

The Sentinel

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

30 May 2015

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

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

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

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

Contents

:: Week in Review

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

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

:: Foundation/Major Donor Watch -Selected Updates

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

:: 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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Syria

**[Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief
Coordinator, Valerie Amos Statement to the Security Council on Syria, New York, 28
May 2015](#)**

Published on 28 May 2015

Download PDF (149.93 KB)

As delivered

Madam President,

As this is my last briefing to the Council, it is in many ways fitting that it is on Syria as during my time as Emergency Relief Coordinator it is the crisis that has taken more of my time and attention, and that of this Council, than any other crisis in the world. It is the Syria crisis and its consequences which have led me to the belief that this Council and the international community more broadly, needs to do more to protect civilians and ensure greater accountability for violations of international humanitarian law.

I have been proud to serve in the United Nations as I have a strong belief in the values of the UN and the principles underpinning the charter and feel that in today's unpredictable and deeply troubled world, we need the United Nations more than ever. As I have watched the huge rise in the number of people around the world affected by conflict and natural disasters, an estimated 70 million in 2010, when I started, and 114 million today, it is clear that there needs to be a major rethink of humanitarian response efforts: who does what, who pays for it and greater investment in conflict prevention, disaster preparedness, peace and state building.

In my time in this role I have seen the very worst of what people are capable of and also the very best of humanity.

The countless Syrians who, despite the gravity of their situation have not given up hope and refuse to buy into the rhetoric that the country's problems can be solved through violence. It is found in the bonds forged between strangers who do everything they can to help their fellow countrymen and women survive. It is reflected in the generosity of families in Syria and neighbouring countries sheltering, feeding, and clothing the displaced, without asking anything in return.

It is embodied in the staff and volunteers of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent; of the NGOs; of the first responders; the staff of hospitals and clinics throughout the country who do not let narrow political interest cloud their commitment to doing everything they can to safeguard the well-being of ordinary Syrians.

And it is demonstrated in the thousands of staff of the United Nations on the ground who carry out their duties day in and day out, despite petty political pressure and, in some cases, violence and intimidation from the parties to the conflict.

For more than four years we have watched Syria descend into deeper depths of despair, surpassing what even the most pessimistic observers thought possible. The situation throughout the country is, by any measure, extremely grave and deteriorating by the day.

In the past weeks we have seen more and more heinous acts. Innocent men, women and children killed; maimed; displaced; and subjected to a savagery that no human should have to endure.

For example at the end of April, a market in Darkoush, rural Idlib, was subjected to aerial bombing killing between 40 and 50 people and wounding over 100 civilians. The same market

was again hit last week, with reports of twenty more people killed. Reports have emerged of ISIL's killing of civilians following its capture of Palmyra in the past week. Such blatant disregard for the most basic rules of international humanitarian law – the distinction between civilians and combatants – must be condemned in the strongest terms.

In February of last year, the Council came together to adopt resolution 2139. It was clear in what it demanded of the parties: end the violence; comply with international law; and ensure that obligations to facilitate humanitarian access to people in need were met.

Yet, for the past fifteen months, the Secretary-General has systematically reported on the continued non-compliance with the Council's demands. While the cross-border deliveries enabled by resolutions 2165 and 2191 have allowed the United Nations to extend its reach and complement the enormous efforts of our NGO partners, the parties to the conflict have ignored practically all aspects of the resolution.

The use of chlorine continues to be reported, killing, injuring and terrorizing civilians.

Indiscriminate attacks, although prohibited in International Humanitarian Law, continue with no regard for the protection of civilians.

Schools and hospitals continue to be attacked. Physicians for Human Rights recorded more attacks on medical facilities in April this year than it had in any month since the adoption of resolution 2139.

422,000 people - nearly twice the number as when resolution 2139 was adopted - are under siege. If I had reported this at the beginning of the conflict I am sure that Council members would not have believed it possible: today we take it for granted. The UN and our partners were not able to reach any besieged locations in April.

People are trying to survive, day by day, without the basic necessities of life such as water and electricity. And parties to the conflict continue to cut services, collectively punishing entire villages and cities in the process.

Restrictions on the delivery of aid continue. The Government's introduction of new rules and regulations which result in delays and distractions, are preventing us from delivering assistance, including surgical supplies, to people in desperate need. Of the 48 inter-agency convoys requests submitted since December, five have been completed; nine have been approved in principle by the Government of Syria and are at various stages of preparations, and a further eleven have been put on hold due to insecurity. Nineteen more are awaiting a reply.

ISIL's advance brings with it new depths of depravity to Syria with indiscriminate killing and maiming, raping and destroying. They have forcibly recruited children and made the delivery of humanitarian assistance more and more difficult in areas under their control. In addition to restricting operations delivering food and other supplies, aid workers have been prevented from vaccinating children in areas of the country under their control.

Today, more than 12.2 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance in Syria - an increase of almost a third compared to when resolution 2139 was adopted. Many of those

who were previously able to care for themselves are now in need of help. Less than half of the country's hospitals are fully functioning. Two million children in Syria are out of school. The social, economic and human costs of this tragedy are profound. It may take generations for Syria to recover.

An additional 540,000 people have been displaced this year alone adding to the 7.6 million already displaced.

Another nearly four million people have sought refuge in neighbouring countries, placing host countries and communities under unbearable pressure. My thanks to Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey for their significant efforts in this regard. Desperation means that more and more people are prepared to make the perilous journey to Europe by sea.

The Security Council can demonstrate its leadership and uphold its responsibility for international peace and security by taking the following measures:

- (1) Ensuring the protection of civilians;
- (2) Ensuring that the parties to the conflict abide by their international legal obligations - and Security Council resolutions - to facilitate humanitarian access to all people in need throughout the country, without discrimination;
- (3) Bringing an end to the sieges, which collectively punish people;
- (4) Considering all possible avenues to ensure accountability, sending a clear message to those responsible for violations of international law, as well as their victims, that the international community will not tolerate such action in Syria or elsewhere;
- (5) Stepping up financial support to the humanitarian response effort;
- (6) Respecting the non-political nature of humanitarian aid and giving aid workers the space they need to carry out their work free of political pressure.

I know that there are no easy answers or quick fixes. But I also know that we cannot let the difficult prevent us from upholding our responsibility to act on behalf of the people of Syria. We cannot leave Syrians abandoned to hopelessness and further despair.

The Security Council is entrusted with considerable power and responsibility. For the sake of Syria and its future generations, this Council must set aside its political differences and come together to find a solution to what appear to be intractable problems. We saw in the passing of resolutions 2139 and 2165 what can be done when this Council acts together and speaks with one voice. I very much hope it happens again.

Thank you.

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Migration

[UNHCR welcomes Bangkok proposals, calls for creative solutions for refugees, migrants at sea](#)

Press Releases, 29 May 2015

The UN refugee agency is encouraged by the positive outcomes of a regional meeting to resolve the plight of thousands of refugees and migrants risking their lives at sea in the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea.

Organized by the Royal Thai Government, the Special Meeting on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean on Friday brought together 17 countries in the Asia-Pacific and UNHCR, IOM and UNODC. It concluded with a set of proposals and recommendations focusing on immediate responses to assist people in distress at sea, as well as efforts to curb people smuggling and trafficking, and address the root causes of these movements.

More than 88,000 people have departed on smugglers' boats from the Bay of Bengal since 2014 and over 1,000 are believed to have died as a result of abuse and deprivation at sea.

"Saving lives must be the number one priority," said UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Volker Türk, welcoming States' commitment to rescue and disembark people in distress, and to ensure UNHCR's access to them. "These proposals are a good beginning that will require robust implementation."

UNHCR and other organizations have offered to help screen the boat arrivals – who include refugees, economic migrants, victims of trafficking and unaccompanied minors among others – to determine their needs and seek appropriate solutions. Migrants are likely to be able to go home; refugees cannot and will need temporary stay arrangements in host countries. Only the most vulnerable will have access to the limited resettlement places available globally.

"In essence, this means that those who cannot return now because of international protection reasons be allowed to stay temporarily and work," said Türk. "This would simply recognize and regularize what has already been happening in reality for many years."

UNHCR is ready to support governments with such arrangements through registration, documentation and other means as part of a comprehensive and creative approach to the growing regional problem.

"It would be disingenuous to suggest that there are any simple solutions to this phenomenon," he said. "Yet, as the world has learned from South-East Asia, there is always an opportunity in a crisis and a real potential for a "win-win" situation for all involved. It will require political will and leadership, individually and collectively, to achieve that."

A key part of the solution lies in addressing the root causes of flight, including citizenship issues in Myanmar. While welcoming initial steps taken in this regard, Türk said, "In the interim, a legal status for all habitual residents recognizing that Myanmar is their own country is urgently required. Access to identity documentation and the removal of restrictions on basic freedoms is needed to normalize and stabilize lives."

Participants at the meeting agreed to explore ways to address the root causes of irregular movements and improve livelihoods in at-risk communities. Recommended actions included providing development assistance, enhancing a sense of security and belonging, and promoting full respect for human rights and adequate access to basic rights and services....

:: Statement by Volker Türk, UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, at the Special Meeting.

:: UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) 10-point plan of action

Press statement by Commissioner Avramopoulos on the first measures under the European Agenda on Migration

Brussels, 27 May 2015

Today, the Commission has shown that it can act quickly and firmly to better manage migration.

Only two weeks after the adoption of the European Agenda on Migration, we are making another important step. We are moving from policy planning to policy making. We are taking concrete actions.

This new step underscores the Commission's determination and commitment to implement this Agenda.

So, let's see what we have put on the table today.

We have a European resettlement scheme for 20,000 persons who are in clear need of international protection. They will be resettled from countries outside Europe to EU Member States.

We also have a proposal for an emergency mechanism to relocate 40,000 asylum seekers. Syrians and Eritreans will be relocated from Italy and Greece to other EU Member States over a period of 2 years.

For the first time, we will trigger the emergency mechanism under Article 78 point 3 of the Treaty.

Malta faced a similar situation in the past and was supported, but not in the same way. We learned from this experience.

This time, we are ready to propose emergency measures if other Member States also face a sudden influx of migrants

Let me clarify some points.

The European Agenda on Migration has raised very diverse reactions in the press, in the Member States and in the European Parliament.

Overall, the comments on the Agenda are positive. But there are also some misunderstandings.

There is no proposal to relocate irregular migrants across the EU.

We do not propose the fixing of "quotas"; it's a word we don't like and we don't use.

All this is about ensuring solidarity, but it is up to each Member States to decide on how many persons they will grant refugee status.

If countries want to relocate or resettle more persons, they can. But we want to ensure minimum solidarity.

As I said many times before, the European Agenda on Migration is a comprehensive policy. The Agenda does not only address the situation in the Mediterranean, nor does it only deal with the distribution of asylum seekers across the EU...

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World Committee on Tourism Ethics proposes International Convention on Tourism Ethics

PR No.: 15036

Madrid, 28 May 15

The transformation of the Global Code of Ethics into a full international convention as a means to boost the responsibility of governments in this field and advance the impact of the Code was the main topic discussed at the 15th meeting of the WTCE.

Alongside this issue, the WCTE looked into the level of implementation of the Code by public and private sectors as well as at the advances on its priority areas: the fight against child exploitation, accessibility, all inclusive holidays and its impact on local communities, and the issue of unfunded ratings in web portals.

Pascal Lamy, WCTE Chairman and former Director General of the World Trade Organization, highlighted "the importance of the implementation of the principles of the Code of Ethics by both UNWTO Member States and the Private Sector in order to promote an ethical and responsible tourism development."

"The World Committee on Tourism Ethics has done invaluable work in raising awareness and promoting responsible policies and practices in the tourism sector for over ten years", said UNWTO Secretary-General, Taleb Rifai, opening the meeting. "Tourism has immense potential to be a force for good, but it requires concrete action from all stakeholders. I therefore fully support the Committee's proposal to bring the Code further into an international convention", he added.

In the area of children's rights, Carol Bellamy, chair of the UNWTO World Tourism Network on Child Protection and former Director of UNICEF, presented a report on child protection in tourism and supported the transformation of the Code of Ethics into a convention in order to help enforce the principles of child protection worldwide.

The Committee approved a set of specific recommendations on accessible tourist information which will be presented to the 21st session of the UNWTO General Assembly (Medellin, Colombia, 12-17 September 2015) for adoption. In addition, it noted the wide interest of Governments and national tourism administrations in the Code and the growing number of companies and associations that have adhered to the Private Sector Commitment to the Code.

The World Committee on Tourism Ethics (WCTE) is the independent body responsible for promoting and overseeing the implementation of the UNWTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (GCET), a set of principles designed to guide tourism development in a way that maximizes the socio-economic benefits of the sector, while minimizing any negative impacts.

- [UNWTO Ethics and Social Responsibility Programme](#)
- [World Committee on Tourism Ethics](#)
- [UNWTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism](#)
- [UNWTO Private Sector Commitment to the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism](#)

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[World Bank Mobilizes US\\$248 Million to Support 2 Million Pastoralists in the Sahel](#)
PRESS RELEASE

May 26, 2015

Project to help boost regional cooperation in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal where pastoral activities are the main source of income

WASHINGTON, May 26, 2015. The World Bank Group's Board of Executive Directors approved today a total of US\$248 million IDA to boost regional integration and improve access to essential services, increase the income and strengthen markets for over 2 million pastoralists and agro-pastoralists across six Sahelian countries.

Pastoralism is the main source of income for about 50 million pastoralists in Sub-Saharan Africa. In the Sahel, arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) represent 75% of the land area and support an estimated 20 million pastoralists.

The Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project (in French: "Projet Régional d'Appui au Pastoralisme au Sahel –PRAPS") is a six-year undertaking in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. The new project is an important step to building a solid alliance to support pastoralism by pooling the expertise and resources of various actors, including bilateral and multilateral technical and financial partners, governments, the private sector, and pastoral civil society organizations.

"Pastoralism is crucially important to the Sahel, yet it is under threat and faces many challenges including rapid population growth, conflict, animal diseases, shrinking grazing areas and water resources," said Makhtar Diop, the World Bank Vice President for the Africa Region. "Major investments are required to improve the productivity and resilience of pastoral production systems and ensure that the economic opportunities generated by the growing demand for livestock products translate into widespread benefits for communities that depend on pastoralism for their livelihood."

This new project will help improve productivity, sustainability, and resilience of pastoral livelihoods, as prioritized in the Nouakchott Declaration on Pastoralism, adopted on October 29, 2013 by the Governments of the six beneficiary countries, in collaboration with international and regional institutions including the World Bank, FAO, World Organization for Animal Health, Africa Union, ECOWAS, CILSS and WAEMU. The Nouakchott Declaration aims to secure the lifestyle and means of production of pastoral populations in order to increase the incomes of pastoralists.

The new project is designed to support poverty reduction and to promote shared prosperity, including for women and the youth. As stated by Christian Berger, the World Bank Task Team Leader for the PRAPS: "The proposed investments are targeting historically under-resourced marginal areas with a large share of poor households that are locked into low-asset poverty traps and vulnerable to drought. These investments are expected to promote shared prosperity by enabling households to withstand future shocks with fewer losses and to invest in human capital development."

Specifically today's project will focus on key areas that are hindering the ability of pastoralists to reap benefits. The financing will go towards improving access to key services such as veterinary services, water, weather data, herd and rangeland management practices, animal nutrition, market information and advisory services adapted to mobile communities to boost productivity .

It will promote national and regional cooperation, particularly for disease control, natural resource management, trans-boundary movements of herds, and the facilitation of trade. Finally, it will enhance resilience to climate change, animal diseases, economic hazards, conflicts, and insecurity.

"The prospects for income growth increase as pastoralists become integrated into West Africa's increasingly dynamic regional and national livestock markets. By building on the collective action of the countries in the region, the new project will deliver a set of public goods that address the challenges and build on the opportunities created by this changing environment, including zoonotic animal diseases, shared rangelands and water resources, cross-border trade, market information, and pastoral risks, including shocks. All of these challenges and opportunities cut across national borders and have key regional dimensions that are important to address", says Simeon Ehui, Practice Manager of the Agriculture Global Practice at the World Bank.

The PRAPS's implementation will be coordinated at the regional level by the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) under the political leadership of ECOWAS, WAEMU, Chad and Mauritania, and alongside with the ECOWAS Regional Animal Health Center.

"One positive achievement is the fact that PRAPS makes the Nouakchott Declaration operational and was prepared in a record time. Moreover, the inclusiveness during the preparatory phase and its very strong ownership by the beneficiary countries and the CILSS, and the capacity of PRAPS to leverage additional funding for pastoral development in the Sahel are key assets that are determinant for its good implementation. We remain very committed to the success of this new project", says H.E. Djime Adoum, Executive Secretary of the CILSS.

The PRAPS is part of the Sahel Initiative, launched by the World Bank Group President -- following a historic trip to the Sahel region in November 2013 by leaders of five organizations: the World Bank, the United Nations, the African Union, the African Development Bank and the European Union— to address the regional drivers of vulnerability, conflict and underdevelopment.

Financed by IDA, the WBG's fund for the poorest countries*, Burkina Faso will receive a US\$30 million credit; Mali will receive a US\$45 million credit; Niger will receive a US\$45 million credit; Senegal will receive a US\$30 million credit; Chad will receive a US\$45 million grant; Mauritania will receive a US\$45 million grant; and the CILSS will receive a US\$8 million grant.

About IDA

* The World Bank's International Development Association (IDA), established in 1960, helps the world's poorest countries by providing grants and low to zero-interest loans for projects and programs that boost economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve poor people's lives. IDA is one of the largest sources of assistance for the world's 77 poorest countries, 39 of which are in Africa. Resources from IDA bring positive change for 2.8 billion people, the majority of whom live on less than \$2 a day. Since 1960, IDA has supported development work in 112 countries. Annual commitments have averaged about \$18 billion over the last three years, with about 50 percent going to Africa.



Message of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr. Nkosazana C Dlamini-Zuma, on the Occasion of the 52nd Africa Day

Addis Ababa, 25 May 2015

Fellow Africans on the Continent and in the Diaspora:
Our Friends and Partners across the world;

On this, the fifty-second occasion of us marking the birth of our beloved continental body. I have the singular honour to wish all of you a happy and fulfilling Africa Day. This year's celebration comes at the time when the African Union is celebrating 13 years since its transformation from the Organization of African Unity. We have indeed transformed the organisation from one pursuing the struggle to liberate the continent and safeguard the independence of African States to one that facilitates work for a united, prosperous and peaceful Africa.

This year's theme which is: "Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063" is a recognition of centuries of African women and women from the Diaspora to the struggles against slavery, racial and gender discrimination, and for the emancipation of our continent and African men and women everywhere.

Women and girls continue to play critical roles – paid and unpaid – in their families, communities, countries and regions, that directly impact on economies and societies. Despite the constraints that they continue to face, we have made strides, as a result of different waves of struggles by the women's movements. Since the historic Beijing Conference twenty years ago, and the recognition of women's rights as human rights, we have seen progress on women's representation, in the advancement of reproductive rights, on equal pay for equal work, on access to education and basic services.

At the same time, it is estimated that if real change happens at the same, it will take us 80 years before reaching full gender parity. This is simply not good enough. It will mean that our efforts to reverse the curse of underdevelopment and conflicts must wait another 80 years to come to fruition. It also means that Africa will also continue to use less than half of its talents, skills and potentials.

To address these constraints, we crisscrossed the continent and solicited the inputs of all sectors, spheres and levels of society. Our only question was ... What Africa do YOU want to see by 2063. Agenda 2063 is the resulting mandate from the people of Africa here and in the diaspora. Agenda 2063 is an intergenerational mission, an inclusive African strategy to use Africa's resources for the benefit of all Africans.

Our Africa Day celebration is therefore facilitating and celebrating African narratives of the past, present and future that will enthuse and energize the African population and use their constructive energy to accelerate a forward looking agenda of Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance in the 21st century.

We mark this Africa Day with much optimism. Africa has answered the clarion call to shape its own agenda... for the people by the people.

Fellow Africans,

We also mark this Africa Day with several blemishes.

These have included the conflicts that continue to bedevil our beloved continent as is the case, at the moment, in Burundi, Central African Republic, Somalia, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo as well as other Member States.

The recent Xenophobic attacks in the coastal city of Durban and in the economic hub of Johannesburg, is also one such blemish. We take this opportunity to reiterate our condemnation of the unacceptable acts of violence that affected our brothers and sisters.

No matter what the circumstances, such actions cannot be justified. No matter the frustrations, the loss of even a single life cannot be condoned. We also wish to applaud the swift action taken by the South African Government and its citizenry in response to these acts of violence, which also resulted in the loss of life and livelihood.

It has been said that one of the major causes for such incidents as witnessed in South Africa and elsewhere are the challenges presented by poverty and inequality. These are often characterised by the poor fighting the poor over limited and sometimes scarce resources. These incidents also underscore the urgent need for all of us to give urgent attention to issues related to migration and human trafficking. We must address the very circumstances that lead our nationals to leave our shores for better opportunities in other parts of the continent and the world. To this effect, I take this opportunity to also extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of the 800 African brothers and sisters who recently lost their lives on the North Coast of our continent. That incident is also a painful reminder that we must urgently deal with the growth and integration of our continent.

Never and never again must such acts and incidents be witnessed on our continent.

In realising Africa's development, human development is also not negotiable. The pockets of instability and conflict, which have sometimes resulted in loss of life and livelihood, bear testament to that fact. We cannot afford to continue on a trajectory that excludes and is inequitable.

In order to facilitate for inclusive and sustainable growth we must translate Agenda 2063 into our national plans so that we can facilitate for priority areas such as integration, youth and women's empowerment, job creation, energy, and infrastructure development. In translating Agenda 2063 we will need accelerated action towards an equitable growth path, which prioritises the people and connectivity. We must realise key urgent projects that connect us including road, rail, aviation, marine transport, telecommunications, as well as industrialisation and manufacturing.

Our pursuit for accelerating our equitable economic growth path will also place greater pressure on our traditional and mainstream energy sectors, consequently we will begin to seriously implement key projects in the renewable energy sector, which include hydro and wind energy.

In accelerating connectivity we will pay greater attention to the promotion of the Continental Free Trade Area.

It is in seeking to accelerate implementation of these (and other) priorities and programmes that we will convene the Africa Economic Platform, in the latter part of this year. The Platform will pursue continental synergy and will bring together Africa's captains of industry, academics, governments and activists. Only through working together can we facilitate for Africa's unity, shared prosperity and lasting peace.

*Africa.... One people. One Destiny
Long live Africa and her Diaspora!
Long live African solidarity and unity!
I thank you and happy Africa Day!!*

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OECD Skills Outlook 2015: Youth, Skills and Employability

OECD

Published on May 27, 2015 :: 160 pages

Abstract

Young people around the world are struggling to enter the labour market. In some OECD countries, one in four 16-29 year-olds is neither employed nor in education or training. The OECD Skills Outlook 2015 shows how improving the employability of youth requires a comprehensive approach. While education, social, and labour market policies have key roles to play, co-ordination between public policies and the private sector is also crucial. The publication, which builds on the results of the 2012 Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC) presented in the first edition of the Skills Outlook, also presents examples of successful policies in selected countries.

Press Release

Governments must step up efforts to tackle youth unemployment

27/05/2015 - More than 35 million young people, aged 16-29, across OECD countries are neither employed nor in education or training (NEET). Overall, young people are twice as likely as prime-age workers to be unemployed. Governments need to do more to give young people a good start to their working lives and help them find work, according to a new OECD report.

The OECD Skills Outlook 2015 says that around half of all NEETs in the OECD are out of school and not looking for work and are likely to have dropped off the radar of their country's education, social, and labour market systems.

"Addressing this issue is not only a moral imperative, but also an economic necessity," said OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría, launching the report in Berlin. "Too many young people leave education without having acquired the right skills and, even those who do, are prevented from putting them to productive use. These young people often face a difficult future and need all our support."

The report expands on the findings of the first OECD Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC), published in 2013, and creates a detailed picture of how young people acquire and use their skills, as well as the potential barriers they face to doing both.

It shows that 10% of new graduates have poor literacy skills and 14% have poor numeracy skills. More than 40% of those who left school before completing their upper secondary education have poor numeracy and literacy skills.

Work and education are also too often separate worlds: less than 50% of students in vocational education and training programmes, and less than 40% of students in academic programmes in the 22 OECD countries and regions covered were participating in some kind of work-based learning at the time of the survey. Even young people with strong skills have trouble finding work. Many firms find it too expensive to hire individuals with no labour market experience.

Young people in work can also face institutionalised obstacles to developing their skills. For example, one in four employed young people is on a temporary contract and so tend to use their skills less and have fewer training opportunities than workers on permanent contracts.

To help more young people into work, the OECD recommends:

- :: High-quality pre-primary education for all children in order to help mitigate disparities in education outcomes and to give every child a strong start to their education.

- :: Teachers and school leaders should identify low achievers early on to give them the support they need to attain sufficient proficiency in reading, mathematics and science, and prevent them from dropping out of school entirely.

- :: Public employment services, social welfare institutions and education and training systems should offer some form of second-chance education or training. In return for receiving social benefits, young people could be required to register with social welfare or public employment services, and participate in further education and training.

- :: Education providers and the business sector should work together to design qualifications frameworks that accurately reflect the actual skills of new graduates.

- :: Work-based learning should be integrated into both vocational and academic post-secondary programmes.

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The ITU - ICT Facts and Figures – The world in 2015

International Telecommunication Union

Geneva, May 2015 :: 6 pages

Pdf: <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Documents/facts/ICTFactsFigures2015.pdf>

This report features end-2015 estimates for key telecommunication/ICT indicators, including on mobile-cellular subscriptions, Internet use, fixed and mobile broadband services, home ICT access, and more. 2015 is the deadline for achievements of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which global leaders agreed upon in the year 2000, and the new data show ICT progress and highlight remaining gaps.

"This year governments are making their final assessment of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which global leaders agreed upon in the year 2000. Over the past 15 years the ICT revolution has driven global development in an unprecedented way. Technological

progress, infrastructure deployment, and falling prices have brought unexpected growth in ICT access and connectivity to billions of people around the world.

"In 2015 there are more than 7 billion mobile cellular subscriptions worldwide, up from less than 1 billion in 2000. Globally 3.2 billion people are using the Internet of which 2 billion are from developing countries. ICTs will play an even more significant role in the post 2015 development agenda and in achieving future sustainable development goals as the world moves faster and faster towards a digital society.

"Our mission is to connect everyone and to create a truly inclusive information society, for which we need comparable and high-quality data and statistics to measure progress."

Brahima Sanou, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau

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The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2015

Meeting the 2015 international hunger targets: taking stock of uneven progress

FAO, IFAD and WFP.

Rome, 2015 :: 62 pages

ISBN 978-92-5-108785-5

Pdf: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4646e.pdf>

Overview

This year's annual State of Food Insecurity in the World report takes stock of progress made towards achieving the internationally established Millennium Development Goal (MDG1) and World Food Summit hunger targets and reflects on what needs to be done, as we transition to the new post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda. The report reviews progress made since 1990 for every country and region as well as for the world as a whole.

Progress towards the MDG 1 target, however, is assessed not only by measuring undernourishment, or hunger, but also by a second indicator – the prevalence of underweight children under five years of age. Progress for the two indicators across regions and over time, is compared, providing insights into the complexity of food security.

Overall progress notwithstanding, much work remains to be done to eradicate hunger and achieve food security across all its dimensions. The 2015 report not only estimates the progress already achieved, but also identifies remaining problems, and provides guidance on which policies should be emphasized in the future. Key factors that have determined success to date towards food security and nutrition goals are identified. The list of factors – economic growth, agricultural productivity growth, markets (including international trade) and social protection – is by no means exhaustive. The report also shows how protracted crises, due to conflict or natural disasters, have deleterious effects on progress in hunger reduction.

Key messages

:: About 795 million people are undernourished globally, down 167 million over the last decade, and 216 million less than in 1990–92. The decline is more pronounced in developing regions, despite significant population growth. In recent years, progress has been hindered by slower and less inclusive economic growth as well as political instability in some developing regions, such as Central Africa and western Asia.

:: The year 2015 marks the end of the monitoring period for the Millennium Development Goal targets. For the developing regions as a whole, the share of undernourished people in the total population has decreased from 23.3 percent in 1990–92 to 12.9 per cent. Some regions, such as Latin America, the east and south-eastern regions of Asia, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and the northern and western regions of Africa have made fast progress. Progress was also recorded in southern Asia, Oceania, the Caribbean and southern and eastern Africa, but at too slow a pace to reach the MDG 1c target of halving the proportion of the chronically undernourished.

:: A total of 72 developing countries out of 129, or more than half the countries monitored, have reached the MDG 1c hunger target. Most enjoyed stable political conditions and economic growth, often accompanied by social protection policies targeted at vulnerable population groups.

:: For the developing regions as a whole, the two indicators of MDG 1c – the prevalence of undernourishment and the proportion of underweight children under 5 years of age – have both declined. In some regions, including western Africa, south-eastern Asia and South America, undernourishment declined faster than the rate for child underweight, suggesting room for improving the quality of diets, hygiene conditions and access to clean water, particularly for poorer population groups.

:: Economic growth is a key success factor for reducing undernourishment, but it has to be inclusive and provide opportunities for improving the livelihoods of the poor. Enhancing the productivity and incomes of smallholder family farmers is key to progress.

:: Social protection systems have been critical in fostering progress towards the MDG 1 hunger and poverty targets in a number of developing countries. Social protection directly contributes to the reduction of poverty, hunger and malnutrition by promoting income security and access to better nutrition, health care and education. By improving human capacities and mitigating the impacts of shocks, social protection fosters the ability of the poor to participate in growth through better access to employment.

:: In many countries that have failed to reach the international hunger targets, natural and human-induced disasters or political instability have resulted in protracted crises with increased vulnerability and food insecurity of large parts of the population. In such contexts, measures to protect vulnerable population groups and improve livelihoods have been difficult to implement or ineffective.

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Joint statement on renewed attacks against the civilian population, especially women and children, in the widening armed conflict in South Sudan

28 May 2015

:: *UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Hawa Bangura,*

:: *UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Leila Zerrougui,*

:: *Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka,*

:: UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Adama Dieng
:: UN Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect, Jennifer Welsh.

We are deeply concerned at reports of escalating violence against the civilian population in the context of the ongoing conflict in South Sudan, particularly against women and children. Since the middle of April 2015, reports have indicated that serious violations and abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law have taken place and are ongoing, as fighting intensifies between forces of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and Sudan People's Liberation Army–In Opposition (SPLA-IO) in Unity and Upper Nile States.

We are appalled at the large-scale, widespread nature of the violations and abuses reported, including extra-judicial killings, the abduction of women and children, rape and other forms of sexual violence, recruitment and use of children, looting and destruction of property. In addition, the fighting has exacerbated an already dire economic and humanitarian situation by reducing the humanitarian space, thus depriving thousands of South Sudanese of essential humanitarian assistance.

We continue to remind the political and military leadership of the SPLA and SPLA-IO of their responsibilities, in line with international law, including their responsibility to ensure the full protection of the civilian population, especially women and children, from violence and to spare them the effects of hostilities. The Government of South Sudan bears the primary responsibility for protecting its population from serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. We therefore call upon the Government to exercise that responsibility. The SPLA and SPLA-IO leaders must immediately put a stop to ongoing violations and abuses, issue clear orders for the immediate release of children associated with their forces and prohibiting sexual violence crimes. They must ensure the enforcement of these orders by field commanders, take concrete steps to identify and hold perpetrators accountable as well as facilitate access for humanitarian actors to continue providing life-saving assistance to the population.

We believe that a sustainable solution to the crisis can only be found through inclusive dialogue and that accountability is critical to obtaining lasting peace and in fostering reconciliation among communities in South Sudan. Women, as leaders and agents of change must be represented in peace talks and women's groups must be fully consulted in the process.

We urge the UN Security Council, African Union, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), neighbouring countries and other relevant stakeholders, especially those involved in the mediation process, to reinforce engagements with the SPLA and SPLA-IO in order to de-escalate the current situation, prevent further violations of international human rights and humanitarian law and move the mediation process forward.

It is the collective responsibility of the international community to take decisive steps to end the protracted suffering of the South Sudanese people, especially the women and children who are disproportionately affected by the recent clashes.

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EBOLA/EVD [to 30 May 2015]

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

WHO: [Ebola Situation Report - 27 May 2015](#)

[Excerpts]

SUMMARY

:: There were 12 confirmed cases of Ebola virus disease (EVD) reported in the week to 24 May: 9 from Guinea and 3 from Sierra Leone. A total of 5 districts (3 in Guinea, 2 in Sierra Leone) reported at least one confirmed case, compared with 6 districts the previous week. The west-Guinean prefecture of Forecariah reported the most cases of any one district, and continues to present the greatest challenge in terms of response, with multiple chains of transmission over a wide geographical area (4 sub-prefectures), and the continued occurrence of cases from unknown sources of infection.

COUNTRIES WITH WIDESPREAD AND INTENSE TRANSMISSION

:: There have been a total of 27,013 reported confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (figure 1, table 1), with 11,134 reported deaths (this total includes reported deaths among probable and suspected cases, although outcomes for many cases are unknown). A total of 9 new confirmed cases were reported in Guinea and 3 in Sierra Leone in the 7 days to 24 May. The outbreak in Liberia was declared over on 9 May.

Nepal earthquake 2015 - Grade 3 emergency

:: [Health situation report No. 19pdf, 317kb](#) - 26 May 2015 2015

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

:: The repeated earthquakes and aftershocks since 25 April 2015 have had a major public health consequences, with a total 1085 health facilities (402 completely and 683 partially) damaged.

:: A total of 2088 people have undergone major surgeries and 26,160 have received psychosocial support in the highly affected 14 districts.

:: Nepal's Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) identifies 429 patients in Bhaktapur, Kathmandu and Lalitpur who require longer term treatment support.

:: 42 Foreign Medical teams (FMTs) are operating in the country with a total 802 persons including 264 doctors and 236 nurses.

:: Currently there are over 100 beds available for patients requiring ongoing rehabilitation or nursing care within the Kathmandu valley.

Global Health Cluster

[Health Cluster Bulletin No. 4 pdf, 1.83Mb](#) 27 May 2015

Situation update

Up to 26 May, just a little over a month after the first earthquake of 7.8 on the Richter scale struck Nepal on 25 April, followed by a 7.3 magnitude on 12 May and numerous aftershocks, the MoHP is reporting that there has been 8673 earthquake-related deaths and 21952 injuries. Of this amount, eight health workers and 10 FCHVs have lost their lives, 75 have been injured and two remain missing.

The Ministry of Health and Population's (MoHP) Early Warning and Response System for epidemic-prone diseases (EWARS) show a generally stabilizing trend in numbers of outbreak prone diseases in the 14 severely affected districts. No major outbreaks have been reported to date...

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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 30 May 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases/Meetings Coverage

29 May 2015

SC/11912

[Action against Threat of Foreign Terrorist Fighters Must Be Ramped Up, Security Council Urges in High-Level Meeting](#)

The Security Council this morning welcomed what it called “extraordinary efforts” by States to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters to and from conflict zones, while urging stepped-up work on the issue due to growing recruitment by extremist groups, from more than 100 countries.

28 May 2015

ECOSOC/6691

[At Economic and Social Council Partnerships Forum, Speakers Stress Investment in Health-Care Systems Critical to Achieving Post-2015 Agenda Targets](#)

Robust, sustained investment in health-care systems were critical to achieving post-2015 development targets, as well as making the “final push” against the West African Ebola outbreak and preventing other devastating epidemics, said high-level speakers, as the Economic and Social Council held its annual Partnerships Forum and launched the Global Network on Promoting Digital Technologies for Sustainable Urbanization today.

28 May 2015

SC/11911

[Humanitarian Chief, Briefing Security Council, Describes Savagery in Syria, Urging Members to Set Aside Differences](#)

Syria’s descent into “deeper depths of despair” over the past four years had surpassed what even the most pessimistic observers thought possible, the top United Nations humanitarian official told the Security Council today, urging the 15-member body to set aside its political differences and prevent the abandonment of Syrians to further hopelessness.

28 May 2015

GA/11646

[Expressing Outrage over Attacks on Cultural Heritage of Iraq, General Assembly Unanimously Adopts Resolution Calling for Urgent Action](#)

Condemning the barbaric destruction and looting of the cultural heritage of Iraq by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the General Assembly today deplored the rising incidence of intentional attacks against and threats to such heritage of countries affected by armed conflict.

29 May 2015

SC/11914-AFR/3147-PKO/493

[Security Council Press Statement on Mali](#)

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

28 May 2015

DSG/SM/869-GA/11647-IK/703

[World Must Do All in Its Power to Halt Destruction of Iraq's Cultural Heritage, Deputy Secretary-General Tells General Assembly](#)

Following are United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson's remarks at the adoption of the General Assembly resolution on "Saving the cultural heritage of Iraq" today.

28 May 2015

DSG/SM/868-ECOSOC/6693-ENV/DEV/1523

[Global Cross-Cutting Partnerships Needed for Post-2015 Sustainable Future, Says Deputy Secretary-General at Economic and Social Council Forum](#)

Following are UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson's remarks, as prepared for delivery, at the Economic and Social Council annual Partnerships Forum, "The role of Partnerships in achieving the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Making it Happen", in New York today.

UN OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 30 May 2015]

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

[Zeid urges further investigation into human rights violations by international forces in Central African Republic](#)

GENEVA (30 May 2015) – The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein on Saturday said he has urged several States to intensify their efforts to investigate long-standing allegations that soldiers in their forces sent to keep the peace in the Central African Republic may have committed very serious violations, including killing of civilians, summary executions, abductions and sexual exploitation of local women.

"These allegations were extremely disturbing," Zeid said. "People in CAR were desperate for protection. The role of international forces in halting the worst of the fighting and sectarian slaughter in CAR has been invaluable, and their presence has unquestionably saved many, many lives. Yet, in some cases the longed-for protectors turned into predators."

"In the wake of the revelations of alleged serious sexual abuse of children, currently under investigation by the French authorities, my Office has taken a deeper look into these issues and the extent of the follow-up into alleged serious violations by soldiers belonging to several other international contingents operating under the MISCA* umbrella in 2014," the UN Human Rights Chief said. "Some of these incidents have been at least partly investigated, and some States

have apparently sanctioned some of the soldiers involved, but the fact that a number of foreign contingents may have been implicated is in itself a matter of enormous concern.”...

[Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights holds fifty-fifth session from 1 to 19 June](#)
28 May 2015

[International development financing: “It’s not just about more resources” – UN human rights expert](#)
5/26/2015

GENEVA (26 May 2015) – The Third International Conference on Financing for Development should endorse and reinforce a human rights based approach to development, UN expert Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky has said today, urging governments worldwide to drum up the necessary resources to ensure that future international development goals can realistically be met.

The appeal* by the UN Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and human rights comes as States negotiate the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 13-16 July 2015.

“Human rights must be at the core of development financing to ensure that everybody can enjoy a decent life, free from hunger, and has access to education, health care, housing and drinking water,” Mr. Bohoslavsky stressed. “The Conference should reiterate that the human being is the central subject of development and should be its active participant and beneficiary.”

The expert urged negotiators to recognize in the Conference’s outcome document that unsustainable debt burdens continue to pose challenges to sustainable development and to the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. “While international debt relief for highly indebted poor countries has been important, most of them are expected to miss the UN Millennium Development by the end of this year,” he said.

“Unfortunately, some of these countries are again at risk of falling into a debt trap,” Mr. Bohoslavsky warned. “This failure should not be repeated and long-term solutions to the global problem of unsustainable debt are required, including for middle-income and highly developed countries.”

The Independent Expert noted that private finance and businesses enterprises can make an important contribution to sustainable development; however, he underscored that “the conference should reiterate that States have to ensure that all investments must comply with relevant social, environmental and human rights standards, including the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the Guiding Principles on Foreign Debt and Human Rights.”

“Infrastructure projects financed by development loans have displaced millions of people around the world during the last decade and affected individuals have not always received adequate compensation,” he said expressing concern that the environmental and social safeguard procedures of development banks have not been sufficiently robust to prevent human rights violations...

Committee on the Rights of the Child

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/CRCIndex.aspx>

[Committee on the Rights of the Child considers report of Israel on the sale of children and child prostitution](#)

28 May 2015

[Committee on the Rights of the Child considers reports of Lao People's Democratic Republic on sale of children, children in armed conflict](#)

27 May 2015

[Committee on the Rights of the Child examines reports of the Netherlands](#)

27 May 2015

Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

<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 30 May 2015]

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

28 May 15

[Joint Statement on renewed attacks against the civilian population, especially women and children, in the widening armed conflict in South Sudan](#)

SRSG/SVC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict [to 30 May 2015]

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

28 May 15

[Communiqué of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Hawa Bangura, to Commemorate the National Day for the Dignity of Women Victims of Sexual Violence in the Internal Armed Conflict in Colombia](#)
(Español)

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [to 30 May 2015]

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

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

[Statement by Volker Türk, UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, at the Special Meeting on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean 29 May 2015 Bangkok, Thailand](#)

29 May 2015

[UNHCR welcomes Bangkok proposals, calls for creative solutions for refugees, migrants at sea](#)

29 May 2015

IOM / International Organization for Migration [to 30 May 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[World Must Resolve Irregular Migration "Conundrum," IOM DG Tells SE Asia Conference](#)

05/29/15

Thailand – IOM Director General William Lacy Swing has challenged the global community to “conjugate the conundrum” of effective border management and large-scale migration.

[IOM Nepal Aids Earthquake Survivors Discharged from Hospitals](#)

05/29/15

Nepal - IOM has helped 154 Nepali earthquake survivors discharged from hospitals since May 10th under its Assisted Discharge and Referrals (ADR) program.

[Slovakia Aids Earthquake-Affected Nepalis](#)

05/29/15

Nepal - The Slovak Republic today handed over EUR 71,200 worth of humanitarian aid to IOM for earthquake victims in Nepal.

[IOM Netherlands to Host Diaspora Conference](#)

05/29/15

Netherlands – IOM will host an international conference next week to take stock of the impact of knowledge transfer from the diaspora community in the Netherlands to nine countries of origin.

[IOM Appeals for USD 26 million for Migrants in SE Asian Boat Crisis](#)

05/26/15

Thailand - IOM is appealing for USD 26 million to assist up to 10,000 people affected by the migrant crisis in the Andaman Sea.

[IOM Ethiopia Relocates 42,000 South Sudanese Refugees in Two Weeks](#)

05/26/15

Ethiopia - IOM has transported some 41,978 South Sudanese refugees from camps in Leitchour and Nip Nip to Jewi camp in Ethiopia's Gambella province.

[IOM Aids Over 2,000 Ethiopians Returning from Yemen](#)

05/26/15

Ethiopia - IOM Ethiopia has provided post arrival assistance to some 2,061 vulnerable Ethiopians returning from Yemen. They have included people injured in the conflict, as well as those in need of transport and accommodation.

[Costa Rica, Panama Open Information Hubs for Migrants at Paso Canoas Border](#)

05/26/15

Costa Rica - To help vulnerable migrants at the Paso Canoas border crossing between Panama and Costa Rica, IOM and the authorities of both countries have opened two specialized information hubs that will provide migrants with reliable information about their rights and services available to them.

[IOM Evacuates Senegalese Migrants from Libya](#)

05/26/15

Libya - IOM Libya yesterday evacuated 142 Senegalese migrants from Misrata and Tripoli, Libya via Djerba airport in Tunisia. The group arrived in Dakar this morning (26/5), and was met at the airport by Secretary of State for Senegalese Abroad Souleymane Jules Diop. The fourth such evacuation in recent months, this latest group included nine minors.

[One Month On, Nepal's Quake Aid Pipeline Is Running Dry](#)

05/25/15

Nepal - A critical funding shortage is reducing the flow of aid into earthquake-ravaged Nepal to a trickle, undermining the successes in the month since the April 25 tragedy.

UN OCHA [to 30 May 2015]

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

30 May 2015

[World: Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination - Asia-Pacific Newsletter Issue 5: May - June 2015](#)

In this month's issue This edition of the newsletter focuses on the civil- military coordination structure that was activated as part of the response to the Nepal earthquake. The newsletter also focuses on the ARF DiREX 2015 that was held from 24 to 28 May in Alor Setar, Kedah, Malaysia. An article on training conducted by OCHA at the Indonesia Peace and Security Center (IPSC) in Sentul, Indonesia is also...

28 May 2015

[Syrian Arab Republic: Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos Statement to the Security Council on Syria, New York, 28 May 2015](#)

26 May 2015

[Central African Republic: Assistant Secretary-General Kyung-wha Kang remarks to the EU pledging conference on the Central African Republic](#)

25 May 2015

[Burundi: Communiqué: Roundtable on the humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region](#)

25 May 2015

[Nepal: Relief gains in quake-struck Nepal substantial, yet insufficient](#)

UNISDR UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 30 May 2015]

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

[Early warning must make sense](#)

28 May 2015

Ensuring weather warnings make sense to the general public will be a key way to help implement a global pact on disaster risk reduction, participants at the World Meteorological Organization's top forum heard today.

[Sendai Framework is key: Latin America, Caribbean](#)

26 May 2015

Latin American and Caribbean countries have etched the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction into a regional declaration that sets out their common position ahead of a key United Nations humanitarian summit next year.

UNICEF [to 30 May 2015]

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

Selected press release and news notes

[UNICEF renews call for protection and safety of children amidst violence in Burundi](#)

BUJUMBURA, Burundi / NAIROBI, 27 May 2015 – UNICEF said today it is extremely concerned by evidence of the continued presence of children amidst violent confrontations in Burundi. This situation has led to the death of yet another child in a shooting Monday and the injury of a child struck by a bullet yesterday.

[Children face worsening nutrition crisis as South Sudan fighting intensifies](#)

JUBA, South Sudan, 27 May 2015 – The lives of nearly a quarter of a million children are at significant risk as food and nutrition security rapidly deteriorate in parts of South Sudan, UNICEF said today. The crisis comes as a result of ongoing conflict, diminished household food stocks and a shrinking economy.

[Northeast Nigeria: Alarming spike in suicide attacks involving women and girls - UNICEF](#)

ABUJA, Nigeria, 26 May 2015 – More women and children have been used as suicide bombers in Northeast Nigeria in the first five months of this year than during the whole of last year, according to reports collated by UNICEF.

[Nepal Earthquakes: One month on from first quake, malnutrition a growing threat for children - UNICEF](#)

KATHMANDU, Nepal, 25 May 2015 – One month after the first of two major earthquakes hit Nepal, an estimated 70,000 children under five are at risk of malnutrition and require urgent humanitarian support - according to UNICEF.

[Statement on situation in Yemen by UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake](#)

NEW YORK, 24 May 2015 – “The toll seems to grow higher by the day. Reports that two more children have been killed and six more children injured in the escalating conflict in Yemen underscore the urgent need for action to protect children -- and to bring an end to the hostilities that are devastating their lives and futures.

UN Women [to 30 May 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[Joint statement on renewed attacks against the civilian population, especially women and children, in the widening armed conflict in South Sudan](#)

Date : May 29, 2015

Joint statement by UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Hawa Bangura, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Leila Zerrougui, Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Adama Dieng and the UN Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect, Jennifer Welsh.

[Women take the reins to build peace in Colombia](#)

Date : May 28, 2015

The voices of women as experts, survivors and negotiators have been included in a peace process with an unprecedented gender perspective, with the support of UN Women and other partners. It aims to end one of the longest-running internal armed conflicts in the world.

[Press release: Valencia Club de Fútbol and UN Women kick off partnership to promote gender equality](#)

Date : May 26, 2015

Valencia Club de Fútbol (CF) and UN Women announced their partnership in support of UN Women's mandate to promote and support gender equality across the globe. For the first time ever, UN Women will collaborate with a professional sports team. The organization's logo will be featured on the back of the Valencia CF players' jerseys when they play in European competitions...

[Gender Equality Bulletin Special Issue - Nepal, one month on...](#)

Date : May 26, 2015

One month on from the devastating earthquake in Nepal, the UN's Inter-cluster Gender Task Force in Response to the Nepal Earthquakes takes stock of the situation – both looking back and moving forward – in its first Gender Bulletin Special Issue. The two-page Gender Equality Bulletin complements the Gender Alert by providing key up-to-date facts and figures, initiatives, progress, challenges, needs and opportunities related to gender equality and women's empowerment as a result of the earthquake and in the context of the emergency response.

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

WHO & Regionals [to 30 May 2015]

[Egypt: increase in H5N1 human and poultry cases but no change in transmission pattern of infection](#)

May 2015 -- The recent increase in the number of people affected by the avian influenza virus H5N1 in Egypt is not related to virus mutations but rather to more people becoming exposed to infected poultry. Since November 2014 to 30 April 2015, the period analysed by the international mission, a total of 165 cases, including 48 deaths were reported.

[WHO recommends 10 measurements for HIV](#)

May 2015 -- WHO released new guidelines recommending simplified indicators to measure the reach of HIV services, and the impact achieved at both the national and global levels.

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

30 May 2015 - Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – China

30 May 2015 - Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Republic of Korea

28 May 2015 - Lassa Fever – United States of America

25 May 2015 - Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia

24 May 2015 - Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – United Arab Emirates

:: WHO Regional Offices

WHO African Region AFRO

:: [Cholera crisis in Tanzania improving despite high transmission risk](#)

Kagunga, 26 May 2015 – The ongoing cholera outbreak in western Tanzania appears to be improving thanks to intensive national and international efforts, but the risk of transmission remains high due to limited access to shelter, toilets, water and essential medical care. As of 25 May, the total number of cases diagnosed and treated was 4408 and no deaths have been reported between 21-24 May.

WHO Region of the Americas PAHO

:: [PAHO urges member countries to ratify new protocol on illicit tobacco](#) (05/29/2015)

WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO

:: [Stop illicit trade of tobacco products](#) 29 May 2015

WHO European Region EURO

:: [Final day of the World Health Assembly: highlights for the European Region](#) 28-05-2015

:: [World No Tobacco Day awards 2015](#) 27-05-2015

:: [Days 5 to 7 of the World Health Assembly: highlights for the European Region](#) 27-05-2015

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO

:: [Urgent funding needed to prevent imminent closure of health care projects in Iraq](#)

Cairo, 27 May 2015 – If urgently needed funds are not secured by the end of June 2015, more than 84% of health care projects serving populations in need in Iraq will be forced to close. If this happens, more than 3 million refugees, internally displaced persons and host communities will not have access to the treatment and care that these projects provide. WHO is coordinating the response of health cluster partners to optimize the use of available resources and calls on donors to provide financial support to prevent further avoidable death and additional suffering for millions of the most vulnerable people in Iraq.

:: [WHO statement on the situation in Yemen by WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan](#)
27 May 2015

:: [WHO and UNICEF launch vaccination campaign to keep Iraq polio free](#) 26 May 2015

:: [WHO partners with MENTOR Initiative to control leishmaniasis in Aleppo and Deir ez-Zor](#)
26 May 2015

WHO Western Pacific Region

No new digest content identified.

UNAIDS [to 30 May 2015]

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

[UNAIDS welcomes further evidence that starting antiretroviral therapy early saves lives](#)

27 May 2015

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund [to 30 May 2015]

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

[Census Results Highlight Myanmar's Development Needs](#)

29 May 2015 Press Release

[Statement on the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula by Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund](#)

23 May 2015 Statement

UNDP United Nations Development Programme [to 30 May 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

29 May 2015

[New UN report outlines final progress on MDGs in Asia Pacific region](#)

28 May 2015

[Helen Clark: Remarks at the UNDP Annual Meeting on the Rule of Law in Crisis and Fragile Situations](#)

Administrator Helen Clark addresses the 2015 UNDP Annual Meeting on the Rule of Law in Crisis and Fragile Situations.

28 May 2015

[Peace, security, development and human rights as foundation of fair and stable society](#)

The forum ended with a strong call of support for rule of law and human rights as a means to achieving sustainable peace and development. Permanent Representatives from UN Member States and participants from crisis countries agreed on a need to strengthen judicial systems as well as rule of law based on human rights.

27 May 2015

[UNDP helps Ebola Emergency Response Workers get paid](#)

In the Ebola epicenter countries of Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia, UNDP helps more than 100,000 Emergency Response Workers get paid.

26 May 2015

[UNDP reaffirms partnership with Japan to support Nepal's efforts to build back better after devastating earthquake](#)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) yesterday reaffirmed a strong partnership with Japan on the occasion of the "Build Back Better" Reconstruction Seminar organized by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Government of Nepal in Katmandu.

[Sierra Leone's prisons: tough, but Ebola-free](#)

Central Freetown's maximum-security prison was built to house just 234. Today, 1400 inmates are crammed between its walls. Cells are packed, record-keeping is haphazard and the authorities have barely enough to keep it all going. And then there's the threat of Ebola.

UN Division for Sustainable Development [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

UN Statistical Commission :: UN Statistics Division [to 30 May 2015]

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

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

[First Meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators \(IAEG-SDGs\)](#)

1 - 2 June 2015 - New York

The First Meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) will take place on 1-2 June 2015 in New York. The IAEG-SDGs has been established by the Statistical Commission at its 46th session to develop an indicator framework for the monitoring of the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda at the global level, and to support its implementation.

The main objectives of the meeting are to set up the process for the development of the indicator framework; develop a work plan and agree on the way forward; establish the methods of work of the group; and discuss technical issues, including the interlinkages across targets and data disaggregation.

The provisional agenda is available from: <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/first-iaeg-sdgs-meeting/>
[Meetings will be webcast live at webtv.un.org]

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme [to 30 May 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[Catastrophic Collapse of Saiga Antelopes in Central Asia](#)

The aerial survey conducted as part of the national monitoring programme earlier this year estimated that the Betpak-dala Saiga population numbered approximately 250,000 animals prior to this mass die-off, which has therefore halved the total population.

28/05/2015

[Sustainable Tourism Thrives in Philippines' Largest Marine Sanctuary](#)

"To conserve biodiversity is to sustain life. We need Nature. Nature does not need us." UNEP Deputy Executive Director Ibrahim Thiaw

27/05/2015

[World Health Assembly Passes Landmark Resolution on Air Pollution and Health.](#)

The resolution identifies 13 measures member states should strive to implement, including actions such as: enabling health authorities to raise awareness on the dangers of air pollution, developing guidelines to limit exposure; and working with relevant private and public sector actors on sustainable solutions.

27/05/2015

[Governments, International Organisations, and NGOs Move to Protect Lives and the Climate from Dangerous Air Pollution.](#)

If we manage to reduce short lived climate pollution, we not only save millions of lives but also reduce global warming by as much as 0.6 degrees by 2050

25/05/2015

[Alleviating Energy Poverty in Haiti](#)

"We had to teach people in the communities what a cooperative in the electricity sector was all about." Rithot Thilus, General Manager of CEAC
25/05/2015

UN DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 30 May 2015]
<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news.html>

[Former US President Clinton urges partnerships to boost health](#)

28 May 2015, New York

As the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) met to discuss the role of partnerships in achieving the Post-2015 development agenda, the focus fell on the recent response to the Ebola crisis in West Africa and the need to work together to boost capacity in healthcare systems.

[Forum adopts roadmap for future forests](#)

28 May 2015, New York

On 15 May, the eleventh session of the UN Forum on Forests successfully concluded with the approval of a wide-ranging omnibus resolution that extends the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) until 2030. Demonstrating a high level of political interest in forests, delegates from over 125 Member States participated, including 30 forest Ministers and Vice Ministers.

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 30 May 2015]
<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/allpress.html?ref=fp>

[High-Level International conference on drug control builds cooperation efforts in Central Asia and wider region](#)

29/05/2015

UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme [to 30 May 2015]
<http://unhabitat.org/media-centre/press-releases/>

No new digest content identified.

FAO Food & Agriculture Organization [to 30 May 2015]
<http://www.fao.org/news/archive/news-by-date/2015/en/>

[Latin America and the Caribbean: World's first region to reach both international hunger goals](#)

Latin America and the Caribbean has taken a huge step towards the total eradication of hunger by reducing both the percentage and total number of undernourished people to less than half.

28-05-2015

[Asia-Pacific region achieves Millennium Development Goal to reduce hunger by half by 2015](#)

The Asia-Pacific region has achieved the Millennium Development Goal (MDG-1c) by reducing the proportion of people suffering from hunger by half by 2015.

28-05-2015

[As South Sudan conflict escalates, 4.6 million people at risk of severe food insecurity](#)

The IPC estimates for April, indicate that most of the people affected - 3 million at Crisis level and 800 000 at the Emergency level - are located in the three states of the country's northeastern Greater Upper Nile region hardest hit by the fighting. Many others are from the western part of the Greater Bahr el Ghazal region where conditions have deteriorated as a result of a spillover from the conflict.

28-05-2015

[Boosting food security in cities through better markets, reduced food waste](#)

Recognizing the growing challenge of feeding the world's cities and the importance of efficient urban markets, FAO and the World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM) is entering into a partnership to promote sustainability and inclusiveness in the wholesale sector, including developing "best practices" for reducing food waste.

28-05-2015

[World hunger falls to under 800 million, eradication is next goal](#)

The number of hungry people in the world has dropped to 795 million – 216 million fewer than in 1990-92 – or around one person out of every nine, according to the latest edition of the annual UN hunger report, The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2015.

27-05-2015

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 30 May 2015]

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

29 May: Government of India and UN specialized agency discuss evaluation of rural development programme in country

[English](#)

28 May: Data on European remittances available for the first time - Press conference to present IFAD "Sending Money Home" report

[English](#) | [Italian](#)

27 May: World hunger falls to under 800 million, eradication is next goal

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

ILO International Labour Organization [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

IMO International Maritime Organization [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

WMO World Meteorological Organization [to 30 May 2015]

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

[Global drive for climate services gains pace](#)

29 May 2015

The World Meteorological Congress has welcomed progress and the growing number of partners in a WMO-spearheaded initiative to improve the provision and use of climate services in priority areas of agriculture and food security, water management, health and disaster risk reduction.

The World Meteorological Congress on 27 May reviewed achievements – and stumbling blocks - in the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services, which seeks to help countries and communities prepare for, and cope with, climate variability and climate change.

[Early warning must make sense](#)

29 May 2015

Ensuring weather warnings make sense to the general public will be a key way to help implement a global pact on disaster risk reduction, participants at the World Meteorological Organization's top forum heard today.

Mr. Michel Jarraud, director-general of the UN agency, told the WMO congress that clarity in early warning was essential as the world moves to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, a 15-year international accord adopted at a conference in Japan in March.

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 30 May 2015]

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

[Forum in Viet Nam raises awareness about transparency, corporate social responsibility](#)

Thursday, 28 May 2015

HO CHI MINH CITY, 28 May 2015 – A forum, held today in Ho Chi Minh City, brought together experts and businessmen to discuss the concept of transparency and its benefits among enterprises.

[Sustainable development will require synergies between industrialization, innovation and trade](#)

NEW YORK, 26 May 2015 – Challenges and opportunities of achieving coherence among industrial, trade and innovation policies at all levels, particularly in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, were discussed at an event that took place today at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

It was held on the side-lines of the ongoing UN Financing for Development negotiations, and organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Permanent Missions of Brazil and Italy, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)...

UNWTO World Tourism Organization [to 30 May 2015]

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

[World Committee on Tourism Ethics proposes International Convention on Tourism Ethics](#)

28 May 2015

The transformation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism into an international convention was the main focus of the 15th meeting of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics (Rovinj, Croatia, 26-27 May 2015).

ITU International Telecommunications Union [to 30 May 2015]

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

[ITU releases 2015 ICT figures](#)

Statistics confirm ICT revolution of the past 15 years

Geneva, 26 May 2015 - New figures released by ITU indicate that over the past 15 years, information and communication technologies (ICTs) have grown in an unprecedented way, providing huge opportunities for social and economic development.

The new figures track ICT progress and show gaps in connectivity since the year 2000, when world leaders established the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Today, there are more than 7 billion mobile subscriptions worldwide, up from 738 million in 2000. Globally, 3.2 billion people are using the Internet, of which two billion live in developing countries...

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

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USAID [to 30 May 2015]

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

[USAID Provides Additional Emergency Food Assistance to Millions of Sudanese People](#)

May 27, 2015

In an effort to continue essential support for millions of the world's most food insecure people, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) delivered another 47,500 metric tons of sorghum to Sudan. This food, supplied through USAID's Office of Food for Peace, will support the UN World Food Program's (WFP) efforts to feed millions of Sudanese children and displaced persons suffering from hunger and malnutrition.

DFID [to 30 May 2015]

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

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

Updated 26 May 2015 Statistics DFID

[Justine Greening: One year on from Ebola reaching Sierra Leone](#)

Published 25 May 2015 News story DFID

ECHO [to 30 May 2015]

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

[Europeans show increasing support for EU humanitarian aid](#)

28/05/2015

Public support for the EU's humanitarian aid has gone up in spite of the economic crisis, according to the latest Eurobarometer survey. 90% of European citizens believe that it is important for the EU to continue funding humanitarian aid...

[EU boosts humanitarian aid for the Central African Republic](#)

26/05/2015

The EU, already the largest donor of humanitarian assistance to the Central African Republic (CAR), has increased its financial humanitarian support to the country by €11 million.

.....

IPU Inter-Parliamentary Union [to 30 May 2015]

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

Press Releases

[Young MPs call for radical responses to counter youth alienation and disengagement](#)

28 May 2015

A major international conference of the world's young MPs in Tokyo has called for radical policies to end the alienation and radicalization of young people, including new education policies and employment quotas.

About 190 young MPs, 76 of them women attending the IPU Global Conference of Young MPs jointly organized by IPU and the Japanese Parliament, the National Diet, made a series of recommendations on addressing some of the biggest challenges facing the world's 3.5 billion youth populations. These include unemployment, discrimination and conflict.

During the two-day conference on 27-28 May, the young MPs affirmed their belief that despite disillusionment, apathy, political disengagement and unrest, the world's youth aspired to democratic, peaceful and prosperous societies and their inclusion into decision-making was critical.

The Conference underlined the need for a comprehensive rights-based framework of action against radicalization, such as guaranteed free education, including anti-violence and conflict-management programmes, laws to criminalize hate speech, and involving young people in all decisions relating to counter-terrorism.

It also called for policies to curb the alienation of young people, including the creation of targeted opportunities to contribute to campaigns, programmes and projects at the community level.

On another key area of concern – youth unemployment – the Conference recommended wide-ranging new action, including quotas to advance equality of opportunities in the job market. It called for education to be better adapted to the needs of the job market, youth empowerment initiatives in business, better access to loans for young entrepreneurs and action to ensure the rights of young migrant workers and first-time workers are respected...

African Union [to 30 May 2015]

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

May.25.2015

[AFRICA DAY - Message of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission](#)

The African Development Bank Group [to 30 May 2015]

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

[Structural change needed to spur innovation in Africa: AfDB 2015 Annual Development Effectiveness Review](#)

29/05/2015 - To make economic growth self-sustaining, African countries must urgently make deep structural changes to propel innovation, notably boosting public investment and strengthening social services. Innovation is needed to create jobs and offer livelihood opportunities to lift the majority of Africans out of poverty, according to the African Development Bank's 5th Annual Development Effectiveness Review (ADER) released Wednesday in Abidjan.

[Akinwumi Adesina of Nigeria elected 8th President of the AfDB](#)

28/05/2015 - "Today, I have been given a great responsibility," Akinwumi A. Adesina said Thursday upon his election as the 8th President of the African Development Bank Group. The President-Elect said he was "humbled by this remarkable vote of confidence in me" on the part of the Bank's Board of Governors, who met during the Bank Group's 50th Annual Meetings in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

[AfDB scaled up project funding by 15% to US\\$ 7.6 billion in 2014](#)

27/05/2015 - The African Development Bank Group (AfDB) realised a 15.3-percent increase in its operations turnover in 2014 compared to 2013 despite the challenging global and regional economic environment, according to AfDB 2014 Annual Report.

[AfDB: A focus on Africa's economic transformation to inclusive sustainable growth](#)

27/05/2015 - For a continent which has consistently posted robust economic growth in the past decade, recent reports that the continent is the bastion of inequality recording 42.6 on the Gini Coefficient Index (a standard measure of income equality) is quite disturbing.

ASEAN [to 30 May 2015]

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

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

[Women Entrepreneurs Strengthen Market through 'GREAT Women in ASEAN' Brand](#)

on Friday, 29 May 2015. Posted in 2015, ASEAN Secretariat News

KUALA LUMPUR, 29 May 2015 – Women entrepreneurs from ASEAN launched the Gender Responsive Economic Actions for the Transformation of Women (GREAT Women) this week to promote their products for greater sales and business growth that can employ more workers and improve livelihoods...

European Union [to 30 May 2015]

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

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

[Eurobarometer: Nine out of 10 Europeans want EU to keep giving humanitarian aid](#)

29/05/2015 12:00 | European Commission

[Syrian refugee crisis: EU Trust Fund launches first response programmes for €40 million, helping up to 400,000 people in Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and Iraq](#)

External relations and foreign affairs | 29/05/2015 11:37 | European Commission

[Migration: European Solidarity Stress Test](#)

Employment and social rights | 29/05/2015 09:05 | European Economic and Social Committee

[First measures under the European Agenda on Migration: Questions and Answers](#)

Justice and citizens rights | 28/05/2015 15:58 | European Commission

[Press release - Tunisia's Prime Minister Habib Essid on security and migration challenges -...](#)

External relations and foreign affairs | 28/05/2015 11:51 | European Parliament

[Press statement by Commissioner Avramopoulos on the first measures under the European Agenda on Migration](#)

Justice and citizens rights | 27/05/2015 14:36 | European Commission

[European Commission makes progress on Agenda on Migration](#)

Justice and citizens rights | 27/05/2015 12:30 | European Commission

OECD [to 30 May 2015]

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

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

[Governments must step up efforts to tackle youth unemployment](#)

27-May-2015

More than 35 million young people, aged 16-29, across OECD countries are neither employed nor in education or training (NEET). Overall, young people are twice as likely as prime-age workers to be unemployed. Governments need to do more to give young people a good start to their working lives and help them find work, according to a new OECD report.

[Members renew Angel Gurría's mandate at the helm of the OECD](#)

26-May-2015

The 34 Member countries of the OECD decided today to renew Secretary-General Angel Gurría's mandate at the helm of the Organisation for the period 2016-2021. This unanimous decision was an acknowledgment of Secretary-General Gurría's work to shape a more relevant, inclusive and open organisation.

[Africa: making growth more inclusive hinges on unlocking potential of local economies, says the African Economic Outlook 2015](#)

25-May-2015

With Africa's population set to double by 2050, modernising local economies will be vital to make the continent more competitive and to increase people's living standards, according to the African Economic Outlook 2015, released at the African Development Bank Group's 50th Annual Meetings.

Organization of American States (OAS) [to 30 May 2015]

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

[Former Uruguayan Foreign Minister Luis Almagro Took Office as OAS Secretary General](#)

May 26, 2015

The former Foreign Minister of Uruguay Luis Almagro Lemes today took office as Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) during a meeting of the Permanent Council at the headquarters of the Organization in Washington, DC.

The inaugural speech of Secretary General Almagro is available [here](#). His biography is available [here](#).

The Uruguayan diplomat was elected Secretary General on March 18 with 33 votes in favor, one abstention and no votes against from member states. The Chair of the Permanent Council and Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the OAS, Neil Parsan, was in charge of welcoming the new OAS Secretary General during the inauguration.

Secretary General Almagro was elected for a period of five years from May 2015 to May 2020. He is the second Uruguayan to lead the OAS...

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) [to 30 May 2015]

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

[OIC Condemns Terrorist Attempt to Blow up Dammam Mosque and Targeting of Peaceful Worshippers](#)

JEDDAH: The OIC has condemned the recent failed terrorist bombing aimed at worshippers at the Al-Anoud Mosque in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, during Friday prayers on May 29. In addition to the suicide bomber, three members of the public were killed and four others were left injured...

30/05/2015

[The Islamic Solidarity Fund of the OIC dispatches urgent assistance to Rohingya Refugees](#)

The Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) announced the provision of urgent humanitarian assistance to the Rohingya refugees fleeing persecution in their Myanmar homeland on crowded unseaworthy boats with many having perished on the perilous journey and thousands remain trapped on turbulent seas...

30/05/2015

[On the sidelines of the 42nd Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers – the Contact Group on Mali commended the Algerian Process aimed at reaching a permanent solution for the conflict in Mali; values the OIC's allocation of \\$1.5 million from the Saudi Grant for fighting terrorism and building peace in Africa.](#)

The Contact Group on Mali held a meeting on Wednesday 27 May, 2014 - on the sidelines of the 42nd Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers held in Kuwait on 27 & 28 May 2015 – to review the latest developments in the peace process in Mali. The Contact Group reiterated its full respect of Mali's sovereignty and territorial integrity...

28/05/2015

[OIC CONTACT GROUP PRAISES ROHINGYA MUSLIMS SPECIAL ENVOY'S EFFORTS, URGES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO FULFILL ITS HUMANITARIAN COMMITMENTS AND RESTORE ROHINGYA RIGHTS](#)

The OIC Ministerial Contact Group on the Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar held a meeting today Wednesday 27 May 2015 on the sideline of the 42nd Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers taking place in Kuwait...

28/05/2015

[OIC continues to Mobilize Efforts for Political and Humanitarian Assistance to Rohingya Refugees](#)

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is mobilizing its resources to address the political and humanitarian aspects of the ongoing crisis facing the boat people in the Andaman Sea and Straits of Malacca adrift on the high seas, as part of its long standing campaign in support of the persecuted Muslim minority in Myanmar...

24/05/2015

Group of 77 [to 30 May 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

UNCTAD [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

World Trade Organisation [to 30 May 2015]

http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news_e.htm

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

[WTO launches dedicated website for new Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility](#)

27 May 2015

The WTO has launched a new website which will serve as a focal point for members, donors, and others seeking information on the new Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF).

Press release

[WTO issues 2015 Annual Report](#)

27 May 2015

The WTO published on 27 May the 2015 edition of the WTO Annual Report, covering WTO activities in 2014 and early 2015.

IMF [to 30 May 2015]

<http://www.imf.org/external/news/default.aspx>

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

No new digest content identified.

World Bank [to 30 May 2015]

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/all>

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

[World Bank Mobilizes US\\$248 Million to Support 2 Million Pastoralists in the Sahel](#)

The objectives of the project are to improve access to essential productive assets, services, and markets for pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in selected trans-border areas and along transhumance axes across six Sahel countries, and to strengthen country capacities to respond promptly and effectively to pastoral crises or emergencies.

Date: May 26, 2015 Type: Loans & Credits

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:: NGO/Collaborations/Initiatives Watch

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

Amref Health Africa [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Aravind Eye Care System [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

BRAC [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

CARE International [to 30 May 2015]

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

[CARE International Believes High Ambition Needed in Bonn](#)

GLOBAL

29 May 2015

Governments in Bonn need to get down to the nuts and bolts of preparing a fair and ambitious global climate deal if the world is to truly get a successful result just six months from now at the UN COP21 climate talks in Paris this December.

[Malnutrition Rates Reach Critical Levels as South Sudan Faces Further Food Crisis](#)

SOUTH SUDAN

27 May 2015

Across South Sudan, more than 3.8 million people were unable to meet their food needs in April. The figure is expected to rise to 4.6 million by July, according to the latest results of the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC).

Danish Refugee Council [to 30 May 2015]

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

[Pressing needs for 54,000 displaced from Ramadi region](#) (26.05.15)

Close to 54,000 people from the western Iraq province of Anbar where the Islamic State militants have captured the provincial capital, Ramadi, last week, remain vulnerable and need food, water and...

[DRC a key player in a crisis-ridden world](#) (26.05.15)

Danish Refugee Council's annual report for 2014 is now available. Read Secretary General, Andreas Kamm's statement and download the full report

Casa Alianza [to 30 May 2015]

Covenant House [to 30 May 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

ECPAT [to 30 May 2015]

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

[ECPAT e-bulletin](#)

26 May 2015

Fountain House [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Handicap International [to 30 May 2015]

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

[KOBANI: "BEYOND OUR WORST NIGHTMARES"](#)

Posted on May 27, 2015 12:01 AM

Takoma Park, MD—Handicap International mine action experts have assessed the beleaguered city of Kobani, Syria, in April, and discovered an alarming level of unexploded ordnance contamination. Four months of combat, including ground fighting and coalition air strikes, left an average of 10 munitions per square meter in the city center, and destroyed nearly 80% of buildings, [according to a Handicap International brief released today](#).

"What we saw in Kobani was beyond our worst nightmares: a significant part of the city is vastly destroyed and unexploded weapons contamination of all kinds have reached a density and diversity that has hardly ever been witnessed before," said Frédéric Maio, Handicap International's Mine Action Program Development Manager. "The unexploded devices and booby traps pose a daily threat to the people who fled Kobani and are now trying to return home. This explosive pollution will make it impossible for people to reconstruct their lives, and blocks access to several areas. It also prevents humanitarian organizations from operating safely and providing the necessary support to this vulnerable population."...

Heifer International [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

HelpAge International [to 30 May 2015]

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

[Launch of new nutritional project to support hard-hit older people in South Sudan](#)

On Wednesday, 27 May 2015 HelpAge International and its partner Islamic Relief launch a three year programme in Juba, South Sudan to support badly malnourished older people in Warrap State.

Posted: 27 May 2015

International Rescue Committee [to 30 May 2015]

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

27 May 2015

[IRC President David Miliband's Harvard Kennedy School commencement address, May 27, 2015](#)

ICRC [to 30 May 2015]

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

[South Africa: ICRC and SADC sign memorandum of understanding](#)

[News release](#)

29 May 2015

Pretoria (ICRC) – The ICRC and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) have recently concluded a memorandum of understanding that will strengthen relations between them and improve coordination of their activities.

[Lebanon: Meeting the need for water](#)

News release

29 May 2015

Beirut (ICRC) – The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will inaugurate three water projects in the Bekaa valley, in eastern Lebanon, today. The projects were carried out in cooperation with the Bekaa Water Establishment (BWE).

[Yemen: Local ceasefires are a rare chance to save lives](#)

News release

28 May 2015

[ICRC president calls on EU to up humanitarian efforts for world's most pressing crises](#)

News release

27 May 2015

Brussels (ICRC) – The president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Peter Maurer has called on the EU to up its humanitarian efforts to help stabilize swathes of the Middle East and Africa gripped by crisis. He also called upon governments to embrace the urgent humanitarian imperative in their response to the Mediterranean migration crisis, itself fuelled by conflict and instability in countries of origin.

[Philippines: Promoting international standards among senior police officers](#)

27-05-2015 | News release

To enrich their understanding of international policing standards and international humanitarian law, around 20 senior officers of the ...

[Georgia: Regional conference on "ambiguous loss" theory gathers experts in Tbilisi](#)

A conference exploring ambiguous loss – a phenomenon that affects the relatives of people who go missing, often in conflict ...

26-05-2015 | News release

[Red Cross Red Crescent Mediterranean Platform on Migration calls to stop labelling people on the move as 'illegal'](#)

San Marino/Geneva, 26 May 2015: National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies from ...

26-05-2015 | News release

[Niger: Thousands displaced from Lake Chad islands](#)

Niamey/Geneva (ICRC) – The situation is deteriorating in Diffa in Niger, just across the border from north-eastern Nigeria. The International Committee of the ...

26-05-2015 | News release

[South Sudan: Desperate humanitarian situation in Leer](#)

Residents slowly returning to the South Sudanese town of Leer, in the aftermath of fighting in and around the town last week, say they have little or no ...

25-05-2015 | News release

IRCT [to 30 May 2015]

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

Statements & declarations

[IRCT calls on Russia to investigate expulsion of member centre's staff](#)

27 May 2015

The IRCT, representing the global movement of 144 torture rehabilitation centres worldwide, is deeply concerned by reports that staff from IRCT member Danish Institute Against Torture (DIGNITY) have been fined and expelled from Russia, during a visit to another IRCT member, Russian human rights organisation, Committee Against Torture (NGO CAT).

Last week, the three DIGNITY representatives were in Russia to provide technical assistance on trauma rehabilitation and prevention of torture to NGO CAT when the Federal Migration Service detained them on the grounds that they were in violation of Russian visa regulations...

News

[A Decade of Trauma Treatment and Human Rights Work in Iraq](#)

On the occasion of its 10th anniversary, the [Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights](#) urges the Iraqi government to enhance rehabilitation services for survivors of human rights abuses.

After ten years of successful non-profit work, the Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights thanks its national and international supporters and calls on the Iraqi government to strengthen local NGOs, to invest in improved mental health services and to adequately assist survivors of violence...

Islamic Relief [to 30 May 2015]

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

[Why humanitarian intervention in MENA must change](#)

May 26, 2015

The Middle East and North Africa region, the cradle of peace and civilization, is in a profound state of tumult. Conflict and insecurity have created staggering socio-economic consequences. This now calls for a whole new approach to humanitarian aid and development, says Dr Mohamed Ashmawey, CEO of Islamic Relief Worldwide.

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières [to 30 May 2015]

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

Press Releases

[Kenya: Medical Care Suspended in Refugee Camp Amid Escalating Insecurity](#)

May 28, 2015

NAIROBI/NEW YORK—Increasing violence in northeastern Kenya has forced the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) to evacuate several of its employees from the Dadaab refugee camp and to suspend some medical activities there, depriving Somali refugees living there of much-needed care, MSF announced today.

[Governments Take Decisive Step Towards More Affordable Vaccines](#)

May 26, 2015

GENEVA—Governments meeting in Geneva for the annual World Health Assembly raised the alarm today on the exorbitant rise in the price to vaccinate a child, and took a decisive step towards addressing the problem by passing a resolution that called for more affordable vaccines and greater transparency of vaccine prices.

Field news

[New Wave of Refugees Fleeing Violence in South Sudan Arrives in Ethiopia](#)

May 27, 2015

Intense, ongoing fighting between warring parties in [South Sudan](#) has forced hundreds of thousands of civilians to flee from a conflict that has already displaced more than two million people. Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and other international aid organizations have been forced to suspend relief operations in some war-affected areas of South Sudan, leaving civilians without lifesaving aid.

Field news

[Cholera Outbreak Among Burundi Refugees in Tanzania](#)

May 25, 2015

A cholera outbreak has struck overcrowded camps where thousands of Burundian refugees are gathering in Tanzania. According to the World Health Organization, 31 people have died of the disease and more than 3,000 acute diarrhea cases have been reported among the refugees. In collaboration with local authorities, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is opening rehydration points and cholera treatment centers in Kagunga and Kigoma camps.

Mercy Corps [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Operation Smile [to 30 May 2015]

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

[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 30 May 2015]

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

[Two-thirds of people in conflict-hit Yemen without clean water](#)

26 May 2015

Ongoing airstrikes, ground fighting and fuel shortages mean that an additional 3 million Yemenis are now without drinking water – raising the total number of Yemenis without a clean water supply and sanitation to at least 16 million – almost two-thirds of the population.

[Burundi refugee crisis: Funds urgently needed as Tanzania camp numbers swell](#)

25 May 2015

The influx of 70,000 Burundian refugees to Tanzania is overstressing the capacity of the government of Tanzania and aid agencies to respond, as emergency aid workers struggle to meet the urgent demands of providing clean water, shelter and food to new arrivals.

[Oxfam reaching Nepal's most isolated in a race against the monsoon](#)

25 May 2015

One month on since the first earthquake hit Nepal, Oxfam is working with mountain guides and porters to deliver lifesaving aid to the most remote communities before the imminent monsoon hits the country. Mountain guides and porters are assisting Oxfam with its relief delivery in the Gorkha district, one of the worst hit by the earthquake.

Norwegian Refugee Council

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

Central African Republic

[Avoid past mistakes](#)

Tiril Skarstein (26.05.2015)

"There are some glimmers of hope in the Central African Republic, but the fundamental problems remain. We cannot repeat the mistake of pulling out too soon", argued Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council, Jan Egeland.

Partners In Health [to 30 May 2015]

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

May 29, 2015

[Conjoined Twin Sisters Successfully Separated in Haiti](#)

On Friday, May 22, history was made at University Hospital (HUM) in Mirebalais, Haiti. Just two days before they turned six months, Marian and Michelle Bernal were successfully separated following a seven-hour-long procedure that required the collaboration of HUM staff with a team of national and international surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, and other specialists. They are now reunited with their healthy triplet sister, Tamar.

May 28, 2015

[New Maternity Ward Ensures Safe Delivery](#)

Malawi's Neno District Hospita

PATH [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Plan International [to 30 May 2015]

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

[Nepal: Getting children back in the classroom a priority](#)

29/05/2015

As schools resume on 31 May, education needs still remain for thousands of children in earthquake-affected areas

29 May 2015: As schools in Nepal are set to officially reopen on 31 May, Plan International is prioritising education and urging the rapid construction of temporary learning centres in order to get all children in Nepal, including those most marginalised, back to school as soon as possible.

With more than 25,000 classrooms destroyed and an additional 10,000 classrooms needing repair, Plan International has built temporary learning centres in some of the worst-affected

areas, along with providing more than 1,200 education kits (which include a school bag and classroom supplies) and training teachers, to ensure that children can resume their education...

[Stigmas surrounding menstruation detrimental to girls' futures](#)

28/05/2015

Menstrual Health Day, 28 May 2015: Stigmas surrounding menstruation are having a detrimental impact on girls' futures, says child rights organisation Plan International, as the world marks Menstrual Hygiene Day today.

For 2 billion women and girls worldwide, menstruation is a monthly reality. Yet in many low-income countries, women and girls still face serious challenges when it comes to managing their periods.

According to a study from the UN, one out of three girls in South Asia knew nothing about menstruation prior to getting it, while 48% of girls in Iran and 10% of girls in India believe menstruation is a disease...

Save The Children [to 30 May 2015]

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

[Nepal: Damaged or Destroyed Schools Threaten Return of One Million Children](#)

May 31, 2015

... "Save the Children firmly believes that education cannot stop because of an emergency. We know that in times of crisis, providing children with an education allows them the opportunity to recover from what has happened not just restart their learning. As such, we are eager to get children into the classroom but know that it is crucial they also feel safe," says Delilah Borja, country director at Save the Children Nepal.

"We have already established 32 temporary learning centers in some of the communities most-affected by the earthquake of April 25, and will build a further 670 in the coming months.

"We are aware that the longer children are out of school, the harder it is for them to return and that is why we will continue to do all we can to get children back into education," she adds. Save the Children is providing essential learning materials to schools as well as training to teachers on how to ensure that the school environment is safe and how to help traumatized children recover from their experiences...

[South Sudan: Threat of Child Malnutrition Soars as 'Lean Season' Approaches](#)

May 29, 2015

[Newborns at Risk In Nepal as Monsoon Season Approaches](#)

May 26, 2015

SOS-Kinderdorf International [to 30 May 2015]

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

[SOS to help 450 unaccompanied Syrian children through new European Commission project](#)

29.05.2015 - A new project in Northern Syria run by SOS Children's Villages and financed by the European Commission will provide complete care for hundreds of unaccompanied children and reunification services to reunite them with their families if possible.

Tostan [to 30 May 2015]
<http://www.tostan.org/latest-news>
No new digest content identified.

Women for Women International [to 30 May 2015]
<http://www.womenforwomen.org/press-releases>
No new digest content identified.

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ChildFund Alliance [to 30 May 2015]
<http://childfundalliance.org/>
No new digest content identified.

Disasters Emergency Committee [to 30 May 2015]
<http://www.dec.org.uk/press>
[Action Aid, Age International, British Red Cross, CAFOD, Care International, Christian Aid, Concern Worldwide, Islamic Relief, Oxfam, Plan UK, Save the Children, Tearfund and World Vision]
Nepal Earthquake Appeal
[Over half a million helped in first month since Nepal earthquake](#)
27/05/2015

The Elders [to 30 May 2015]
<http://theelders.org/news-media>
No new digest content identified.

END Fund [to 30 May 2015]
<http://www.end.org/news>
No new digest content identified.

GAVI [to 30 May 2015]
<http://www.gavialliance.org/library/news/press-releases/>
28 May 2015
[Oman commits US\\$ 3 million to support childhood immunisation](#)
First time pledge will enable Gavi to reach children with life-saving vaccines.

Global Fund [to 30 May 2015]
<http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/>
No new digest content identified.

Hilton Prize Laureates [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

InterAction

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

No new digest content identified.

Start Network [to 30 May 2015]

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

[Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies]

[Two new senior roles with Start in evidence and digital communications](#)

May 29, 2015

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

The Start Network is recruiting for two new roles to be based with the Start Team at Save the Children's office in London.

Head of Evidence

The first role will support the improvement of the impact of our humanitarian interventions by developing and supporting consistent, coherent and practical MEAL tools and approaches.

This role would suit a leader in a space of practice that is bounded by the following terms: monitoring, evaluation, learning, feedback, evidence, information management, humanitarian financing, capacity building and systems.

A key responsibility will be to collaborate with the Start Fund, Build/DEPP MEL teams and MEL teams for longer-term programmatic delivery in providing strategic direction and leading edge thinking to the monitoring, evaluation and learning frameworks and to be an ombudsman for the Network in ensuring buy-in and delivery by all its Members...

Head of Digital and Member Communication

This role will support the development of information systems and digital architecture for a dispersed and growing network of international humanitarian NGOs. The successful candidate will identify and implement solutions for the information systems needs of the central Start Team and its service delivery teams, for example in Fund, DEPP and MEL. They will work alongside the Start Network Head of Communications...

Muslim Charities Forum [to 30 May 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

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Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) [to 30 May 2015]

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

CHS International Alliance

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

18 March 2015

:: Humanitarian Practice Network (HPN) [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

:: People In Aid [to 30 May 2015]

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

[HOPE Masters programme - call for applications](#)

(26 May 2015)

People In Aid is partnering with ASVI Social Change Non-profit School of Management for the second year running on their HOPE (Humanitarian Operations in Emergencies) programme where students learn about managing projects and people, as well as administration & logistics in the field. Applications are open for participants who wish to enroll in the 2016 programme.

EHLRA/R2HC [to 30 May 2015]

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

[R2HC 3rd Call – webinar invite](#)

28.05.2015

Are you keen to conduct research exploring public health practice in humanitarian crises? Do you know of public health interventions that could be adapted and made effective in a humanitarian...

Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

ODI [to 30 May 2015]

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

[What if growth had been as good for the poor as everyone else?](#)

Research reports and studies

28 May 2015

World leaders are set to endorse an ambitious set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015. Proposed targets aim to, among other things, eliminate extreme income poverty (\$1.25 a day) by 2030 and ensure that the bottom 40% of the distribution experiences higher than average growth. Although extreme poverty has fallen considerably over the last thirty years, it persists at unacceptably high levels and inequality within many countries has risen. More equally distributed growth could reduce poverty further, in addition to having other positive spill-over effects.

Numerous projections have suggested that the world could come close to eliminating extreme poverty by 2030. However they tend to assume that growth will be shared equally by all people, regardless of where they are located in the income distribution. This report interrogates this assumption. It considers the implications of growth in which the bottom 40% of the population shares equally or more, taking a retrospective view.

Pdf: <http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9655.pdf>

[Means of implementation and the global partnership for sustainable development: what's in it for emerging economies?](#)

Research reports and studies

28 May 2015

The new set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is navigating the uncharted territory of defining a workable universal development agenda that will apply to all countries. Emerging economies (EMEs) will play a pivotal role in the implementation of this new global agenda. This paper examines the position of four of the most influential EMEs – Brazil, China, India and South Africa, outlining what they stand to gain or lose from a series of issues that require global action and that are fundamental for the successful implementation of the SDGs.

We focus our analysis on six selected issues: global finance, technology transfer, trade, climate change, sustainable consumption and production and global governance.

Pdf: <http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9654.pdf>

[Revitalising evidence-based policy for the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030: lessons from existing international science partnerships](#)

Journal articles or issues | May 2015 | Elizabeth Carabine

Science is to be included as a core aspect of the Post-2015 Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, although the ways in which this will occur in practice is unclear. We address this by examining a number of existing international science mechanisms used across other...

[Downloads](#)

[Exploring spaces for economic transformation in the Sustainable Development Goals](#)

Research reports and studies | May 2015 | Yurendra Basnett, Debapriya Bhattacharya

The Sustainable Development Goals are bringing the spotlight back to economic development issues. While maintaining the social pillar and adding a focus on the environment, it is expected that the SDGs will promote economic transformation.

The Sphere Project [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP) [to 30 May 2015]

<https://phap.org/>

No new digest content identified.

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:: Foundation/Major Donor Watch

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

BMGF (Gates Foundation) [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Clinton Foundation [to 30 May 2015]

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

Press Releases

[Fifth Annual Clinton Global Initiative America Meeting to Convene June 8-10 in Denver](#)

May 29, 2015

New York — President Bill Clinton and Clinton Foundation Vice Chair Chelsea Clinton will host the fifth Clinton Global Initiative America (CGI America) meeting June 8-10 in Denver, Colorado, convening leaders ...

[Clinton Climate Initiative Partners with Rocky Mountain Institute and Carbon War Room to Advance Renewable Energy in Caribbean Island-Nations](#)

May 29, 2015

The Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI), an initiative of the Clinton Foundation, today announced its official partnership with Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and Carbon War Room (CWR) in promoting a transition to renewable energy and energy-efficiency solutions in the Caribbean region.

Blog

[A Message from President Clinton](#)

29 May 2015

Chelsea and I recently returned from a trip to Africa where we saw the results of the work that you support through the Clinton Foundation. We make this trip almost every year to see the work our Foundation, the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), and CGI partners do, and the people we're able to help.

As you all know, it's the political season in America, so the purpose and impact of the efforts your support makes possible has largely been ignored in recent coverage of the Foundation. But we are and always have been a non-partisan, inclusive foundation with lots of support from and involvement by people across the political spectrum and governments from right to left, all committed to our creative solutions-centered work. That's why I am writing to you and our hundreds of thousands of other supporters in the U.S. and around the world to let you know how grateful I am for your support, and for our staff and our partners, and how determined I am that our work will continue.

Next week, Donna Shalala will join the Foundation as President and CEO. She will inherit a senior leadership who have years of experience in the NGO and private sectors, and a talented, dedicated, diverse staff, all deeply committed to keep doing the kind of inspiring work we saw in Africa. We will also continue to look for ways to improve our reporting systems so that we

can operate as accurately, efficiently, and transparently as possible – a goal to which we have been committed since day one.

I started the Clinton Foundation when I left the White House to continue working on issues I had long cared about, where I believed I could still make an impact. I grew up believing that if I worked hard enough I could build a rewarding life, and entered public service to create more opportunities for others and to empower them to seize those opportunities – or as we say, to have better life stories. That same purpose has driven our work at the Clinton Foundation – whether we're helping smallholder farmers in Africa increase their yields or supporting women entrepreneurs in Latin America as they build better lives for their families.

From the very beginning, the Clinton Foundation has intentionally taken a different approach to addressing global challenges. Except to spur recovery in the aftermath of disasters like the South Asian tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, and, over a longer period, in Haiti, we don't primarily make grants to other organizations. Instead, we implement and organize projects ourselves by bringing partners together, including governments, businesses, labor unions, philanthropies, other NGOs, and the people we're trying to help, and join them on the ground to solve problems faster, better, and at lower cost. We strive for innovative approaches to problem solving that are sustainable and yield strong results. With each of our initiatives, we try both to change lives today and offer a model for meaningful and replicable future action. The best way to do that usually starts with forming inclusive networks of all stakeholders. We incorporate data and metrics into the Foundation's work and encourage others to help scale-up or replicate our successful projects wherever they can touch more lives.

My work with the Clinton Foundation over the past 14 years has been one of the most rewarding endeavors of my life, as every day I see how, with your support, our programs change lives. While in Africa, I met many of the people we're helping build better futures, provide for their families, and strengthen their communities. Their lives tell the real stories of the Clinton Foundation, and they are worth hearing.

In Tanzania, I visited Wazia Chawala. She is a farmer and a single mother raising seven children. She is also one of 85,000 people in Tanzania, Malawi, and Rwanda participating in our Clinton Development Initiative's Anchor Farm program. The program operates commercial farms and partners with local smallholder farmers to provide them with access to high-quality, low-cost seed and fertilizer, training in improved agricultural techniques, and transportation to market. Participants have more than doubled their yields on average, increased their incomes by even greater margins, and dramatically improved their quality of life. When I met Wazia, she told me how her increased productivity has helped her improve her home and keep her seven children in school. She is forging her own path out of poverty with a system that is life-changing, sustainable, and replicable. What is working for 85,000 farmers could work for millions.

In Tanzania, I also visited a dispensary run by CHAI that is helping to make life-saving vaccines more affordable and readily available to people in rural areas, where 70 percent of the country's people live. In addition to negotiating price reductions for the pneumonia and rotavirus vaccines, CHAI is using innovative solar-powered refrigerators to preserve the vaccines – which are only effective when stored in cool temperatures – in the remote areas of the country that lack electricity. I met with several mothers who have had their children vaccinated through the

program, which is saving 11,000 lives annually, including one woman who walked twelve miles to get her baby vaccinated for the first time. Stories like that are why I started this work, and why I am more committed than ever to continuing it.

As I often say, there can be a big difference between the headlines and the trend lines. We mostly hear about the headlines – but the trend lines can tell us more about what is happening in most people's lives. When I look at what the Foundation has accomplished over the last 14 years, I believe we are helping to move the trend lines in the right direction. 9.9 million people in more than 70 countries now have access to low-cost, life-saving HIV/AIDS medicines through the Clinton Health Access Initiative; 16 million kids in more than 28,000 schools in the U.S. now have healthier food and more physical activity options; and members of the Clinton Global Initiative have made 3,200 commitments that have already improved 430 million lives in more than 180 countries.

That's the real story of the Clinton Foundation – people coming together across traditional divides to help others live up to their full potential. We are grateful that you have been a part of it.

We'll keep trying to reach our goals faster, better, and in the most cost-effective way. We'll continue to strive for accuracy and transparency and, most important, keep working on the mission and measuring our progress every step of the way. That commitment to impact, innovation, and efficiency is what you expect from us, and what we want to deliver for years to come.

Thank you for your support of the Clinton Foundation. Together, we can build a future we can all be proud to share.

I encourage you to visit clintonfoundation.org/our-work to learn more about the way the Clinton Foundation works and our life-changing programs around the world.

Editor's Note: Given the above blog content, we include below links to the latest of a continuing series of New York Times articles on the Clinton Foundation.

[Clinton Award Included Cash to Foundation](#)

New York Times, May 30, 2015 - By DEBORAH SONTAG - U.S. - Print Headline: "Clinton Award Included Cash to Foundation"

The former president of the United States agreed to accept a lifetime achievement award at the June 2014 event after Ms. Nemcova offered a \$500,000 contribution...

Ford Foundation [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Kellogg Foundation [to 30 May 2015]

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

["The Business Case for Racial Equity in Michigan" report released](#)

BATTLE CREEK, MICH. – The Altarum Institute and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) today released a report, ["The Business Case for Racial Equity in Michigan,"](#) that details the cost of failing to address the legacy of racism in the state, and the benefits to children, families and communities of advancing racial equity, including a potential increase in the state's GDP.

MacArthur Foundation [to 30 May 2015]

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

[MacArthur Announces 20 Jurisdictions to Receive Funding to Reduce Jail Use](#)

May 26, 2015 - [Press Release](#)

The grants are a part of the Safety and Justice Challenge, the Foundation's \$75 million initiative to reduce over-incarceration by changing the way America thinks about and uses jails.

Open Society Foundation [to 30 May 2015]

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

[The Way Forward on Immigration Reform](#)

May 28, 2015 Press Release

We believe President Obama's executive actions on immigration are constitutional and backed by precedent. For these reasons, the Open Society Foundations will make an initial investment of \$8 million to support his efforts.

David and Lucile Packard Foundation [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Pew Charitable Trusts [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Rockefeller Foundation [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Wellcome Trust [to 30 May 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

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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>

[New issue; No relevant content]

American Journal of Preventive Medicine

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

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

[New issue; No new digest content identified]

American Journal of Public Health

Volume 105, Issue 6 (June 2015)

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

[New issue; No new digest content identified]

American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

May 2015; 92 (5)

<http://www.ajtmh.org/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

BMC Health Services Research

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

(Accessed 30 May 2015)

Research article

[Making health insurance pro-poor: evidence from a household panel in rural China](#)

Mateusz Filipski, Yumei Zhang, Kevin Chen BMC Health Services Research 2015, 15:210 (29 May 2015)

Abstract

Background

In 2002, China launched the largest public health insurance scheme in the world, the New Cooperative Medical Scheme (NCMS). It is intended to enable rural populations to access health care services, and to curb medical impoverishment. Whether the scheme can reach its equity goals depends on how it is used, and by whom. Our goal is to shed light on whether and how income levels affect the ability of members to reap insurance benefits.

Methods

We exploit primary panel data consisting of a complete census (over 3500 individuals) in three villages in Puding County, Guizhou province, collected in 2004, 2006, 2009 and 2011. Data was collected during in-person interviews with household member(s). The data include yearly gross and net medical expenses for all individuals, and socio-economic information. We apply probit, ordinary least squares, and tobit multivariate regression analyses to the three waves in which NCMS was active (2006, 2009 and 2011). Explained variables include obtainment, levels and rates of NCMS reimbursement. Household income is the main explanatory variable, with household- and individual-level controls. We restrict samples to rule out self-selection, and exploit the 2009 NCMS reform to highlight equity-enhancing features of insurance.

Results

Prior to 2009 reforms, higher income in our sample was statistically significantly related to higher probability of obtaining reimbursement, as well as higher levels and rates of reimbursement. These relations all disappear after the reform, suggesting lower-income households were better able to reap insurance benefits after the scheme was reformed. Regression results suggest this is partly explained by reimbursement for chronic diseases.

Conclusions

The post-reform NCMS distributed benefits more equitably in our study area. Making health insurance pro-poor may require a focus on outpatient costs, credit constraints and chronic diseases, rather than catastrophic illnesses.

BMC Infectious Diseases

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

(Accessed 30 May 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Medical Ethics

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

(Accessed 30 May 2015)

Debate

[Research partnerships between high and low-income countries: are international partnerships always a good thing?](#)

John D Chetwood, Nimzing G Ladep, Simon D Taylor-Robinson BMC Medical Ethics 2015, 16:36 (28 May 2015)

Abstract

Background

International partnerships in research are receiving ever greater attention, given that technology has diminished the restriction of geographical barriers with the effects of globalisation becoming more evident, and populations increasingly more mobile.

Discussion

In this article, we examine the merits and risks of such collaboration even when strict universal ethical guidelines are maintained. There has been widespread examples of outcomes beneficial and detrimental for both high and low –income countries which are often initially unintended.

Summary

The authors feel that extreme care and forethought should be exercised by all involved parties, despite the fact that many implications from such international work can be extremely hard to predict. However ultimately the benefits gained by enhancing medical research and philanthropy are too extensive to be ignored

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

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

(Accessed 30 May 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Public Health

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

(Accessed 30 May 2015)

Research article

[Effects of cash transfers on Children's health and social protection in Sub-Saharan Africa: differences in outcomes based on orphan status and household assets](#)

Thomas Crea, Andrew Reynolds, Aakanksha Sinha, Jeffrey Eaton, Laura Robertson, Phyllis Mushati, Lovemore Dumba, Gideon Mavise, J. Makoni, Christina Schumacher, Constance Nyamukapa, Simon Gregson BMC Public Health 2015, 15:511 (28 May 2015)

Abstract

Background

Unconditional and conditional cash transfer programmes (UCT and CCT) show potential to improve the well-being of orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS (OVC). We address the gap in current understanding about the extent to which household-based cash transfers differentially impact individual children's outcomes, according to risk or protective factors such as orphan status and household assets.

Methods

Data were obtained from a cluster-randomised controlled trial in eastern Zimbabwe, with random assignment to three study arms – UCT, CCT or control. The sample included 5,331 children ages 6-17 from 1,697 households. Generalized linear mixed models were specified to

predict OVC health vulnerability (child chronic illness and disability) and social protection (birth registration and 90% school attendance). Models included child-level risk factors (age, orphan status); household risk factors (adults with chronic illnesses and disabilities, greater household size); and household protective factors (including asset-holding). Interactions were systematically tested.

Results

Orphan status was associated with decreased likelihood for birth registration, and paternal orphans and children for whom both parents' survival status was unknown were less likely to attend school. In the UCT arm, paternal orphans fared better in likelihood of birth registration compared with non-paternal orphans. Effects of study arms on outcomes were not moderated by any other risk or protective factors. High household asset-holding was associated with decreased likelihood of child's chronic illness and increased birth registration and school attendance, but household assets did not moderate the effects of cash transfers on risk or protective factors.

Conclusion

Orphaned children are at higher risk for poor social protection outcomes even when cared for in family-based settings. UCT and CCT each produced direct effects on children's social protection which are not moderated by other child- and household-level risk factors, but orphans are less likely to attend school or obtain birth registration. The effects of UCT and CCT are not moderated by asset-holding, but greater household assets predict greater social protection outcomes. Intervention efforts need to focus on ameliorating the additional risk burden carried by orphaned children. These efforts might include caregiver education, and additional incentives based on efforts made specifically for orphaned children.

BMC Research Notes

(Accessed 30 May 2015)

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

British Medical Journal

30 May 2015(vol 350, issue 8010)

<http://www.bmj.com/content/350/8010>

[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 5, May 2015, 285-360

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Chronicle of Philanthropy

May 4, 2015 Volume 27, Issue 9

<https://philanthropy.com/issue>

[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 30 May 2015]

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

[No new relevant content identified]

Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation

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

(Accessed 30 May 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

Developing World Bioethics

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Development in Practice

Volume 25, Issue 4, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cdip20/current> [Reviewed earlier]

[Reviewed earlier]

Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology

Volume 10, Number 4 (July 2015)

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

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

Guest Editors – Mark Harniss and Deepti Samant Raja

Editorial

[Assistive technology access and service delivery in resource-limited environments: introduction to a special issue of Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology](#)

July 2015, Vol. 10, No. 4 , Pages 267-270 (doi:10.3109/17483107.2015.1039607)

[Mark Harniss, Deepti Samant Raja, and Rebecca Matter](#)

1Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA, 2Burton Blatt Institute, Syracuse University, Washington, DC, USA, 3Center for Technology and Disability Studies, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA, and 4School of Public Health and Family Medicine, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Abstract

This special issue addresses access to and service delivery of assistive technology (AT) in resource-limited environments (RLEs). Access to AT is complicated not simply by limited funds to purchase AT, but by larger ecosystem weaknesses in RLEs related to legislation and policy, supply, distribution, human resources, consumer demand and accessible design. We present eight diverse articles that address various aspects of the AT ecosystem. These articles represent a wide range of AT, many different countries and different research methods. Our goal is to highlight a topic that has received scant research investigation and limited investment in international development efforts, and offer an insight into how different countries and programs are promoting access to AT. We encourage researchers, funders and non-profit organizations to invest additional effort and resources in this area.

Users' perspectives on the provision of assistive technologies in Bangladesh: awareness, providers, costs and barriers

Johan Borg, Per-Olof Östergren

Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology Jul 2015, Vol. 10, No. 4: 301–308.

Comparison between performances of three types of manual wheelchairs often distributed in low-resource settings

Karen Rispin, Joy Wee

Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology Jul 2015, Vol. 10, No. 4: 316–322.

The use of mobile devices as assistive technology in resource-limited environments: access for learners with visual impairments in Kenya

Alan R. Foley, Joanna O. Masingila

Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology Jul 2015, Vol. 10, No. 4: 332–339.

Using SMS as a tool to reduce exclusions experienced by caregivers of people with disabilities in a resource-limited Colombian community

Tim Barlott, Kim Adams, Francene Rodríguez Díaz, Mónica Mendoza Molina

Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology Jul 2015, Vol. 10, No. 4: 347–354.

Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness

Volume 9 - Issue 02 - April 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Disasters

April 2015 Volume 39, Issue 2 Pages 185–405

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Emergency Medicine Journal

May 2015, Volume 32, Issue 5

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Epidemics

Volume 11, In Progress (June 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

End of Life Journal

2015, Volume 5, Issue 1

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

[No relevant content identified]

Epidemiology and Infection

Volume 143 - Issue 08 - June 2015

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

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.

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)

March 2015 | Volume 3 | Issue 1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Global Health Governance

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

[Accessed 30 May 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 30 May 2015]

Research

[Tracking Global Fund HIV/AIDS resources used for sexual and reproductive health service integration: case study from Ethiopia](#)

Mookherji S, Ski S and Huntington D Globalization and Health 2015, 11:21 (27 May 2015)

Abstract (provisional)

Objective/Background

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria (GF) strives for high value for money, encouraging countries to integrate synergistic services and systems strengthening to maximize investments. The GF needs to show how, and how much, its grants support more than just HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria. Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) has been part of HIV/AIDS grants since 2007. Previous studies showed the GF PBF system does not allow resource tracking for SRH integration within HIV/AIDS grants. We present findings from a resource tracking case study using primary data collected at country level.

Methods

Ethiopia was the study site. We reviewed data from four HIV/AIDS grants from January 2009-June 2011 and categorized SDAs and activities as directly, indirectly, or not related to SRH integration. Data included: GF PBF data; financial, performance, in-depth interview and facility observation data from Ethiopia.

Results

All HIV/AIDS grants in Ethiopia support SRH integration activities (12-100%). Using activities within SDAs, expenditures directly supporting SRH integration increased from 25% to 66% for the largest HIV/AIDS grant, and from 21% to 34% for the smaller PMTCT-focused grant. Using SDAs to categorize expenditures underestimated direct investments in SRH integration; activity-based categorization is more accurate. The important finding is that primary data collection could not resolve the limitations in using GF GPR data for resource tracking. The remedy is to require existing activity-based budgets and expenditure reports as part of PBF reporting requirements, and make them available in the grant portfolio database. The GF should do this quickly, as it is a serious shortfall in the GF guiding principle of transparency.

Conclusions

Showing high value for money is important for maximizing impact and replenishments. The Global Fund should routinely track HIV/AIDS grant expenditures to disease control, service integration, and overall health systems strengthening. The current PBF system will not allow this. Real-time expenditure analysis could be achieved by integrating existing activity-based financial data into the routine PBF system. The GF's New Funding Model and the 2012-2016 strategy present good opportunities for over-hauling the PBF system to improve transparency and allow the GF to monitor and maximize value for money.

Health Affairs

May 2015; Volume 34, Issue 5

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Health and Human Rights

Volume 16, Issue 2 December 2014

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

Papers in Press: Special Issue on Health Rights Litigation

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Economics, Policy and Law

Volume 10 - Issue 03 - July 2015

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

The impact of Universal Health Coverage on health care consumption and risky behaviours: evidence from Thailand

Simone Ghislandi, Wanwiphang Manachotphong and Viviana M.E. Perego

Health Economics, Policy and Law / Volume 10 / Issue 03 / July 2015, pp 251 - 266

Abstract

Thailand is among the first non-OECD countries to have introduced a form of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). This policy represents a natural experiment to evaluate the effects of public health insurance on health behaviours. In this paper, we examine the impact of Thailand's UHC

programme on preventive activities, unhealthy or risky behaviours and health care consumption using data from the Thai Health and Welfare Survey. We use doubly robust estimators that combine propensity scores and linear regressions to estimate differences-in-differences (DD) and differences-in-DD models. Our results offer important insights. First, UHC increases individuals' likelihood of having an annual check-up, especially among women. Regarding health care consumption, we observe that UHC increases hospital admissions by over 2% and increases outpatient visits by 13%. However, there is no evidence that UHC leads to an increase in unhealthy behaviours or a reduction of preventive efforts. In other words, we find no evidence of ex ante moral hazard. Overall, these findings suggest positive health impacts among the Thai population covered by UHC.

Health Policy and Planning

Volume 30 Issue 5 June 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Research Policy and Systems

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

[Accessed 30 May 2015]

Research

[The role of policy actors and contextual factors in policy agenda setting and formulation: maternal fee exemption policies in Ghana over four and a half decades](#)

Augustina Koduah, Han van Dijk, Irene Agyepong Health Research Policy and Systems 2015, 13:27 (30 May 2015)

Research

[Utilization of research findings for health policy making and practice: evidence from three case studies in Bangladesh](#)

David Walugembe, Suzanne Kiwanuka, Joseph Matovu, Elizeus Rutebemberwa, Laura Reichenbach Health Research Policy and Systems 2015, 13:26 (28 May 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 2, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Humanitarian Exchange Magazine

ISSUE 63 January 2015

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

The Typhoon Haiyan response

[Reviewed earlier]

IDRiM Journal

Vol 4, No 2 (2014)

<http://idrimjournal.com/index.php/idrim/issue/view/12>

[Reviewed earlier]

Infectious Diseases of Poverty

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

[Accessed 30 May 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 Resilience in the Built Environment

Volume 6 Issue 1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction

Volume 13, *In Progress* (September 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Infectious Diseases

June 2015 Volume 35, p1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Mass Emergencies & Disasters

March 2015 (VOL. 33, NO. 1)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology

Volume 22, Issue 3, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/tsdw20/current#.VSj2SpMw1hX>
[Reviewed earlier]

International Migration Review

Spring 2015 Volume 49, Issue 1 Pages 3–268

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

Intervention – Journal of Mental Health and Psychological Support in Conflict Affected Areas
March 2015 - Volume 13 - Issue 1 pp: 1-102

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

New Frontiers issue of Intervention

[Reviewed earlier]

JAMA

May 26, 2015, Vol 313, No. 20

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

JAMA Pediatrics

May 2015, Vol 169, No. 5

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

[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 1, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Infectious Diseases

Volume 211 Issue 11 June 1, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of International Development

May 2015 Volume 27, Issue 4 Pages 415–572

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jid.v27.4/issuetoc>
[Reviewed earlier]

The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics

Spring 2015 Volume 43, Issue 1 Pages 6–166

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

Journal of Medical Ethics

June 2015, Volume 41, Issue 6

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

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

May 30, 2015 Volume 385 Number 9983 p2121-2222

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

Comment

[African health leaders: claiming the future](#)

Agnes Binagwaho, Nigel Crisp

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)60934-5](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)60934-5)

Improving health in Africa is a team effort that involves many people from different backgrounds. The health gains made in recent years would not have been possible without the contribution of these people, national and global political will, and the support of development partners. All too often, however, the part played by Africans themselves has been overlooked or downplayed internationally in policy making and publications.

Comment

Offline: An irreversible change in global health governance

Richard Horton

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)60997-7](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)60997-7)

"We should have reacted sooner", was Angela Merkel's conclusion in her address to the World Health Assembly last week. She was speaking about Ebola, and she gave a sharp and public rebuke to WHO for its diffident performance. WHO's decentralised structure can be a powerful advantage, she said, but it "can also impede decision-making and hinder good functioning". Still, despite its weaknesses, "WHO is the only international organisation that enjoys universal political legitimacy on global health matters." It should be supported. Her assessment was backed by the Ebola Interim Assessment Panel, chaired by Barbara Stocking and whose first report was debated by WHO's member states the next day. Stocking and her team, which included, among others, Ilona Kickbusch and Julio Frenk, listed their concerns with compelling clarity. They expressed surprise that it took WHO so long to recognise what it would take to bring Ebola transmission under control. Why did repeated early warnings from May to July, 2014, fail to trigger the declaration of a Public Health Emergency of International Concern before Aug 8, 2014, the date when an emergency was finally announced? Why was WHO unable "to engage in a high-level media response with greater command over the narrative"? Why did WHO fail to seek appropriate support from other UN agencies and humanitarian organisations? Why did WHO fail to ensure it had the operational capacity and culture to manage a public health emergency response? Donors were not spared: WHO "suffers from a lack of political and financial commitment by its Member States". The Panel commented that "this [is] a defining moment for the work of WHO... 'Business as usual' or 'more of the same' is not an option." Stocking concluded that, "Now is the historic political moment for world leaders to give WHO new relevance and empower it to lead in global health."

Understandably, the Panel preferred to place responsibility on structures, not individuals. This is entirely correct. But structures are made up of individuals, and it is individuals who make decisions. There needs to be some serious soul-searching within the agency about who did what, when, and why it went wrong. The Lancet has felt resistance to these questions, in sometimes acutely hostile terms from WHO staff members. If WHO diagnoses the international response to Ebola as a collective failure and not as a failure of its own processes, procedures, and people, it risks sustaining the conditions that have led to this public health catastrophe for millions of west Africans. For example, it is surreal for WHO to say, as it did last week, that it has now heard what the world expects from the agency. Does this statement mean it was only when Ebola swept across west Africa that WHO woke up to an understanding of its global role? When WHO says that it will strengthen its command and control systems, does this statement mean that after six decades of experience in responding to health crises it needed Ebola to make the agency realise the importance of leadership? And can anyone take the statement that Ebola has accelerated reforms to the organisation seriously when the recent "WHO reform" programme is widely judged (internally and externally) to have delivered few tangible benefits to the agency's work?

Debates about Ebola and WHO's response (and future) certainly overwhelmed discussions in Geneva last week. But the most exciting moment was not in the Assembly Hall or Committees. Instead, it was in a small room in the Palais des Nations, and after hours too. For the first time in the history of WHO and its Assembly, a civil-society led forum was held to strengthen political accountability for global health—specifically, for women's and children's health. The White Ribbon Alliance, together with the Governments of Bangladesh and Sweden, convened the first Global Dialogue between Citizens and Governments. It was an historic moment. It built on National Citizen's Hearings held in over 20 countries. Examples from Indonesia and Tanzania were presented with informed passion. Indonesian and Namibian Ministers of Health spoke. This Global Dialogue signalled the beginning of a very different World Health Assembly. What took place last week was an irreversible change in the governance of global health—one in which civil society assumed a legitimate place in shaping the future of health. While WHO reflected (sometimes painfully) on its role and purpose, civil society found its voice. Mark this moment.

The Lancet Global Health

Jun 2015 Volume 3 Number 6 e297-e340

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

Comment

Global access to surgical care: moving forward

Evan G Wong, Dan L Deckelbaum, Tarek Razek

Open Access

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(15\)00004-2](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(15)00004-2)

Summary

Global surgical care is gaining ground on the public health platform. Throughout 2015–16, the World Bank is publishing the long-anticipated third edition of its Disease Control Priorities (DCP3). First published in 1993,¹ these reports aim to systematically identify effective interventions to address the disease burden in low-income and middle-income countries. For the first time since its inception, the DCP now includes a distinct volume on the value of surgical care. Volume 1—Essential Surgery²—focuses on the benefits of surgical care, including its potential to substantially decrease mortality while being exceptionally cost-effective; the issues of access to life-saving surgery, perioperative safety, and the inclusion of surgery in universal health coverage are also specifically addressed.

Comment

Health and sustainable development: a call for papers

Richard Horton, Zoë Mullan

Published Online: 30 April 2015

Open Access

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(15\)00002-9](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(15)00002-9)

Summary

In just under 5 months' time, the aspiration for the next 15 years of development efforts will be signed off at the UN General Assembly in New York, USA. These Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are already at an advanced stage of drafting—17 ambitious goals and 169 targets (panel), which have been criticised even by the UN General Secretary for being too voluminous.¹ Amid this multitude of outcomes, those pertaining to health are reduced from three Millennium Development Goals to one SDG. What does this mean for global health research?

Articles

Global access to surgical care: a modelling study

Blake C Alkire, MD*, Dr Nakul P Raykar, MD*, Mark G Shrimel, MD, Thomas G Weiser, MD, Prof Stephen W Bickler, MD, John A Rose, MD, Cameron T Nutt, BA, Sarah L M Greenberg, MD, Meera Kotagal, MD, Johanna N Riesel, MD, Micaela Esquivel, MD, Tarsicio Uribe-Leitz, MD, George Molina, MD, Prof Nobhojit Roy, MD, John G Meara, MD, Prof Paul E Farmer, MD, *

Published Online: 26 April 2015

Open Access

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(15\)70115-4](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(15)70115-4)

Summary

Background

More than 2 billion people are unable to receive surgical care based on operating theatre density alone. The vision of the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery is universal access to safe, affordable surgical and anaesthesia care when needed. We aimed to estimate the number of individuals worldwide without access to surgical services as defined by the Commission's vision.

Methods

We modelled access to surgical services in 196 countries with respect to four dimensions: timeliness, surgical capacity, safety, and affordability. We built a chance tree for each country to model the probability of surgical access with respect to each dimension, and from this we constructed a statistical model to estimate the proportion of the population in each country that does not have access to surgical services. We accounted for uncertainty with one-way sensitivity analyses, multiple imputation for missing data, and probabilistic sensitivity analysis.

Findings

At least 4·8 billion people (95% posterior credible interval 4·6–5·0 [67%, 64–70]) of the world's population do not have access to surgery. The proportion of the population without access varied widely when stratified by epidemiological region: greater than 95% of the population in south Asia and central, eastern, and western sub-Saharan Africa do not have access to care, whereas less than 5% of the population in Australasia, high-income North America, and western Europe lack access.

Interpretation

Most of the world's population does not have access to surgical care, and access is inequitably distributed. The near absence of access in many low-income and middle-income countries represents a crisis, and as the global health community continues to support the advancement of universal health coverage, increasing access to surgical services will play a central role in ensuring health care for all.

Funding

None.

The Lancet Infectious Diseases

May 2015 Volume 15 Number 5 p487-614

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Maternal and Child Health Journal

Volume 19, Issue 5, May 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10995/19/5/page/1>
[Reviewed earlier]

The Milbank Quarterly

A Multidisciplinary Journal of Population Health and Health Policy

March 2015 Volume 93, Issue 1 Pages 1–222

[http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1468-0009/currentissue](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1468-0009/currentissue)

[Reviewed earlier]

Nature

Volume 521 Number 7553 pp394-556 28 May 2015

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

New England Journal of Medicine

May 28, 2015 Vol. 372 No. 22

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly

June 2015; 44 (3)

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[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 4, No. 2 December 2014

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[Reviewed earlier]

Pediatrics

May 2015, VOLUME 135 / ISSUE 5

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

[Reviewed earlier]

PLOS Currents: Disasters

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

[Accessed 30 May 2015]

Political Leadership in the Time of Crises: Primum non Nocere

May 29, 2015 · Perspective

Long before the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, the United States was already experiencing a failure of confidence between politicians and scientists, primarily focused on

differences of opinion on climate extremes. This ongoing clash has culminated in an environment where politicians most often no longer listen to scientists. Importation of Ebola virus to the United States prompted an immediate political fervor over travel bans, sealing off borders and disputes over the reliability of both quarantine and treatment protocol. This demonstrated that evidenced- based scientific discourse risks taking a back seat to political hyperbole and fear. The role of public health and medical expertise should be to ensure that cogent response strategies, based upon good science and accumulated knowledge and experience, are put in place to help inform the development of sound public policy. But in times of crisis, such reasoned expertise and experience are too often overlooked in favor of the partisan press "sound bite", where fear and insecurity have proved to be severely counterproductive. While scientists recognize that science cannot be entirely apolitical, the lessons from the impact of Ebola on political discourse shows that there is need for stronger engagement of the scientific community in crafting messages required for response to such events. This includes the creation of moral and ethical standards for the press, politicians and scientists, a partnership of confidence between the three that does not now exist and an "elected officials" toolbox that helps to translate scientific evidence and experience into readily acceptable policy and public communication.

PLoS Currents: Outbreaks

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

(Accessed 30 May 2015)

[Surveillance of Acute Respiratory Infections Using Community-Submitted Symptoms and Specimens for Molecular Diagnostic Testing](#)

May 27, 2015 · [Research](#)

Participatory systems for surveillance of acute respiratory infection give real-time information about infections circulating in the community, yet to-date are limited to self-reported syndromic information only and lacking methods of linking symptom reports to infection types. We developed the GoViral platform to evaluate whether a cohort of lay volunteers could, and would find it useful to, contribute self-reported symptoms online and to compare specimen types for self-collected diagnostic information of sufficient quality for respiratory infection surveillance. Volunteers were recruited, given a kit (collection materials and customized instructions), instructed to report their symptoms weekly, and when sick with cold or flu-like symptoms, requested to collect specimens (saliva and nasal swab). We compared specimen types for respiratory virus detection sensitivity (via polymerase-chain-reaction) and ease of collection. Participants were surveyed to determine receptivity to participating when sick, to receiving information on the type of pathogen causing their infection and types circulating near them. Between December 1 2013 and March 1 2014, 295 participants enrolled in the study and received a kit. Of those who reported symptoms, half (71) collected and sent specimens for analysis. Participants submitted kits on average 2.30 days (95 CI: 1.65 to 2.96) after symptoms began. We found good concordance between nasal and saliva specimens for multiple pathogens, with few discrepancies. Individuals report that saliva collection is easiest and report that receiving information about what pathogen they, and those near them, have is valued and can shape public health behaviors. Community-submitted specimens can be used for the detection of acute respiratory infection with individuals showing receptivity for participating and interest in a real-time picture of respiratory pathogens near them.

PLoS Medicine

(Accessed 30 May 2015)

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

Seasonal Influenza Vaccination for Children in Thailand: A Cost-Effectiveness Analysis

Aronrag Meeyai, Naiyana Praditsitthikorn, Surachai Kotirum, Wantanee Kulpeng, Weerasak Putthasri, Ben S. Cooper, Yot Teerawattananon

Research Article | published 26 May 2015 | PLOS Medicine 10.1371/journal.pmed.1001829

Abstract

Background

Seasonal influenza is a major cause of mortality worldwide. Routine immunization of children has the potential to reduce this mortality through both direct and indirect protection, but has not been adopted by any low- or middle-income countries. We developed a framework to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of influenza vaccination policies in developing countries and used it to consider annual vaccination of school- and preschool-aged children with either trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (TIV) or trivalent live-attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) in Thailand. We also compared these approaches with a policy of expanding TIV coverage in the elderly.

Methods and Findings

We developed an age-structured model to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of eight vaccination policies parameterized using country-level data from Thailand. For policies using LAIV, we considered five different age groups of children to vaccinate. We adopted a Bayesian evidence-synthesis framework, expressing uncertainty in parameters through probability distributions derived by fitting the model to prospectively collected laboratory-confirmed influenza data from 2005-2009, by meta-analysis of clinical trial data, and by using prior probability distributions derived from literature review and elicitation of expert opinion. We performed sensitivity analyses using alternative assumptions about prior immunity, contact patterns between age groups, the proportion of infections that are symptomatic, cost per unit vaccine, and vaccine effectiveness. Vaccination of children with LAIV was found to be highly cost-effective, with incremental cost-effectiveness ratios between about 2,000 and 5,000 international dollars per disability-adjusted life year averted, and was consistently preferred to TIV-based policies. These findings were robust to extensive sensitivity analyses. The optimal age group to vaccinate with LAIV, however, was sensitive both to the willingness to pay for health benefits and to assumptions about contact patterns between age groups.

Conclusions

Vaccinating school-aged children with LAIV is likely to be cost-effective in Thailand in the short term, though the long-term consequences of such a policy cannot be reliably predicted given current knowledge of influenza epidemiology and immunology. Our work provides a coherent framework that can be used for similar analyses in other low- and middle-income countries.

PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases

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

(Accessed 30 May 2015)

Harnessing Case Isolation and Ring Vaccination to Control Ebola

Chad Wells, Dan Yamin, Martial L. Ndeffo-Mbah, Natasha Wenzel, Stephen G. Gaffney, Jeffrey P. Townsend, Lauren Ancel Meyers, Mosoka Fallah, Tolbert G. Nyenswah, Frederick L. Altice, Katherine E. Atkins, Alison P. Galvani

Abstract

As a devastating Ebola outbreak in West Africa continues, non-pharmaceutical control measures including contact tracing, quarantine, and case isolation are being implemented. In addition, public health agencies are scaling up efforts to test and deploy candidate vaccines. Given the experimental nature and limited initial supplies of vaccines, a mass vaccination campaign might not be feasible. However, ring vaccination of likely case contacts could provide an effective alternative in distributing the vaccine. To evaluate ring vaccination as a strategy for eliminating Ebola, we developed a pair approximation model of Ebola transmission, parameterized by confirmed incidence data from June 2014 to January 2015 in Liberia and Sierra Leone. Our results suggest that if a combined intervention of case isolation and ring vaccination had been initiated in the early fall of 2014, up to an additional 126 cases in Liberia and 560 cases in Sierra Leone could have been averted beyond case isolation alone. The marginal benefit of ring vaccination is predicted to be greatest in settings where there are more contacts per individual, greater clustering among individuals, when contact tracing has low efficacy or vaccination confers post-exposure protection. In such settings, ring vaccination can avert up to an additional 8% of Ebola cases. Accordingly, ring vaccination is predicted to offer a moderately beneficial supplement to ongoing non-pharmaceutical Ebola control efforts.

Author Summary

Public health efforts for controlling the 2014–2015 Ebola outbreak in West Africa have focused on contact tracing and isolation of symptomatic individuals. In addition, substantial resources have been committed to scaling up the production of experimental vaccines. Ring vaccination—the vaccination of the contacts of an infected individual—was successfully implemented to achieve smallpox eradication. Ring vaccination is particularly feasible and effective in settings where the supply of vaccines is limited and disease incidence is low. Using a disease transmission model, we evaluated the benefit of adding ring vaccination to case isolation in Liberia and Sierra Leone. We found that ring vaccination could have averted up to 126 cases in Liberia and 560 cases in Sierra Leone, thereby saving lives and intervention resources.

Hepatitis B Vaccines and HPV Vaccines Have Been Hailed as Major Public Health Achievements in Preventing Cancer—Could a Schistosomiasis Vaccine be the Third?

Michael H. Hsieh, Julia M. L. Brotherton, Afzal A. Siddiqui

Editorial | published 28 May 2015 | PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases
10.1371/journal.pntd.0003598

PLOS One

[Accessed 30 May 2015]

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

Cluster Survey Evaluation of a Measles Vaccination Campaign in Jharkhand, India, 2012

Heather M. Scobie, Arindam Ray, Satyabrata Routray, Anindya Bose, Sunil Bahl, Stephen Sosler, Kathleen Wannemuehler, Rakesh Kumar, Pradeep Halder, Abhijeet Anand

Research Article | published 26 May 2015 | PLOS ONE 10.1371/journal.pone.0127105

PLOS Pathogens

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

(Accessed 30 May 2015)
[No new relevant content identified]

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

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/>
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[No new relevant content identified]

Prehospital & Disaster Medicine

Volume 30 - Issue 02 - April 2015
<https://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayIssue?jid=PDM&tab=currentissue>
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Volume 8 Issue 1 April 2015
<http://phe.oxfordjournals.org/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

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May 2015; 25 (5)
<http://qhr.sagepub.com/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Refugee Survey Quarterly

Volume 34 Issue 2 June 2015
<http://rsq.oxfordjournals.org/content/current>
Articles

"Rather Than Talking in Tamil, They Should Be Talking to Tamils": Sri Lankan Tamil Refugee Readiness for Repatriation

Miriam George, Wendy Kliever, and Sebastian Irudaya Rajan
Refugee Survey Quarterly (2015) 34 (2): 1-22 doi:10.1093/rsq/hdv004

From Ad Hoc to Universal: The International Refugee Regime from Fragmentation to Unity 1922–1954

Gilad Ben-Nun
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Refugees' Conceptualizations of "Protection Space": Geographical Scales of Urban Protection and Host–Refugee Relations

Eveliina Lyytinen
Refugee Survey Quarterly (2015) 34 (2): 45-77 doi:10.1093/rsq/hdv001

Getting Refugees to Work: A Street-level Perspective of Refugee Resettlement Policy

Jessica H. Darrow

Refugee Survey Quarterly (2015) 34 (2): 78-106 doi:10.1093/rsq/hdv002

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Volume 12 Supplement 1 [2015]

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

Special Supplement - True costs of maternal death

[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 3, Issue 2, 2015

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

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

February 2015 Vol. 37, No. 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Risk Analysis

April 2015 Volume 35, Issue 4 Pages 555–758

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

[New issue; No relevant content]

Science

29 May 2015 vol 348, issue 6238, pages 941-1052

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

Feature

Is measles next?

Leslie Roberts

Before the polio virus is even in the grave, a small cadre of disease fighters is itching to set the next global eradication target: measles. The case is compelling. Measles killed 145,000 children last year in poor countries and left many more blind, deaf, or disabled. A cheap and effective vaccine has long been on the shelves; numerous expert panels have deemed measles eradication feasible, although daunting—it is the most contagious virus on Earth. But the biggest obstacle to measles eradication is polio, which hasn't disappeared as it was supposed to do in 2000. Skeptics question whether a measles initiative would fall down the same rabbit hole as did the polio effort, which has spent billions of dollars and nearly 3 decades chasing the last few cases, only to see them disappear around the corner. Maybe it is time, they say, to settle for keeping measles cases really low but not trying to get to zero...

Feature

In Vietnam, an anatomy of a measles outbreak

Leslie Roberts

Routine immunization is one of the great public health success stories in Vietnam, where rates of vaccine-preventable diseases have plummeted. But the measles outbreak last year was another story, with 60,000 reported cases and nearly 150 deaths in children under age 2. Experts trace the epidemic to the public's loss of faith in the government-led vaccination program, following reports of adverse events associated in time with another vaccine. Many parents stopped vaccinating their children, leaving them susceptible to measles. When the virus swept in from the north and hit Hanoi, it exploded. Panicked parents rushed their children to the hospital, which was quickly overburdened. With poor infection control, the hospital became a hub of measles transmission, and children who weren't already infected caught the virus there.

Social Science & Medicine

Volume 132, Pages 1-286 (May 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Stability: International Journal of Security & Development

[accessed 30 May 2015]

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[No new relevant content identified]

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

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[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 25, Nr. 1, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Tropical Medicine and Health

Vol. 43(2015) No. 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Tropical Medicine & International Health

May 2015 Volume 20, Issue 5 Pages 553–680

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/tmi.2015.20.issue-5/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

UN Chronicle

Vol. LI No. 4 2014 April 2015

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

Beyond 2015

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

Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies

An International Interdisciplinary Journal for Research, Policy and Care

Volume 10, Issue 2, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rvch20/current#.Uzg2bFcWNdc>

[Reviewed earlier]

World Heritage Review

n°74 - January 2015

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/review/74/>

[Reviewed earlier]

Yale Human Rights & Development Law Journal

Volume XIV, Issue 2

<http://www.law.yale.edu/academics/YHRDLJcurrentissue.htm>

[Reviewed earlier]

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