18:23 | European External Action Service (EEAS)

[Questions and answers on how the European Commission helps refugees](#)

External relations and foreign affairs / Justice and citizens rights | 19/06/2015 12:00 | European Commission

[EU boosts humanitarian aid to those displaced by Boko Haram violence](#)

19/06/2015 11:36 | European Commission

OECD [to 20 June 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]

[Financial sector must promote inclusive growth](#)

Finance is a key ingredient of modern economies, but too much finance may hamper economic growth and worsen income inequality, according to new research from the OECD.

17-June-2015

The OECD's latest work on [Finance and Inclusive Growth](#) analyses 50 years of data to demonstrate the variable effects that further expansion of different types of finance can have on both economic activity and inequality.

"The global financial crisis has raised deep questions about the influence of finance on economic activity and the distribution of income," OECD Chief Economist Catherine L. Mann said while launching the new research in London. "What our research has shown is that avoiding credit over-expansion and improving the structure of finance can lead to improvements in both economic and social well-being."

The OECD identifies a number of risks to long-term growth posed by an over-reliance on bank lending, versus other types of market-based finance, such as bonds and equities. These include misallocation of capital, by funding investments with low profitability; magnifying the cost of implicit guarantees for too-big-to-fail banks; drawing highly talented workers away from sectors with greater productive potential; and generating boom-bust cycles.

At today's level of financial development, further expansion of bank credit to the private sector is shown to slow growth in most OECD countries. A rise of bank credit by 10% of GDP translates into a GDP growth rate that is 0.3 percentage points less than would otherwise be the case, according to the OECD.

Greater levels of stock market financing, on the other hand, are still seen to boost growth. An increase in stock market capitalisation by 10% of GDP is, on average across OECD and G20 countries, associated with a 0.2% rise of GDP growth...

[Rising diabetes and obesity threaten progress in tackling cardiovascular diseases](#)

Rising levels of obesity and diabetes around the world could halt a trend of decreasing mortality rates for cardiovascular diseases, such as strokes and heart attacks, and even cause rates to start rising again, particularly among younger people, according to a new OECD report.
16-June-2015

Organization of American States (OAS) [to 20 June 2015]

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

[The Inter-American System Joins Forces to Tackle the Leading Cause of Deaths in the Americas: Noncommunicable Diseases \(NCDs\)](#)

E-201

June 17, 2015

[45th General Assembly and Presentations during Plenary Sessions](#)

S-025/15

June 16, 2015

[OAS General Assembly Opens the Door to the Modernization of the Organization, Supports Elections in Guatemala, and Approves the Convention on the Rights of Older Persons](#)

E-199

June 15, 2015

[The Americas Becomes First Region in the World to Have an Instrument for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Older Persons](#)

E-198

June 15, 2015

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) [to 20 June 2015]

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

[Final Communiqué of The Extraordinary Meeting of The Council of Foreign Ministers on The Situation in The Republic of Yemen](#)

...Proceeding from the strong commitment of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation to support the unity, sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of Yemen, to reject interference in its internal affairs, and to stand in solidarity with the people of Yemen and their aspirations for freedom, democracy, social justice and comprehensive development; the Council:....*[25 points follow]*

16/06/2015

Group of 77 [to 20 June 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]

[Website unresponsive]

UNCTAD [to 20 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

World Trade Organisation [to 20 June 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]

[DG Azevêdo tells members it is "decision time" on the Doha work programme](#)

17 June 2015

Director-General Roberto Azevêdo convened a meeting of all WTO members in Geneva today (17 June) to report on the current state of play in negotiations on the work programme to advance the remaining issues of the Doha Development Agenda. He reported in detail on the consultations which have been held since the last meeting of all members on 1 June, taking in the G7 meeting in Germany, an informal ministerial meeting in Paris, meetings convened by the Director-General himself on specific issues, and meetings convened by delegations to which he was invited to attend.

18 June 2015

AID FOR TRADE

[WTO announces agenda for Fifth Global Review of Aid for Trade](#)

The WTO announced on 18 June 2015 the agenda for the Fifth Global Review of Aid for Trade to be held at the WTO from 30 June to 2 July. This year's event, entitled "Reducing Trade Costs for Inclusive, Sustainable Growth", will focus on how trade costs affect developing countries' competitiveness and their ability to connect to regional and global value chains.

IMF [to 20 June 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 20 June 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]

[Pacific Islands Prepare for a More Disaster Resilient Future](#)

WASHINGTON, June 19, 2015 – The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors today approved US\$32.29 million in International Development Association (IDA) grants and credits to support the Pacific Resilience Program – a series of projects to strengthen Pacific Island countries' resilience to natural disasters. The Pacific Resilience Program will initially provide assistance to Samoa, Tonga, Marshall Islands and Vanuatu, as well as the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. This assistance will strengthen early warning and preparedness; retrofit key public assets to meet international resilience standards; create a framework for smarter investment in resilience activities; and improve

financial resilience by enabling access to an immediate injection of cash for post-disaster recovery...

Date: June 19, 2015 Type: Press Release

[Asian Countries Are among Top Achievers on Sustainable Energy Progress](#)

Manila – June 18, 2015 - Asian countries are making a vital contribution to achieving global sustainable energy goals, a new World Bank report finds. But while the region performs strongly on ensuring electricity access for people and using more modern renewable energy, there is room for further improvement on energy efficiency and access to clean, smoke-free cooking. The report is the second in a series that tracks the world's progress toward the three goals of the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) initiative—universal energy access, doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency and doubling the share of renewable energy by 2030. While the first edition from 2013 measured progress between 1990 and 2010, this edition focuses on the 2010-2012 period. Asia accounted for about 60 percent of the global progress on energy access and clean energy objectives during 2010-2012—according to the report titled *"Progress Toward Sustainable Energy: Global Tracking Framework 2..."*

Date: June 18, 2015 Type: Press Release

[Statement by World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim on the Release of Pope Francis' Encyclical](#)

WASHINGTON, June 18, 2015—The World Bank Group today issued the following statement from World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim on Pope Francis' Encyclical: "Today's release of Pope Francis' first encyclical should serve as a stark reminder to all of us of the intrinsic link between climate change and poverty. We know the scientific, business and economic case for action to combat climate change and I welcome the Pope's emphasis on our moral obligation to act. The impacts of climate change, including the increased frequency of extreme weather events, are most devastating for the unacceptably high number of people today living in extreme poverty. Over the past 30 years, disasters took the lives of more than 2.5 million people and resulted in almost US\$4 trillion in damages. As the effects of climate change worsen, we know that escaping poverty will become even more difficult. Climate change also poses a direct risk to the hard-earned development gains over past decades..."

Date: June 18, 2015 Type: Press Release

[World Bank Approves US\\$500 Million to Support Fiscally Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth](#)

Washington DC, June 18, 2015 — The World Bank Group approved the Development Policy Credit (DPC) worth US\$ 500 million to boost economic growth through fostering private and financial sector development, and mobilizing revenue while expanding fiscal space to meet social needs. The Fiscally Sustainable and Inclusive Growth (FSIG-II) single-tranche policy credit is the second of a programmatic series of credits. The first credit addressed critical institutional and regulatory changes needed to jumpstart the reforms; whereas the second credit brings depth and sustainability to most actions of the first credit, while addressing new reforms on inclusion and governance. Under this program, the revenue mobilization actions address well-known structural weaknesses in Pakistan's tax system, thereby creating fiscal space for priority social and development expenditures without raising tax rates, and lowering the government's domestic borrowing needs...

Date: June 18, 2015 Type: Press Release

[Aging in Europe and Central Asia – A Gray Tsunami or a Golden Era?](#)

New World Bank report looks at both the challenges and opportunities of an aging population

VIENNA, June 17, 2015 – Societies are aging across Europe and Central Asia, but individuals are not – a demographic trend driven primarily by declining fertility rates rather than increased longevity, says the new World Bank report, *Golden Aging: Prospects for Healthy, Active and Prosperous Aging in Europe and Central Asia*. Launched today in Vienna at the Ministry of Finance, the report finds that the social and economic consequences of aging societies are complex and diverse – but not necessarily negative. The report identifies significant opportunities in a range of policy areas which, if fully seized, can help societies foster more active, healthy, and productive aging. In demographic terms, Europe and Central Asia is the oldest region in the world. In Central and Eastern Europe, the average age of the population is 10 years higher than the rest of the world...

Date: June 17, 2015 Type: Press Release

[Multilateral Development Banks Provided \\$28 billion in Climate Finance in 2014](#)

WASHINGTON, June 16, 2015—The world's six large multilateral development banks (MDBs) delivered over US\$28 billion in financing last year to help developing countries and emerging economies mitigate and adapt to the challenges of climate change. The latest figures bring total collective commitments of the past four years to more than US\$100 billion. In 2014, the six banks together provided over US\$23 billion dedicated to mitigation efforts and US\$5 billion for adaptation work, according to the fourth joint report on MDB climate finance. The report reveals the important part the MDBs play in delivering development finance in a world shaped by climate change. It was prepared by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank Group (WBG)...

Date: June 16, 2015 Type: Press Release

IPU Inter-Parliamentary Union [to 20 June 2015]

<http://www.ipu.org/english/news.htm>

[Assessing progress on engaging parliaments on human rights](#)

19 JUNE 2015

The discussion will take place on the sidelines of the Human Rights Council, currently in session in Geneva

Efforts to strengthen parliaments' engagement on human rights will be examined next week in the latest measure to bridge the work of parliamentarians with that of the Human Rights Council. Diplomats, human rights officials and civil society representatives will meet on 22 June to assess what progress has been made on engaging parliaments in key UN processes and look at successful examples of parliamentary human rights work at an event held in parallel to the 29th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. The meeting, organized by IPU and the UN's Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and supported by several countries (Romania, Philippines, Morocco, Uruguay and Ecuador), follows other similar events in recent years to enhance cooperation between parliaments, the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review of national human rights situations, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The event will reinforce the significance of parliaments' role in promoting human rights by passing laws, setting budgets, holding governments to account on human rights commitments

and protecting the rights of all citizens. Since the adoption of a Human Rights Council resolution in June 2014 encouraging governments to promote the involvement of parliaments in all stages of the UPR and greater collaboration between IPU and OHCHR, a series of regional seminars were held in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America to inform and engage MPs on human rights and the work of the Human Rights Council.

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:: INGO/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 20 June 2015]

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

[Let's Protect Children from the Injustice of Poor Health](#)

Published: 15 June 2015

International Day of the African Child - May 16, 2015

Amref Health Africa joins the international community in commemorating the International Day of the African Child, marked every year on June 16. While on this day we remember the black children massacred in Soweto, South Africa in 1976 for demanding their right to quality education under the apartheid regime, it is also the day that the African Union has set aside to promote children's rights in Africa.

Amref Health Africa recognises that just like in the Soweto incident, many children in Africa still face injustice and rights abuses in a number of ways. Of these, inability to access the right to health remains a big challenge. Poor health deprives African children of the right to life. One in six children born in sub-Saharan Africa do not live to their fifth birthdays. The region still has the highest child mortality rate in the world - 92 deaths per 1,000 live births, which is more than 15 times the average rate in developed regions. The major killers of African children are totally preventable, making every death an incidence of great injustice to the children and their families.

Under-nutrition is one of the major problems that severely affect African children. It is notable that malnutrition is an underlying cause of more than a third of deaths among children under five years in Africa, while about 30 per cent of African children are stunted as a result of insufficient or poorly balanced diets. This figure is much higher in marginalised and hard-to-reach communities.

Child marriage is an injustice that is sanctioned by many African communities. One in three girls in low and middle income countries is married off by the age of 18 years. Child marriage disrupts and stops education for girls and limits their access to future socio-economic

opportunities. Child-bearing at such an early age puts them at risk of obstetric complications and death, notwithstanding the risk of exposure to sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV.

And then there is the problem of female genital cutting (FGC). It is estimated that 91.5 million females above nine years of age in Africa are currently living with the consequences of FGC, with another three million at risk of undergoing the cut every year. FGC continues to be practiced in various parts of the world and is a culturally and socially sanctioned gender subjugation effort that also undermines the health of girls and women.

These are just a few of the many injustices that the African child has to contend with. Amref Health Africa believes that socio-economic advancement will only be achieved if women and children are at the centre of development. Key to this is to ensure that the continental framework for human rights as it applies to women and children is upheld by governments, communities and individuals. For children this means access to all rights as stipulated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Amref Health Africa is committed to supporting governments to address these injustices through multiple programmes, mostly in marginalised and hard-to-reach communities. In its endeavour to reduce child deaths, the organisation has supported governments to improve infrastructure and equip health facilities with life-saving medicines and equipment, trained health workers to provide quality services, and mobilised communities to adopt better health-seeking behaviour. The result has been an increase in proportions of safe deliveries, higher uptake of immunisation, and more effective care for sick children in communities and at health facilities.

By training mothers on the importance of breastfeeding, good weaning practices, use of locally available foods and use of fortified foods, more children have survived the risks of malnutrition.

On the issue of FGC, Amref Health Africa has developed the Alternative Rite of Passage model, a community-driven approach to eliminating FGC. The model has been used in Magadi, Loitokitok and Samburu counties of Kenya and Kilindini in Tanzania. Through this programme 7,000 girls have been spared the agony of FGC and have adopted an Alternative Rite of Passage with the support of their communities.

While this and other programmes across the continent are boosting progress in addressing the rights of children in African communities, a lot of work remains to be done. Amref Health Africa therefore urges all stakeholders to support and increase funding for initiatives aimed at assuring justice for the African child. This includes funding of life-saving commodities and equipment to improve the survival of children, more training of health workers on use of these commodities and equipment, and increased community education to encourage health-seeking behavior.

Adequacy and distribution of trained health workers, especially at the lowest level of health care, is an area that is still severely under-resourced. The situation is worse in the remote and hard to reach areas of the continent. Amref Health Africa asks governments to pay more attention to the issue of equity in access to care. National statistics on child health will only improve if children in all parts of our countries have equal access to life-saving health services.

Finally, Amref Health Africa calls for the full implementation of laws and policies that protect the

welfare of children. Such laws criminalise child marriage and FGC. Law enforcers and community leaders should spearhead the implementation of such laws as a prerequisite to achieving rights for all children on the continent.

Aravind Eye Care System [to 20 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

BRAC [to 20 June 2015]

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

[The agriculture-nutrition linkage is crucial](#)

[Undated]

Researchers, policymakers and implementers collectively stressed on the importance of agriculture in improving nutrition at the "Leveraging agriculture for nutrition in Bangladesh" research dissemination seminar held at BRAC Centre INN today. This knowledge sharing event was organised by BRAC as the Bangladesh partner of the Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia (LANSA), which is an international research consortium funded by the UK government's DFID...

[Establishment of an independent land commission recommended](#)

[Undated]

Speakers urged the government to set up an independent land commission to ensure improved services for citizens, especially for women and minorities, at a policy dialogue organised by BRAC. The policy dialogue titled, 'Institutional and social barriers for women and marginalised communities to access land and property rights' took place on 15 June 2015, at BRAC Centre. The event was moderated by BRAC's executive director, Dr Muhammad Musa...

CARE International [to 20 June 2015]

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

[Hunger Threatens Millions as Humanitarian Organizations Warn of Massive Funding Gap in South Sudan](#)

SOUTH SUDAN

16 JUNE 2015

Donors attending Tuesday's Geneva pledging conference for South Sudan should address a massive funding shortfall— more than \$1.1 billion of the humanitarian response- in order to avert immense suffering for millions of people.

Danish Refugee Council [to 20 June 2015]

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

[DRC at forefront as thousands of Syrians flee battle for Tal Abyad to Turkey](#) (16.06.15)

Thousands of Syrians fleeing the city of Tal Abyad on the Turkish-Syrian border are in need of basic aid and support, the Danish Refugee Council said today, amid concern of slow pace in response.

[Hunger threatens millions as aid agencies warn of massive funding gap in South Sudan](#) (16.06.15)

Aid agencies issue grave warning ahead of crucial donor conference for South Sudan, stating millions of people risk plunging deeper into crisis if urgent funding is not delivered.

Casa Alianza [to 20 June 2015]

Covenant House [to 20 June 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

ECPAT [to 20 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Fountain House [to 20 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Handicap International [to 20 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Heifer International [to 20 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

HelpAge International [to 20 June 2015]

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

[The European Union joins HelpAge International in promoting and protecting older women's rights in Tanzania](#)

Today, 15 June, the EU Delegation to Tanzania and the EAC, together with HelpAge International and the Magu Poverty Eradication and Rehabilitation Center (MAPERECE), launch a project to Promote and Protect Older Women's Rights in Tanzania.

Posted: 15 June 2015

[Press release: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day](#)

Today, (15 June) Age Demands Action campaigners in 40 countries, will bring attention to elder abuse and the importance of a new UN convention on the rights of older people.

Posted: 15 June 2015

International Rescue Committee [to 20 June 2015]

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

[World Refugee Day 2015: 60 million lives upended](#)

Posted by The IRC on June 18, 2015

Nearly 60 million people have been forced to flee their homes by war, conflict and persecution. The IRC joins the United Nations on World Refugee Day (June 20) in raising awareness of this unprecedented crisis, urging global leaders to act, and saluting the courage of refugees who are rebuilding their lives far from home

18 Jun 2015

[The International Rescue Committee Reacts to Release of UNHCR Global Trends Report](#)

17 Jun 2015

[IRC President David Miliband speech on European migrant crisis at the Van Heuven Goedhart Lecture at Knights Hall, The Hague](#)

16 Jun 2015

[IRC Statement on the High-Level Event on the Humanitarian Crisis in South Sudan and its impact on the region](#)

ICRC [to 20 June 2015]

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

[Top humanitarian photo prize awarded for reportage of rape trials in Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)

[News release](#) 19 June 2015

Paris/Geneva (ICRC) - The photojournalist Diana Zeyneb Alhindawi has been chosen by unanimous vote as the winner of the humanitarian Visa d'Or award for her depiction of the trial of 39 soldiers for rape in Minova, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The award is supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and forms part of the annual Visa pour L'Image festival in Perpignan, France.

[Yemen: ICRC opens surgical hospital amidst fighting in Aden](#)

[News release](#) 19 June 2015

Sana'a (ICRC) – The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has opened a surgical hospital in the Yemeni city of Aden, as the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate. Aden has seen some of the bloodiest fighting during the recent conflict and health facilities have suffered through lack of medicines, water and electricity.

[Tens of thousands in dire need of basic services in Syrian town](#)

[News release](#) 18 June 2015

ICRC and Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) teams delivering much needed medicines to the people of Mouadamiya. CC BY-NC-ND/ICRC

Geneva/Damascus - (ICRC) Around 40,000 people are in urgent need of basic services including water and electricity in the Syrian town of Moadamiyah, near Damascus. The town has been cut off from the rest of the country for several months. The ICRC and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) managed to enter the town this week and deliver aid for the first time since December 2014.

[Zambia: Implementing the ban on cluster munitions in southern Africa](#)

News release 17 June 2015

Lusaka, Zambia (ICRC) – Representatives from nine southern and central African countries are gathered in Lusaka for a two-day seminar, on 17 and 18 June; its aim is to promote adherence to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) amongst members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and to enable them to share best practices for passing domestic legislation to implement its provisions.

IRCT [to 20 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Islamic Relief [to 20 June 2015]

<http://www.islamic-relief.org/category/news/>

[Shared faith views on climate change](#)

June 19, 2015

Islamic Relief has welcomed Pope Francis' fundamental encyclical on climate change. Significant in its request to the world's population to act, *Laudato Si'* highlights climate change, the loss of nature and the growing global inequality as the greatest threats to the world.

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières [to 20 June 2015]

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

Press release

[New Barrage of Barrel Bombs on Health Facilities in Syria](#)

June 18, 2015

Two Hospitals Attacked Over Recent Days; At Least Ten Struck Since May

Press release

[MSF Bolsters Mediterranean Search and Rescue](#)

June 15, 2015

BARCELONA/NEW YORK—The international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) today launched an additional search and rescue boat in the Mediterranean Sea, to assist people during their attempts to reach Europe while fleeing war, persecution, and poverty.

Sailing today from the port of Barcelona, the boat, a 50-meter-long vessel named Dignity I, has an 18-person crew, including MSF medical personnel. It can accommodate up to 300 people rescued at sea.

Field news

[China Rejects Gilead Patent on Hepatitis C Drug Sofosbuvir](#)

June 19, 2015

Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has learned that the Chinese patent office has just denied Gilead Science's request for a key patent on the hepatitis C drug sofosbuvir. This drug, together with other antivirals, is the backbone of several newer, more

effective curative treatments for hepatitis C, yet is exorbitantly priced in many countries, restricting access for people who need it. Hepatitis C is a global public health crisis, with at least 150 million people living with the disease, and 350,000-500,000 people die each year from complications of it.

Field news

[Caring for Mothers and Victims of Violence in Boga, DRC](#)

June 17, 2015

Since April 1, 2015, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has been working in the isolated region of Boga, in the Ituri District of Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) Orientale Province. MSF aims to improve the quality of care offered to both the local population and displaced people in the region. To this end, the project focuses on reproductive health and the medical and psychological treatment of victims of violence.

Field news

[MSF Saddened by Loss of Life During Argos Ship Rescue](#)

June 16, 2015

On Monday, June 15, at least one person died during a search and rescue operation by the Bourbon Argos, a ship chartered by the international medical organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) to carry out search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean sea. People who were rescued reported that another two people had drowned but their deaths could not be confirmed.

Mercy Corps [to 20 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Operation Smile [to 20 June 2015]

<http://www.operationsmile.org/press-room>

[Program Schedule](#)

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

OXFAM [to 20 June 2015]

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

[Moving story of Syrian refugees told through their phones in 'District Zero' documentary](#)

19 June 2015

The story of a Syrian refugee who begins a new life in Jordan's Zaatari camp fixing mobile phones and helps fellow refugees print off photos of happier times is the focus of an upcoming documentary film which will be previewed to mark World Refugee Day (June 20th) as part of a joint campaign by Oxfam and the European Commission's Office for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO).

[Oxfam to expand Syrian crisis response by renewing agreement with Damascus](#)

16 June 2015

Oxfam is currently helping to provide water for more than a million people across conflict lines by drilling new wells and repairing old and damaged water networks.

[Hunger threatens millions due to massive funding gap for South Sudan](#)

16 June 2015

International humanitarian agencies issue a grave warning ahead of crucial donor conference for South Sudan, stating millions of people risk plunging deeper into crisis if urgent funding is not delivered.

Norwegian Refugee Council [to 20 June 2015]

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

Yemen

[Seeking refuge across the sea](#)

Sofie Liesker (19.06.2015)

As many as 150,000 people are internally displaced in Yemen and according to the Djibouti Government, 12,989 people displaced by the conflict are now in Djibouti.

New Report

[Mideast housing crisis driving Syrian refugees to despair](#)

(18.06.2015)

The living conditions of millions of Syrian refugees are worsening across the region, driving thousands to desperate measures including taking the deadly journey by sea to Europe or considering a return to their war-torn country.

Partners In Health [to 20 June 2015]

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

Jun 18, 2015

[Working in Global Health: Shin Daimyo](#)

Interested in forging a career in global health? We asked Shin Daimyo, PIH's clinical program officer and program manager for mental health, to share his journey.

PATH [to 20 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Plan International [to 20 June 2015]

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

[Nepal earthquake: Life-saving and long-term donor support needed for children](#)

19 June 2015:

In advance of the 25 June donor conference in Kathmandu, Plan International, Save the Children, and World Vision International Nepal, are calling on donors to prioritise children and their families affected by the recent earthquakes. 19 June 2015: In advance of the 25 June donor conference in Kathmandu, Plan International, Save the Children, and World Vision

International Nepal, are calling on donors to prioritise children and their families affected by the 25 April and 12 May earthquakes.

The 3 leading children's agencies are calling for donors to support:

- :: Calls for the lifting of import taxes on all humanitarian items so that that life-saving aid can reach children and their communities.

- :: Humanitarian assistance including shelter, water and sanitation, food, nutrition, and health and medical services.

- :: Child protection interventions to respond to trauma resulting from the earthquakes and to counter increased risks of violence exploitation and abuse, as well as longer-term strengthening of national and community-based child protection systems.

- :: The establishment of temporary learning centres to facilitate children's immediate return to school; the reconstruction of damaged and destroyed schools in accordance with national and international standards; and a national programme for retrofitting of schools with seismic resistant construction techniques.

- :: The mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction throughout the recovery and reconstruction to ensure build back better principles and that children and their communities are better prepared for future emergencies.

- :: The establishment of effective processes to ensure the full participation of and accountability to affected population, including marginalised groups in the planning, implementation and monitoring of recovery and reconstruction of their communities.

- :: The engagement of children and young people in identifying priorities and responses to address their immediate and long-term needs...

[Urgent assistance needed as influx of Nigerian refugees in Cameroon and Niger continues to rise](#)

19 June 2015:

Plan International is calling for urgent assistance for Nigerian refugees, including vulnerable children, displaced populations and host communities in the Far North of Cameroon and Niger, as the numbers continue to rise.

[Darfur: Over 4 million in desperate need](#)

15 June 2015:

Sudan's long-running conflict continues to seriously affect women and children, with over 2.5 million displaced people in Darfur, and about 4.4 million in need of humanitarian assistance in the state.

[Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen appointed CEO of Plan International](#)

15/06/2015

Top UN executive Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of Plan International.

Ms Albrechtsen is currently the UN Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director for Management at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). She replaces the current Plan International CEO Nigel Chapman and will assume office on 1 September.

A renowned face in the sector, Ms Albrechtsen has worked for over 25 years in international development, human rights, change management and diplomacy. She has held senior leadership positions in times of significant change in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Danish government, and most recently at the UNFPA...

Save The Children [to 20 June 2015]

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

[Children Report Increased Exploitation, Teenage Pregnancies in Ebola-Affected Sierra Leone](#)

FAIRFIELD, CONN (June 17, 2015) — Children across Sierra Leone report that exploitation and violence against girls has increased during the year-long Ebola epidemic, resulting in rising cases of teenage pregnancies, according to a new report launched today by three leading aid agencies.

Plan International, Save the Children and World Vision International, with the support of UNICEF, recently consulted over 1,100 girls and boys aged 7 to 18 from nine districts about the impact of Ebola, which has killed more than 3,500 people in Sierra Leone.

They shared their personal experiences and deep concerns about the devastating long-term effects of the crisis on their lives as part of the [Children's Ebola Recovery Assessment](#) report. The study was conducted to enable children to contribute their feedback and recommendations to the Government of Sierra Leone's national Ebola recovery strategy.

The children viewed the country's nine-month school closure as being directly linked to increases in child labour and exploitation, exposure to violence in the home and community, and teenage pregnancy.

Most of the 617 girls interviewed said they believe that higher incidences of teenage pregnancy in their communities are as a result of girls being outside the protective classroom environment, exposing them to the risk of sexual exploitation or assault. Classrooms only reopened in Sierra Leone on 14 April, after a prolonged closure to help prevent the spread of Ebola, delaying the schooling of some 1.7 million children.

Some children (10 per cent of the focus group discussion participants) reported that vulnerable girls in their communities, especially those who have lost relatives to Ebola, are being forced into transactional sex to cover their basic daily needs, including food. Children saw this as one of several factors contributing to increases in teenage pregnancy...

['Prioritize Education or Jeopardize the Future of South Sudan' - World Vision and Save the Children warn donors](#)

June 15, 2015

SOS-Kinderdorf International [to 20 June 2015]

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

[Courage and commitment: SOS Children's Villages co-workers who went above and beyond for children](#)

16.06.2015 - The three co-workers whose stories are told here are the winners of the 2015 Helmut Kutin Award, a biannual award named for a former President of SOS Children's Villages International, which celebrates the achievements of some of our extraordinary caregivers.

Tostan [to 20 June 2015]

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

Women for Women International [to 20 June 2015]
<http://www.womenforwomen.org/press-releases>
No new digest content identified.

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ChildFund Alliance [to 20 June 2015]
<http://childfundalliance.org/news/>
[Website being "refreshed"]

CONCORD [to 20 June 2015]
European NGO confederation for relief and development
<http://www.concordeurope.org/news-room>
No new digest content identified.

Disasters Emergency Committee [to 20 June 2015]
<http://www.dec.org.uk/media-centre>
[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 20 June 2015]
<http://theelders.org/news-media>
[Opinion - Refugees: the crisis of inaction](#)
Martti Ahtisaari 18 June 2015

As we mark World Refugee Day in June, Martti Ahtisaari asks the nations of Europe to remember their obligations and respond to a growing humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean.

END Fund [to 20 June 2015]
<http://www.end.org/news>
No new digest content identified.

GAVI [to 20 June 2015]
<http://www.gavialliance.org/library/news/press-releases/>
No new digest content identified.

Global Fund [to 20 June 2015]

<http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/>
News Release
17 June 2015
[Mozambique and Global Fund Aiming Higher with New Grants](#)

16 June 2015
[Senegal and Global Fund Partners Invest in HIV Programs](#)

Hilton Prize Laureates [to 20 June 2015]
<http://prizelaureates.charity.org/about-us/>
No new digest content identified.

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

Start Network [to 20 June 2015]
http://www.start-network.org/news-blog/#.U9U_O7FR98E
[Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies]
No new digest content identified.

Muslim Charities Forum [to 20 June 2015]
<https://www.muslimcharitiesforum.org.uk/media/news>
[An umbrella organisation for Muslim-led international NGOs based in the UK. It was set up in 2007 and works to support its members through advocacy, training and research, by bringing charities together. Our members have a collective income of £150,000,000 and work in 71 countries.]
No new digest content identified.

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Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) [to 20 June 2015]
<http://www.alnap.org/>
No new digest content identified.

CHS International Alliance
<http://chsalliance.org/news-events/news>
No new digest content identified.

EHLRA/R2HC [to 20 June 2015]
<http://www.elrha.org/resource-hub/news/>

No new digest content identified.

Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) [to 20 June 2015]

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

Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2015

2015 :: 164 pages

The Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) report 2015 shows that poverty and vulnerability to crises are intrinsically linked and that international humanitarian assistance continues to go predominantly to long-term recipients. This emphasises the need to build resilience, address the underlying causes of crisis and meet the long-term needs of people affected by crisis. For this to happen, a shared responsibility between humanitarian, development, climate change and other actors is critical as is the mobilisation of other resources beyond humanitarian assistance.

Full report [PDF](#)

ODI [to 20 June 2015]

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

Mind the gap? A comparison of international and national targets for the SDG agenda

Research reports and studies | June 2015 | Andrew Scott, Paula Lucci, with Tom Berliner

We compare existing policy commitments and targets at the national level with corresponding Sustainable Development Goal targets to assess the gap between national and global ambition.

Revealing the routes to policy in practice

Articles and blogs | June 2015 | John Young

John Young, Head of ODI's Research and Policy in Development programme talks to International Innovation about his work at the interface of research, policy and practice.

Identifying constraining and enabling factors to the uptake of medium- and long-term climate information in decision making

Working and discussion papers | June 2015 | Lindsey Jones, Clara Champalle, Sabrina Chesterman, Laura Cramer, Todd A. Crane

A review of literature to assess the factors which constrain and enable the uptake of medium- to long-term climate information in sectoral investment and planning decisions.

The Sphere Project [to 20 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP) [to 20 June 2015]

<https://phap.org/>

No new digest content identified.

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:: Foundation/Major Donor Watch

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

BMGF (Gates Foundation) [to 20 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Clinton Foundation [to 20 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Ford Foundation [to 20 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation [to 20 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation [to 20 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Kellogg Foundation [to 20 June 2015]

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

[Civil rights organizations issue joint statement on the shooting at the Emanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston, South Carolina](#)

June 18, 2015

[Statement on hate crime massacre in Charleston, South Carolina](#)

La June Montgomery Tabron, president and CEO, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

June 18, 2015

MacArthur Foundation [to 20 June 2015]

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

June 16, 2015

[MacArthur Impact Investments Help Advance Energy Efficiency Financing for Multifamily Housing](#)

June 15, 2015

[The Partnership to Strengthen Innovation and Practice in Secondary Education Funds New Projects](#)

Open Society Foundation [to 20 June 2015]

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

[Open Society Foundations Announce 2015 Soros Justice Fellows](#)

June 17, 2015 News

Introducing 15 innovators driving reform of the U.S. criminal justice system.

David and Lucile Packard Foundation [to 20 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Pew Charitable Trusts [to 20 June 2015]

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

[Pew Applauds Proposed Efficiency Standards for Heavy-Duty Trucks](#)

June 19, 2015 Press Release [Clean Energy Initiative](#)

The Pew Charitable Trusts commends the Obama administration for issuing today a draft rule to increase the fuel efficiency of, and reduce tailpipe emissions from, medium- and heavy-duty vehicles. The proposed rule would require vehicles such as tractor-trailers, package delivery vans, transit buses, and other large trucks sold between 2021 and 2027 to meet new greenhouse gas and fuel economy...

[Alabama Poll Shows Strong Support for Healthy School Food Policies](#)

June 16, 2015 Press Release [Kids' Safe and Healthful Foods Project](#)

The vast majority of Alabama voters, including those with children in public schools, support the healthy school meal standards in effect nationwide, according to a poll released today by the Kids' Safe and Healthful Foods Project.

Rockefeller Foundation [to 20 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [to 20 June 2015]

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

[Deaths From Injuries Up Significantly Over Past Four Years in 17 States](#)

Wed Jun 17 12:04:00 EDT 2015

According to The Facts Hurt report, injuries are the leading cause of death for Americans ages 1 to 44—and are responsible for nearly 193,000 deaths per year.

[Poll: Three in Four Adults Played Sports When They Were Younger, But Only One in Four Still Play](#)

Mon Jun 15 10:22:00 EDT 2015

In a poll released by NPR, RWJF and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, researchers sought to understand what roles sports play in the lives of men, women and children over the course of the lifespan.

Wellcome Trust [to 20 June 2015]

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

[Update on Ebola treatment trial in Sierra Leone](#)

A clinical trial of a potential treatment for Ebola, called TKM-Ebola-Guinea, is no longer recruiting patients after reaching a pre-defined endpoint. Early results indicated that continued enrolment to the study, which has been running since March 2015 in Sierra Leone, was unlikely to demonstrate an overall therapeutic benefit to patients.

19th June 2015

[Promising new treatment for malaria being developed](#)

A new compound that can kill the parasite that causes malaria is being developed by researchers as a potential treatment for the disease. If successful, it could lead to an affordable antimalarial drug that requires only a single dose and that also reduces transmission of the disease.

17 June 2015

[Public engagement in science recognised in Queen's Birthday Honours list](#)

Several members of the Wellcome Trust community have been named in the Queen's Birthday Honours list 2015. The list, which was announced over the weekend, includes over 1,000 people who are recognised for their achievements and contributions to society.

15 June 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

June 2015 Volume 43, Issue 6, p547-662

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Preventive Medicine

June 2015 Volume 48, Issue 6, p647-770, e11-e30

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Public Health

Volume 105, Issue 6 (June 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

June 2015; 92 (6)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

BMC Health Services Research

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

(Accessed 20 June 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Infectious Diseases

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

(Accessed 20 June 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Medical Ethics

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

(Accessed 20 June 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

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

(Accessed 20 June 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Public Health

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

(Accessed 20 June 2015)

Research article

[Adverse events and adherence to HIV post-exposure prophylaxis: a cohort study at the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra, Ghana](#)

Raymond Tetteh, Edmund Nartey, Margaret Larney, Aukje Mantel-Teeuwisse, Hubert Leufkens, Priscilla Nortey, Alexander Doodoo BMC Public Health 2015, 15:573 (20 June 2015)

Research article

[Initiation to street life: a qualitative examination of the physical, social, and psychological practices in becoming an accepted member of the street youth community in Western Kenya](#)

Juddy Wachira, Allan Kamanda, Lonnie Embleton, Violet Naanyu, Susanna Winston, David Ayuku, Paula Braitstein BMC Public Health 2015, 15:569 (20 June 2015)

Research article

[A systematic review of post-migration acquisition of HIV among migrants from countries with generalised HIV epidemics living in Europe: mplications for effectively managing HIV prevention programmes and policy](#)

Ibidun Fakoya, Débora Álvarez-del Arco, Melvina Woode-Owusu, Susana Monge, Yaiza Rivero-Montesdeoca, Valerie Delpech, Brian Rice, Teymur Noori, Anastasia Pharris, Andrew Amato-Gauci, Julia del Amo, Fiona Burns BMC Public Health 2015, 15:561 (19 June 2015)

Research article

[Use of mobile phone consultations during home visits by Community Health Workers for maternal and newborn care: community experiences from Masindi and Kiryandongo districts, Uganda](#)

Richard Mangwi Ayiasi, Lynn Atuyambe, Juliet Kiguli, Christopher Orach, Patrick Kolsteren, Bart Criel BMC Public Health 2015, 15:560 (18 June 2015)

Research article

[Malaria, anaemia and nutritional status among schoolchildren in relation to ecosystems, livelihoods and health systems in Kilosa District in central Tanzania](#)

Leonard Mboera, Veneranda Bwana, Susan Rumisha, Robert Malima, Malongo Mlozi, Benjamin Mayala, Grades Stanley, Tabitha Mlacha BMC Public Health 2015, 15:553 (17 June 2015)

BMC Research Notes

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

(Accessed 20 June 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

British Medical Journal

20 June 2015(vol 350, issue 8012)

<http://www.bmj.com/content/350/8012>

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Brown Journal of World Affairs

Volume XXI Issue 1 Fall–Winter 2014

<http://brown.edu/initiatives/journal-world-affairs/>
[Reviewed earlier]

Bulletin of the World Health Organization

Volume 93, Number 6, June 2015, 361-436

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/93/6/en/>
[Reviewed earlier]

Chronicle of Philanthropy

June 1, 2015 Volume 27, Issue 10

<https://philanthropy.com/issue>
[Reviewed earlier]

Complexity

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

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/cplx.v20.5/issuetoc>
[Reviewed earlier]

Conflict and Health

[Accessed 20 June 2015]

<http://www.conflictandhealth.com/>
[No new relevant content identified]

Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation

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

(Accessed 20 June 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 4 (July 2015)

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

Special Section: Assistive Technology Access to Assistive Technology in Resource Limited Environments

[Reviewed earlier]

Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness

Volume 9 - Issue 03 - June 2015

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

Brief Report

Understanding Community-Level Disaster and Emergency Response Preparedness

Crystal Shannon

Indiana University Northwest, College of Health and Human Services, School of Nursing, Gary, Indiana.

Abstract

Objective

Community-level disaster readiness is a major component of community health promotion. However, many readiness programs are focused on the response of emergency and health care personnel and not on the preparedness levels of local citizens. This potentially leaves the public unready and unprepared for emergency event response.

Methods

A 20-item survey on general states of disaster preparedness was delivered to the residents of a midsized midwestern county. The residents were asked to share their knowledge of local hazards, emergency systems, and personal preparedness.

Results

A convenience sample of 423 residents responded to the survey. Fifty-seven percent (n=241) reported limited personal preparedness. Seventy-six percent (n=321) acknowledged little to no familiarity with residential emergency systems, and 52% (n=220) reported that they did not know how to gain information on public health emergencies, such as pandemic flu and evacuation response.

Conclusions

Local citizens should become educated on the methods to support personal disaster and emergency readiness. Health care and emergency management organizations are encouraged to include these concepts in routine community health promotion activities and to pay special attention to known areas of community vulnerability. Failure to do so creates a population unable to support themselves in the provision of basic health and safety measures.

(Disaster Med Public Health Preparedness. 2015;9:239-244)

Original Research

Vulnerability of Urban Homebound Older Adults in Disasters: A Survey of Evacuation Preparedness

Patrick J. Dostal

Master of Public Health Program and Division of Geriatrics, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Abstract

Objective

Recent disasters within the United States, such as Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy, have highlighted the vulnerability of older adults, and recent litigation has upheld the responsibility of government in assisting the public during mandatory evacuations. Older adults designated as

homebound due to their disabilities are at greatest risk of poor outcomes in disasters. This study aimed at assessing the willingness and ability of homebound older adults to evacuate, as well as categorizing their medical needs in the event they are relocated to an emergency shelter.

Methods

Fifty-six homebound older adults and medical decision surrogates from 1 homebound primary care practice in Philadelphia were assessed with a novel structured interview.

Results Respondents reported limitations in both their ability and their willingness to evacuate their neighborhoods. Medical needs of homebound older adults were on par with those of nursing home residents.

Conclusions

Many homebound older adults are unable or unwilling to evacuate in a mandatory evacuation situation, highlighting a need for public assistance. Their complex medical needs will require significant preparation by special needs shelters.

(Disaster Med Public Health Preparedness. 2015;9:301-306)

Concepts in Disaster Medicine

Comparative Cost of Stockpiling Various Types of Respiratory Protective Devices to Protect the Health Care Workforce During an Influenza Pandemic

Gio Baracco^{a1a2a3} [c1](#), Sheri Eisert^{a1a4}, Aaron Eagana^{a1} and Lewis Radonovich^{a1}

a1 Office of Public Health, Veterans Health Administration, National Center for Occupational Health and Infection Control, Gainesville, Florida

a2 Miami VA Healthcare System, Infectious Diseases, Miami, Florida

a3 University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Infectious Diseases, Miami, Florida

a4 University of South Florida, Epidemiology, Tampa, Florida

Abstract

Specific guidance on the size and composition of respiratory protective device (RPD) stockpiles for use during a pandemic is lacking. We explore the economic aspects of stockpiling various types and combinations of RPDs by adapting a pandemic model that estimates the impact of a severe pandemic on a defined population, the number of potential interactions between patients and health care personnel, and the potential number of health care personnel needed to fulfill those needs. Our model calculates the number of the different types of RPDs that should be stockpiled and the consequent cost of purchase and storage, prorating this cost over the shelf life of the inventory. Compared with disposable N95 or powered air-purifying respirators, we show that stockpiling reusable elastomeric half-face respirators is the least costly approach. Disposable N95 respirators take up significantly more storage space, which increases relative costs. Reusing or extending the usable period of disposable devices may diminish some of these costs. We conclude that stockpiling a combination of disposable N95 and reusable half-face RPDs is the best approach to preparedness for most health care organizations. We recommend against stockpiling powered air-purifying respirators as they are much more costly than alternative approaches.

(Disaster Med Public Health Preparedness. 2015;9:313-318)

Disasters

July 2015 Volume 39, Issue 3 Pages 407–609

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/disa.2015.39.issue-3/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

Emergency Medicine Journal

June 2015, Volume 32, Issue 6

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Epidemics

Volume 11, In Progress (June 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

End of Life Journal

2015, Volume 5, Issue 1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Epidemiology and Infection

Volume 143 - Issue 08 - June 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

The European Journal of Public Health

Volume 25, Issue 3, 01 June 2015

<http://eurpub.oxfordjournals.org/content/25/3>

[Reviewed earlier]

Food Policy

Volume 54, In Progress (July 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Food Security

Volume 7, Issue 3, June 2015

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

Special Theme: Strengthening the links between nutrition and health outcomes and agricultural research

This special section has three groups of papers. The first three set the stage by laying out the context of the enabling socio-political environment, and desired outcomes of the food system: improving multiple aspects of nutrition simultaneously, and sustainably within environmental boundaries. The second set of papers deals with increasing access to nutritious, safe food through markets, as well as non-market channels. The last two papers synthesize what this current research means for agricultural research and policy.

[Reviewed earlier]

Forum for Development Studies

Volume 42, Issue 2, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/sfds20/current> [Reviewed earlier]

Genocide Studies International

Volume 9 No. 1, Spring 2015

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Global Health: Science and Practice (GHSP)

June 2015 | Volume 3 | Issue 2

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

Editorials

[Social Franchising: A Blockbuster to Address Unmet Need for Family Planning and to Advance Toward the FP2020 Goal](#)

Social franchising has scaled-up provision of voluntary family planning, especially long-acting reversible contraceptives, across Africa and Asia at a rapid and remarkable pace. The approach should be pursued vigorously, especially in countries with a significant private-sector presence, to advance the FP2020 goal of providing access to modern contraception to 120 million additional clients by 2020.

Glob Health Sci Pract 2015;3(2):147-148. <http://dx.doi.org/10.9745/GHSP-D-15-00155>

[Action-Oriented Population Nutrition Research: High Demand but Limited Supply](#)

Judy Phama, David Pelletiera

Author Affiliations

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Action-oriented research in nutrition, vital to guiding effective policies and programs at scale, is greatly underrepresented in public health journals and, even more so, in nutrition journals.

Abstract

Background: The relatively rapid ascendancy of nutrition and health on policy agendas, along with greater emphasis on accountability and results, has stimulated interest in new forms of research to guide the development and implementation of effective policies, programs, and interventions—what we refer to as action-oriented research. To date, action-oriented research in the nutrition field is thought to be the exception rather than the rule, but empirical evidence to support this claim is lacking.

Methods: We conducted a survey of selected journals in nutrition and public health to assess the extent and nature of population nutrition research published in 2012 that embodied 5 defined characteristics of action-oriented research in relation to: (1) topic(s) of study, (2) processes/influences, (3) actors, (4) methods, and (5) approaches. We identified 762 articles from the 6 selected nutrition journals and 77 nutrition-related articles from the 4 selected public health journals that met our search criteria.

Results: Only 7% of the 762 papers in nutrition journals had at least 1 of the 5 action-oriented research characteristics, compared with 36% of the 77 nutrition-related papers in the public

health journals. Of all 80 articles that had at least 1 action-oriented research characteristic, only 5 articles (6.25%) embodied all 5 characteristics. Articles with action-oriented research covered a broad range of topics and processes/influences, including policy, workforce development, and schools, as well as actors, such as program staff, store owners, parents, and school staff. In addition, various research methods were used, such as stakeholder analysis, ethnographic narrative, iterative action research, and decision tree modeling, as well as different approaches, including participant-observer and community-based participatory research.

Conclusions: Action-oriented research represents a small fraction of articles published in nutrition journals, especially compared with public health journals. This reinforces recent calls to expand population nutrition research agendas to more effectively inform and guide the initiation, development, implementation, and governance of policies, programs, and interventions to address the varied forms of nutrition-related problems. With heightened attention to the magnitude and importance of nutrition problems worldwide, there are substantial reasons and opportunities to incentivize and support such expansion.

Global Health Governance

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

[Accessed 20 June 2015]

[No new relevant content]

Global Public Health

Volume 10, Issue 5-6, 2015

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

Special Issue: Circumcision and HIV prevention: Emerging debates in science, policies and programs

[Reviewed earlier]

Globalization and Health

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

[Accessed 20 June 2015]

[No new relevant content identified]

Health Affairs

June 2015; Volume 34, Issue 6

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

[PEPFAR Funding Associated With An Increase In Employment Among Males in Ten Sub-Saharan African Countries](#)

Zachary Wagner ¹ , Jeremy Barofsky ² and Neeraj Sood ³

Author Affiliations

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²Jeremy Barofsky is the Okun-Model Fellow at the Brookings Institution, in Washington, D.C.

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Abstract

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has provided billions of US tax dollars to expand HIV treatment, care, and prevention programs in sub-Saharan Africa. This investment has generated significant health gains, but much less is known about PEPFAR's population-level economic effects. We used a difference-in-differences approach to compare employment trends between ten countries that received a large amount of PEPFAR funding (focus countries) and eleven countries that received little or no funding (control countries). We found that PEPFAR was associated with a 13 percent differential increase in employment among males in focus countries, compared to control countries. However, we observed no change in employment among females. In addition, we found that increasing PEPFAR per capita funding by \$100 was associated with a 9.1-percentage-point increase in employment among males. This rise in employment generates economic benefits equal to half of PEPFAR's cost. These findings suggest that PEPFAR's economic impact should be taken into account when making aid allocation decisions.

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 03 - July 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Policy and Planning

July 2015 30 (6)

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

[The use of counting beads to improve the classification of fast breathing in low-resource settings: a multi-country review](#)

Aaltje Camielle Noordam^{1,13,*}, Yolanda Barberá Láinez², Salim Sadruddin³, Pabla Maria van Heck^{4,14}, Alex Opio Chono^{5,15}, Geoffrey Larry Acaye^{6,16}, Victor Lara⁷, Agnes Nanyonjo^{8,9}, Charles Ocan^{10,17} and Karin Källander^{11,12}

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Lane, Westlands, P.O. Box 14355-00800, Nairobi, Kenya, 8Malaria Consortium, Plot 25, Upper Naguru East road, P.O Box 8045, Kampala, Uganda, 9Department of Public Health Sciences, Karolinska Institutet, 17177 Stockholm, Sweden, 10Save the Children, 501 Kings Highway East, Suite 400, Fairfield CT 06825, USA, 11Malaria Consortium, plot 25, Upper Naguru East road, P.O Box 8045, Kampala, Uganda and 12Department of Public Health Sciences, Karolinska Institutet, 17177 Stockholm, Sweden

Abstract

To decrease child mortality due to common but life-threatening illnesses, community health workers (CHWs) are trained to assess, classify and treat sick children. For pneumonia, CHWs are trained to count the respiratory rate of a child with cough and/or difficulty breathing, and determine whether the child has fast breathing or not based on how the child's breath count relates to age-specific respiratory rate cut-off points. International organizations training CHWs to classify fast breathing realized that many of them faced challenges counting and determining how the respiratory rate relates to age-specific cut-off points. Counting beads were designed to overcome these challenges. This article presents findings from different studies on the utility of these beads, in conjunction with a timer, as a tool to improve classification of fast breathing. Studies conducted by the International Rescue Committee and Save the Children among illiterate CHWs assessed the effectiveness of counting beads to improve both counting and classifying respiratory rate against age-specific cut-off points. These studies found that the use of counting beads enabled and improved the assessment and classification of fast breathing. However, a Malaria Consortium study found that the use of counting beads decreased the accuracy of counting breaths among literate CHWs. Qualitative findings from these studies and two additional studies by UNICEF suggest that the design of the beads is crucial: beads should move comfortably, and a separate bead string, with colour coding, is required for the age groups with different cut-off thresholds—eliminating more complicated calculations. Further research, using standardized protocols and gold standard comparisons, is needed to understand the accuracy of beads in comparison to other tools used for classifying pneumonia, which CHWs benefit most from each different tool (i.e. disaggregating data by levels of literacy and numeracy) and what the impact is on improving appropriate treatment for pneumonia.

Ten best resources on conditional cash transfers

Caroline Marshall* and Peter S Hill

Author Affiliations

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Abstract

The world's economy is in a fragile state. Although cautiously recovering from a global recession, unemployment rates and poverty levels remain high. At the same time, food and fuel crises have resulted in skyrocketing commodity costs, straining household budgets even further than before. In the wake of these financial pressure points, there has been increased focus on social safety net programmes. More recently, Brazil's 'Bolsa Familia' conditional cash transfer (CCT) programme has celebrated its tenth-year anniversary, renewing focus on this particular aspect of social transfer programmes. This essay examines one particular aspect of these social safety net programmes: CCTs. CCT programmes are useful social programmes that have had demonstrable effects on many different populations. However, they are not a 'magic bullet' against poverty, and their image has suffered from unreasonable expectations of their impacts. This 10 best list is an ideal starting point from which a potential user can begin to understand CCTs. There remain significant gaps in the literature behind CCTs, with a particular need for much more research on emerging areas such as impacts on gender, long-term school and health outcomes, methods for increasing efficiency and adapting conditionalities within cultural

contexts, among others. However, this list can function as a starting point from which the reader can gain an understanding and appreciation for what we believe to be one of the most innovative social programmes for addressing poverty worldwide.

Highlighting the evidence gap: how cost-effective are interventions to improve early childhood nutrition and development?

Neha Batura^{1,*}, Zelee Hill¹, Hassan Haghparast-Bidgoli¹, Raghu Lingam², Timothy Colbourn¹, Sungwook Kim¹, Siham Sikander³, Anni-Maria Pulkki-Brannstrom^{1,4}, Atif Rahman⁵, Betty Kirkwood⁶ and Jolene Skordis-Worrall^{1,7,8}

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Abstract

There is growing evidence of the effectiveness of early childhood interventions to improve the growth and development of children. Although, historically, nutrition and stimulation interventions may have been delivered separately, they are increasingly being tested as a package of early childhood interventions that synergistically improve outcomes over the life course. However, implementation at scale is seldom possible without first considering the relative cost and cost-effectiveness of these interventions. An evidence gap in this area may deter large-scale implementation, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. We conduct a literature review to establish what is known about the cost-effectiveness of early childhood nutrition and development interventions. A set of predefined search terms and exclusion criteria standardized the search across five databases. The search identified 15 relevant articles. Of these, nine were from studies set in high-income countries and six in low- and middle-income countries. The articles either calculated the cost-effectiveness of nutrition-specific interventions (n = 8) aimed at improving child growth, or parenting interventions (stimulation) to improve early childhood development (n = 7). No articles estimated the cost-effectiveness of combined interventions. Comparing results within nutrition or stimulation interventions, or between nutrition and stimulation interventions was largely prevented by the variety of outcome measures used in these analyses. This article highlights the need for further evidence relevant to low- and middle-income countries. To facilitate comparison of cost-effectiveness between studies, and between contexts where appropriate, a move towards a common outcome measure such as the cost per disability-adjusted life years averted is advocated. Finally, given the increasing number of combined nutrition and stimulation interventions being tested, there is a significant need for evidence of cost-effectiveness for combined programmes. This too would be facilitated by the use of a common outcome measure able to pool the impact of both nutrition and stimulation activities.

Health Research Policy and Systems

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

[Accessed 20 June 2015]

Research

Introduction of male circumcision for HIV prevention in Uganda: analysis of the policy process

Walter Odoch, Kenneth Kabali, Racheal Ankunda, Joseph Zulu, Moses Tetui Health Research Policy and Systems 2015, 13:31 (20 June 2015)

Human Rights Quarterly

Volume 37, Number 2, May 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Human Service Organizations Management, Leadership & Governance

Volume 39, Issue 3, 2015

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

Examining the Impact of Job Burnout on the Health and Well-Being of Human Service Workers: A Systematic Review and Synthesis

Erica Leeanne Lizano

pages 167-181

DOI:10.1080/23303131.2015.1014122

Abstract

This systematic review synthesizes findings from 19 empirical studies published between 1970 and 2014 that examine the relationship between job burnout and affective, psychological, physiological, and behavioral well-being among human service workers. Study findings point to the detrimental impact of job burnout on the well-being of workers. Studies in this area of research continue to use the Maslach Burnout Inventory as the primary measure of burnout, are largely cross-sectional in design, and focus mostly on affective well-being as an outcome. A discussion on the impact of study findings for human service workforce management and future research is presented.

Voluntary Turnover in Nonprofit Human Service Organizations: The Impact of High Performance Work Practices

DOI:10.1080/23303131.2015.1031416

Sally Coleman Seldena* & Jessica E. Sowab

pages 182-207

Abstract

Voluntary turnover in nonprofits can present a significant cost, reducing the performance of a nonprofit and challenging its sustainability over time. This study examines voluntary turnover in a sample of human service (HS) nonprofit organizations in eight states, exploring the relationship between the implementation of high performance work practices (HPWP) and voluntary turnover. The findings demonstrate that certain HPWPs, including onboarding, leadership development, compensation, and employee relations, are associated with lower voluntary turnover. The results suggest that human service nonprofits seeking to improve retention should invest more time and resources in developing employees as future leaders and cultivating a positive working environment.

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 5, No 1 (2015) June 2015

<http://idrimjournal.com/index.php/idrim/issue/view/13>

[Reviewed earlier]

Infectious Diseases of Poverty

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

[Accessed 20 June 2015]

[No new relevant content]

International Health

Volume 7 Issue 3 May 2015

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

[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 4, 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

June 16, 2015, Vol 313, No. 23

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

Scientific Discovery and the Future of Medicine

Science, Medicine, and Society: A View From the Wellcome Trust

Jeremy Farrar, FRS, FRCP, FMedSci, OBE

Editorial / June 16, 2015

Development Assistance for Health Potential Contribution to the Post-2015 Agenda

Andy Haines, MD, MB, BS1

Author Affiliations

JAMA. 2015;313(23):2328-2330. doi:10.1001/jama.2015.5790.

Despite economic growth in low-income countries, the internal resources available to some governments will be inadequate to support the delivery of health care to their populations for years to come.¹ Approximately 150 million people worldwide experience catastrophic expenditure annually to cover out-of-pocket payments for health.¹ Despite substantial progress, 6.6 million children who were younger than 5 years died in 2012 and a quarter of all children younger than 5 years were stunted (having an inadequate height or length for age).² Almost 300 000 women died in 2013 of causes related to pregnancy and childbirth.² Against this background, the study by Dieleman and colleagues³ in this issue of JAMA makes a substantial contribution to the current understanding of the flow of development assistance for health (DAH) and how these resources can contribute to the achievement of international health goals....

Special Communication / June 16, 2015

Sources and Focus of Health Development Assistance, 1990–2014

Joseph L. Dieleman, PhD1; Casey Graves, BA1; Elizabeth Johnson, BA1; Tara Templin, BA1; Maxwell Birger, BS1; Hannah Hamavid, BA1; Michael Freeman, MPH2; Katherine Leach-Kemon, MPH1; Lavanya Singh, BS1; Annie Haakenstad, MA1; Christopher J. L. Murray, MD1

Author Affiliations

JAMA. 2015;313(23):2359-2368. doi:10.1001/jama.2015.5825

Abstract

Importance

The governments of high-income countries and private organizations provide billions of dollars to developing countries for health. This type of development assistance can have a critical role in ensuring that life-saving health interventions reach populations in need.

Objectives

To identify the amount of development assistance that countries and organizations provided for health and to determine the health areas that received these funds.

Evidence Review Budget, revenue, and expenditure data on the primary agencies and organizations (n = 38) that provided resources to developing countries (n = 146-183, depending on the year) for health from 1990 through 2014 were collected. For each channel (the international agency or organization that directed the resources toward the implementing institution or government), the source and recipient of the development assistance were determined and redundant accounting of the same dollar, which occurs when channels transfer funds among each other, was removed. This research derived the flow of resources from source to intermediary channel to recipient. Development assistance for health (DAH) was divided into 11 mutually exclusive health focus areas, such that every dollar of development assistance was assigned only 1 health focus area.

Findings

Since 1990, \$458.0 billion of development assistance has been provided to maintain or improve health in developing countries. The largest source of funding was the US government, which provided \$143.1 billion between 1990 and 2014, including \$12.4 billion in 2014. Of resources that originated with the US government, 70.6% were provided through US government agencies, and 41.0% were allocated for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/AIDS. The second largest source of development assistance for health was private philanthropic donors, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and other private foundations, which provided \$69.9 billion between 1990 and 2014, including \$6.2 billion in 2014. These resources were provided primarily through private foundations and nongovernmental organizations and were allocated for a diverse set of health focus areas. Since 1990, 28.0% of all DAH was allocated for maternal health and newborn and child health; 23.2% for HIV/AIDS, 4.3% for malaria, 2.8% for tuberculosis, and 1.5% for noncommunicable diseases. Between 2000 and 2010, DAH increased 11.3% annually. However, since 2010, total DAH has not increased as substantially.

Conclusions and Relevance

Funding for health in developing countries has increased substantially since 1990, with a focus on HIV/AIDS, maternal health, and newborn and child health. Funding from the US government has played a substantial role in this expansion. Funding for noncommunicable diseases has been limited. Understanding how funding patterns have changed across time and the priorities of sources of international funding across distinct channels, recipients, and health focus areas may help identify where funding gaps persist and where cost-effective interventions could save lives.

JAMA Pediatrics

June 2015, Vol 169, No. 6

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Community Health

Volume 40, Issue 3, June 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10900/40/3/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Development Economics

Volume 114, In Progress (May 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health

June 2015, Volume 69, Issue 6

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Journal of Global Ethics

Volume 11, Issue 1, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjge20/.U2V-Elf4L0l#.VAJEj2N4WF8>

Forum: The Sustainable Development

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Global Infectious Diseases (JGID)

April-June 2015 Volume 7 | Issue 2 Page Nos. 53-94

<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 Supplement

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

SUPPLEMENT FOCUS: Shining the Light on Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Health

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Management

Volume 5 Issue 1 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health

Volume 17, Issue 3 – June 2015

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

Special Focus: Cancer Risk, Screening, Prevention, and Treatment

[New issue; No relevant content]

Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies

Volume 13, Issue 2, 2015

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

***Special Issue: Implementing Human Rights: Civil Society and Migration Policies
NGOs and Health Services for Irregular Immigrants in Italy: When the Protection of
Human Rights Challenges the Laws***

Maurizio Ambrosini

pages 116-134

DOI:10.1080/15562948.2015.1017631

Published online: 17 Jun 2015

The Integration of Forced Migrants Into the Italian Labor Market

Livia Elisa Ortensi

pages 179-199

DOI:10.1080/15562948.2014.907952

Published online: 17 Jun 2015

Journal of Infectious Diseases

Volume 212 Issue 1 July 1, 2015

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

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

June 2015, Volume 41, Issue 6

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (JPIDS)

Volume 4 Issue 2 June 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Public Health Policy

Volume 36, Issue 2 (May 2015)

<http://www.palgrave-journals.com/jphp/journal/v36/n2/index.html>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of the Royal Society – Interface

06 May 2015; volume 12, issue 106

<http://rsif.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/current> [Reviewed earlier]
[Reviewed earlier]

Knowledge Management for Development Journal

Vol 11, No 1 (2015)

<http://journal.km4dev.org/journal/index.php/km4dj/index>
[Reviewed earlier]

The Lancet

Jun 20, 2015 Volume 385 Number 9986 p2433-2546

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

Editorial

[The G7 and global health: inaction or incisive leadership?](#)

The Lancet

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)61121-7](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)61121-7)

Preview

"They came, they met, and nothing happened." So was the conclusion of James Rubin, former US Assistant Secretary of State. A harsh, but many might say fair, statement about the recent G7 meeting held in Germany. A few days before the start of the Summit, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon set the scene for leaders: "When they meet at the Schloss Elmau Summit in Germany on June 7–8, G7 leaders can show they are serious about seizing the moment and protecting people and the planet." He was right to suggest that as the international community prepares to adopt a new sustainable development agenda in New York in September, together with a new climate treaty in Paris in December, G7 countries have "a special responsibility to lead".

Comment

[Capacity for science in sub-Saharan Africa](#)

Alison Elliott, Barbara Nerima, Bernard Bagaya, Andrew Kambugu, Moses Joloba, Stephen Cose, Guiseppe Pantaleo, Maria Yazdanbakhsh, David Mabey, David Dunne, Ashley Moffett, Eli Katunguka Rwakishaya, Pontiano Kaleebu, Edward Katongole Mbidde

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)61111-4](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)61111-4)

Preview

During the past decade there has been an increase in funding for research capacity building in Africa. Two major European programmes are at a turning point: the Wellcome Trust's African Institutions Initiative is about to end, while their new initiative, DELTAS Africa,¹ will be launched later this year. The European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) is ending, superseded by Horizon 2020,² with the transition of some research areas that are important to Africa into the expanded second phase of the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership.

The Lancet Global Health

Jun 2015 Volume 3 Number 6 e297-e340

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

[Reviewed earlier]

The Lancet Infectious Diseases

Jun 2015 Volume 15 Number 6 p615-746

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Maternal and Child Health Journal

Volume 19, Issue 6, June 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10995/19/6/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

The Milbank Quarterly

A Multidisciplinary Journal of Population Health and Health Policy

June 2015 Volume 93, Issue 2 Pages 223–445

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/milq.2015.93.issue-2/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

Nature

Volume 522 Number 7556 pp255-384 18 June 2015

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

Comment

Global risks: Pool knowledge to stem losses from disasters

Public awareness, rigorous risk research and aligned targets will help policy-makers to increase resilience against natural hazards, say Susan L. Cutter and colleagues.

New England Journal of Medicine

June 18, 2015 Vol. 372 No. 25

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

Brief Report: Persistence of Ebola Virus in Ocular Fluid during Convalescence

J.B. Varkey and Others

Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly

June 2015; 44 (3)

<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

June 2015, VOLUME 135 / ISSUE 6

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/current.shtml>

[Reviewed earlier]

PLOS Currents: Disasters

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

[Accessed 20 June 2015]

[No new content]

PLoS Currents: Outbreaks

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

(Accessed 20 June 2015)

[No new content]

PLoS Medicine

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

(Accessed 20 June 2015)

Policy Forum

[Maximizing the Impact of Training Initiatives for Health Professionals in Low-Income Countries: Frameworks, Challenges, and Best Practices](#)

Corrado Cancedda, Paul E. Farmer, Vanessa Kerry, Tej Nuthulaganti, Kirstin W. Scott, Eric Goosby, Agnes Binagwaho

June 16, 2015

DOI: 10.1371/journal.pmed.1001840

Summary Points

:: Historically, the impact of many health professional training initiatives in low-income countries has been limited by narrow focus on a small set of diseases, inefficient utilization of donor funding, inadequate scale up, insufficient emphasis on the acquisition of practical skills, poor alignment with local priorities, and lack of coordination.

:: Fortunately, several innovative training initiatives have emerged over the past five years in sub-Saharan Africa. This articles focuses on four initiatives funded by the United States government: the Medical Education Training Partnership Initiative (MEPI), the Nursing Training Partnership Initiative (NEPI), the Rwanda Human Resources for Health Program (HRH Program), and the Global Health Service Partnership (GHSP).

:: The best practices adopted by these initiatives are: alignment to local priorities, country ownership, competency-based training, institutional capacity building, and the establishment of long-lasting partnerships with international stakeholders,

:: Based on these best practices, we outline a framework for health professional training initiatives that can help better address the health workforce shortage in low-income countries.

Collection Review

HIV Programs for Sex Workers: Lessons and Challenges for Developing and Delivering Programs

David Wilson

Published: June 16, 2015

DOI: 10.1371/journal.pmed.1001808

Featured in PLOS Collections

Abstract

There is evidence that HIV prevention programs for sex workers, especially female sex workers, are cost-effective in several contexts, including many western countries, Thailand, India, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, and Zimbabwe. The evidence that sex worker HIV prevention programs work must not inspire complacency but rather a renewed effort to expand, intensify, and maximize their impact. The PLOS Collection "Focus on Delivery and Scale: Achieving HIV Impact with Sex Workers" highlights major challenges to scaling-up sex worker HIV prevention programs, noting the following: sex worker HIV prevention programs are insufficiently guided by understanding of epidemic transmission dynamics, situation analyses, and programmatic mapping; sex worker HIV and sexually transmitted infection services receive limited domestic financing in many countries; many sex worker HIV prevention programs are inadequately codified to ensure consistency and quality; and many sex worker HIV prevention programs have not evolved adequately to address informal sex workers, male and transgender sex workers, and mobile- and internet-based sex workers. Based on the wider collection of papers, this article presents three major clusters of recommendations: (i) HIV programs focused on sex workers should be prioritized, developed, and implemented based on robust evidence; (ii) national political will and increased funding are needed to increase coverage of effective sex worker HIV prevention programs in low and middle income countries; and (iii) comprehensive, integrated, and rapidly evolving HIV programs are needed to ensure equitable access to health services for individuals involved in all forms of sex work.

PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases

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

(Accessed 20 June 2015)

Research Article

Acceptability and Willingness-to-Pay for a Hypothetical Ebola Virus Vaccine in Nigeria

Maduka Donatus Ughasoro, Dorothy Omono Esangbedo, Beckie Nnenna Tagbo, Ijeoma Chigozie Mejeha

Published: June 15, 2015

DOI: 10.1371/journal.pntd.0003838

Abstract

Background

Ebola virus disease is a highly virulent and transmissible disease. The largest recorded fatality from Ebola virus disease epidemic is ongoing in a few countries in West Africa, and this poses a health risk to the entire population of the world because arresting the transmission has been challenging. Vaccination is considered a key intervention that is capable of arresting further spread of the disease and preventing future outbreak. However, no vaccine has yet been

approved for public use, although various recombinant vaccines are undergoing trials and approval for public use is imminent. Therefore, this study aimed to determine the acceptability of and willingness-to-pay for Ebola virus vaccine by the public.

Methods

The study was a community-based cross-sectional qualitative and quantitative interventional study conducted in two communities, each in two states in Nigeria. An interviewer-administered questionnaire was used to collect information on respondents' knowledge of the Ebola virus, the ways to prevent the disease, and their preventive practices, as well as their acceptability of and willingness-to-pay for a hypothetical vaccine against Ebola virus disease. The association between acceptability of the vaccine and other independent variables were evaluated using multivariate regression analysis.

Results

Ebola virus disease was considered to be a very serious disease by 38.5% of the 582 respondents (224/582), prior to receiving health education on Ebola virus and its vaccine. Eighty percent (80%) accepted to be vaccinated with Ebola vaccine. However, among those that accepted to be vaccinated, most would only accept after observing the outcome on others who have received the vaccine. More than 87.5% was willing to pay for the vaccine, although 55.2% was of the opinion that the vaccine should be provided free of charge.

Conclusion

The level of acceptability of Ebola virus vaccine among respondents was impressive (though conditional), as well as their willingness to pay for it if the vaccine is not publicly funded. In order to achieve a high uptake of the vaccine, information and education on the vaccine should be extensively shared with the public prior to the introduction of the vaccine, and the vaccine should be provided free of charge by government.

Author Summary

Ebola virus disease (EVD) is highly virulent and transmissible. The transmission is mostly by direct contact with an infected person or indirectly through contact with material contaminated with the secretions or body fluids of an infected person. Currently there is no vaccine or drug for EVD. Maintaining good personal and environmental hygiene remains the only control strategy, and its implementation was a challenge in West Africa countries. Ebola virus vaccine (EVV) is being developed and may soon be deployed; thus a need to evaluate factors that can improve or discourage the uptake of the vaccine when it becomes approved for public administration. This study highlights the acceptability and willingness-to-pay for EVV. Majority of the respondents were willing to accept the vaccine and pay for it if it is not publicly funded. Of interest was that among those that accepted to be vaccinated, most would only accept to do so after they had observed the outcome on others that had received the vaccine. There is need for early dissemination of correct information and education on EVV to the populace so as to prevent any misinformation and misperception about the vaccine. This will improve universal coverage with the vaccine when deployed.

PLoS One

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

[Accessed 20 June 2015]

[No new relevant content identified]

PLoS Pathogens

<http://journals.plos.org/plospathogens/>
(Accessed 20 June 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 20 June 2015)
[No new relevant content identified]

Prehospital & Disaster Medicine

Volume 30 - Issue 03 - June 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]

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July 2015; 25 (7)
<http://qhr.sagepub.com/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Refugee Survey Quarterly

Volume 34 Issue 2 June 2015
<http://rsq.oxfordjournals.org/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 12 Supplement 1 [2015]
<http://www.reproductive-health-journal.com/supplements/12/S1>
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[Reviewed earlier]

Resilience: International Policies, Practices and Discourses

Volume 3, Issue 2, 2015
<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/resi20/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

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

March 2015 Vol. 37, No. [Reviewed earlier]

[Reviewed earlier]

Risk Analysis

April 2015 Volume 35, Issue 4 Pages 555–758

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Science

12 June 2015 vol 348, issue 6240, pages 1173-1284

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

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Volume 138, In Progress (August 2015)

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Stability: International Journal of Security & Development

[accessed 20 June 2015]

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Sustainability

Volume 7, Issue 5 (May 2015), Pages 4783-6335

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

Article: [Assessing Child Development: A Critical Review and the Sustainable Child Development Index \(SCDI\)](#)

by [Ya-Ju Chang](#), [Laura Schneider](#) and [Matthias Finkbeiner](#)

Sustainability 2015, 7(5), 4973-4996; doi:[10.3390/su7054973](https://doi.org/10.3390/su7054973)

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Abstract: Children are an important stakeholder group for sustainable development, as they represent the interface between current and future generations. A comprehensive assessment of child development (CD) in the context of sustainable development is still missing. In this paper, as a first step, a literature review is conducted to identify relevant aspects and gaps related to the assessment of CD. The main issues of CD are categorized into seven themes: health, education, safety, economic status, relationships, participation, and newly proposed environmental aspects. The corresponding subthemes and criteria are classified accordingly (e.g., nutrition, child mortality, immunization, etc., are assigned to the theme health). However,

gaps in current studies, such as the heterogeneous classification of relevant aspects, regional and societal bias in addressing certain aspects, the limited number of subthemes, and criteria and the missing inclusion of environmental aspects impede the assessment of sustainable child development. To address the existing gaps, a comprehensive framework, the Sustainable Child Development Index (SCDI), is proposed. The SCDI is based on sustainable development as the core value, considers relevant aspects of CD with regard to newly-proposed environmental aspects and includes 26 aspects on an outcome and 37 indicators on a context level to tackle the heterogeneous classifications and interdependencies of relevant aspects. The proposed index intends to strengthen the stakeholder perspective of children in sustainability assessment.

TORTURE Journal

Volume 25, Nr. 1, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Tropical Medicine and Health

Vol. 43(2015) No. 2

https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/tmh/43/0/_contents

[Reviewed earlier]

Tropical Medicine & International Health

July 2015 Volume 20, Issue 7 Pages 821–966

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/tmi.2015.20.issue-7/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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