

The Sentinel

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

6 June 2015

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

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

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GE2P2 – Center for Governance, Evidence, Ethics, Policy, Practice

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

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

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:: 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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G7 Summit 7 and 8 June 2015

German G7 Presidency

https://www.g7germany.de/Webs/G7/EN/G7-Gipfel_en/g7summit_node.html

Key topics for the summit announced

The G7 Summit 2015 in Schloss Elmau will focus on the global economy as well as on key issues regarding foreign, security and development policy. German Chancellor Angela Merkel presented the topics of Germany's G7 Presidency to her Cabinet.

The heads of state and government of the Group of Seven (G7) will be meeting at Schloss Elmau in Upper Bavaria on 7 and 8 June 2015. In addition to the global economy and foreign, security and development policy, they will be discussing the UN conferences to be held in 2015 as well as the post-2015 agenda.

Other key issues they will be addressing include

- :: Protection of the marine environment, marine governance and resource efficiency,
- :: Antibiotic resistance, neglected and poverty-related diseases, and Ebola,
- :: Retail and supply chain standards, and
- :: Empowering self-employed women and women in vocational training.

The leaders of the G7 countries will also discuss energy security, including as part of the Rome G7 Energy Initiative. In addition, they will continue the ongoing G7 process in regard to development policy...

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[The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announces new \\$776 million investment in nutrition to tackle child mortality and help all women and children survive and thrive](#)

Melinda Gates makes announcement in Brussels during European Development Days

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (June 3, 2015, 12:30pm CET) – Melinda Gates today urged European leaders to make the health and nutrition of women and children a top priority, and announced that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will more than double its investments in nutrition to \$776 million over the next six years as part of a new commitment to nutrition. The co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation made the announcement at the European Development Days (EDD), Europe's leading forum on development and international cooperation organized by the European Commission.

"Malnutrition is the underlying cause of nearly half of all under-5 child deaths," said Gates. "Yet for too long the world has underinvested in nutrition. Today we see an opportunity to change that. Along with the Gates Foundation, many European donors are now prioritizing nutrition, which we believe will be one of the fundamental solutions to help cut child mortality in half by 2030."

The announcement unlocks \$180 million in additional matched funding from the UK's Department for International Development who had committed to match 1:2 any pledge additional to those made at the Nutrition for Growth summit in 2013.

Every year, millions of children die because they don't get the optimal nutrition during the critical 1,000 day period from their mother's pregnancy until their second birthday. Children who miss out on good nutrition during this time never fully grow physically or mentally, limiting their ability to learn in school and reducing their productivity as adults.

The Gates Foundation's new approach to nutrition will:

- :: Reach women and children with solutions proven to improve nutrition, such as breastfeeding and food fortification, and expand research into innovative new approaches.

:: Help women and adolescent girls before they become pregnant, improving the likelihood they'll have a safe pregnancy and a healthy, well-nourished child.
:: Improve food systems (in conjunction with the agriculture sector) to help ensure people have better access to safe, nutritious and affordable food year-round.
:: Catalyze a data revolution in nutrition to strengthen the evidence-base for action, inform decisions and track progress toward goals and commitments.
:: Focus work in India, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, where there is both a high burden of malnutrition and a significant opportunity to affect positive change...

...At the event, the foundation also announced a new \$500,000 grant to the European Commission to support the Commission's National Information Platforms for Nutrition initiative, which aims to strengthen countries' ability to track and analyze the impact of their nutrition programs...

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Global Nutrition Report 2014

*ACTIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO ACCELERATE THE WORLD'S PROGRESS ON NUTRITION
A PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATION*

International Food Policy Research Institute

ISBN: 978-0-89629-564-3

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2499/9780896295643>

June 2015 :: 118 pages

:: Translations (full report): [Français](#) | [Español](#) | [Português](#)

:: eBook formats: [Google Play](#) | [Google Books](#) | [iTunes](#) | [Kindle](#)

Malnutrition affects one in two people on the planet. Of these, 162 million children under the age of five are estimated to be stunted (i.e. low height for age). Two billion people are estimated to be deficient in one or more micronutrients. Nearly 1.5 billion people are estimated to be overweight and over 500 million to be obese. These conditions all have severe consequences for survival, for morbidity, and for the ability of individuals, the economy and society to thrive. In relation to the scale that these problems imply, the allocation of public resources to their prevention and amelioration is minuscule. Resources to specific nutrition programmes amount to a small fraction of one per cent of domestic or aid budgets.

The Global Nutrition Report convenes existing processes, highlights progress in combating malnutrition and identifies gaps and proposes ways to fill them. Through this, the Report helps to guide action, build accountability and spark increased commitment for further progress towards reducing malnutrition much faster.

At its core, the Report aims to empower nutrition champions at the national level to better inform policy decisions and to strengthen the case for increased resources. A repository of global and country-level nutrition data and analysis, the Report also provides civil society organisations (CSOs), donors, governments, the business sector, researchers, the media and engaged citizens with evidence of the current scale of malnutrition, the measures being taken to combat it, as well as highlighting what more needs to be done.

The 2014 Report is funded through the support of the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Government of Canada, the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, the European Commission, Irish Aid, 1,000 Days and the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition & Health.

The Report was delivered by an Independent Expert Group and guided at a strategic level by a Stakeholder Group, whose members also reviewed the Report. The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) oversaw the production and dissemination of the Report, with the support of the Secretariat based at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS). The Lancet, the premier peer-reviewed medical journal, managed the blind external review process for the Report, which was launched during the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) in Rome in November 2014. There will be follow-up events for the Report in a several cities around the world.

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2015 State of the World's Volunteerism Report – Transforming Governance

United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme

2015 :: 132 pages

ISBN: 978-92-95045-80-4

Abstract

The State of the World's Volunteerism Report 2015 is the first global review of the power of volunteer voices to help improve the way people are governed. Drawing on evidence from countries as diverse as Brazil, Kenya, Lebanon and Bangladesh, the UN report shows how ordinary people are volunteering their time, energies and skills to improve the way they are governed and engaged at local, national and global levels. Better governance at every level is a pre-requisite for the success of the new set of targets for future international development, the Sustainable Development Goals, which are due to be agreed at the United Nations in September 2015.

Press Release

[Volunteers vital to success of new global development agenda, UN report says](#)

05 June 2015

New York, USA: Volunteers are playing a vital role in making governments worldwide more accountable and responsive to their citizens, but their potential is seriously under-valued, a new report from the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme said today.

The State of the World's Volunteerism Report 2015 is the first global survey of the contribution of volunteers to better governance, a prerequisite for the success of the new Sustainable Development Goals to be agreed at the United Nations in September.

Drawing on evidence from countries as diverse as Brazil, Kenya, Lebanon and Bangladesh, the UN report, entitled "Transforming Governance", shows how ordinary people are volunteering their time, energies and skills to improve the way they are governed at local, national and global levels.

Volunteers are working with governments and civil society to hold those in power to account, to influence policies and laws and to represent the voices of those who are often left out of

development decisions. The end result, the report says, is more inclusive - and ultimately more effective - development.

"By creating environments for people to volunteer their time, it is possible to use their skills and knowledge for the common good in the sphere of governance," said Richard Dictus, Executive Coordinator of UNV. "Change will occur with greater civic engagement broadening the number of people who have voice, who can participate and who can hold governance actors to account."

More than 1 billion people volunteer globally, the majority of them working in their own countries. Many are in the forefront of efforts to improve the way they and their fellow citizens are governed.

Recommended steps include:

- :: Engaging more volunteers in the process of crafting policies and putting them into action;
- :: Integrating volunteers formally into national development frameworks and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) strategies;
- :: Engaging more volunteer women and marginalized groups in local and national decision-making.

The aim of the State of the World's Volunteerism Report 2015, UNV says, is to spark a global conversation about the role of volunteers in the area of governance that is so critical to future development success.

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[Connecting Global Priorities: Biodiversity and Human Health](#)

A State of Knowledge Review

World Health Organization and Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2015.

Languages: English :: 364 pages

ISBN: 9789241508537

Pdfs:

- :: [Read the publication](#)
- :: [Loss of biodiversity impacts human health \(web release\)pdf, 34kb](#)
- :: [Read the key messagespdf, 155kb](#)

Overview

Healthy communities rely on well-functioning ecosystems. They provide clean air, fresh water, medicines and food security. They also limit disease and stabilize the climate. But biodiversity loss is happening at unprecedented rates, impacting human health worldwide, according to a new state of knowledge review of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and WHO.

Press Release

[Loss of biodiversity impacts human health, says CBD and WHO](#)

Montreal, 4 June 2015 – Healthy communities rely on well-functioning ecosystems. They provide clean air, fresh water, medicines and food security. They also limit disease and stabilize the climate. But biodiversity loss is happening at unprecedented rates, impacting human health worldwide, according to a new state of knowledge review of the Convention on Biological Diversity and World Health Organization.

The report, *Connecting Global Priorities: Biodiversity and Human Health*, launched today in Brussels at Green Week 2015, Europe's biggest annual conference on environmental policy, focuses on the complex and multi-faceted connections between biodiversity and human health, and how the loss of biodiversity and corresponding ecosystem services may negatively influence health. One of the first integrative reviews of its kind, the report brings together knowledge from several scientific disciplines, including public health, conservation, agriculture, epidemiology and development.

"This state of knowledge review is a significant contribution to our understanding of the complex relationships between biodiversity and health," said Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. "Increasing our knowledge enables us to develop effective solutions capable of strengthening ecosystem resilience and mitigating the forces that impede their ability to deliver life-supporting services."

All aspects of human well-being depend on ecosystem goods and services, which in turn depend on biodiversity. Biodiversity loss can destabilize ecosystems, promote outbreaks of infectious disease, and undermine development progress, nutrition, security and protection from natural disasters," said Dr Maria Neira, World Health Organization Director, Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health. "Protecting public health from these risks lies outside of the traditional roles of the Health sector. We are ready to work with other sectors to bring about change."

Access to sufficient quantity, quality and diversity of foods, clean air, freshwater, medicines and healthcare are not only central to maintaining healthy populations, they are foundational pillars of sustainable development. Meeting these needs while facing the persistent challenges of biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, emerging disease pandemics and shifting disease burdens is not an insurmountable feat, but it does require concerted action, based on robust evidence and coordinated cross-sector solutions. This comprehensive report brings this knowledge to the forefront, demonstrating that biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation and ill health often share common threats and pointing toward innovative, mutually-supportive and cross-sectoral solutions.

This contribution is especially timely as governments finalize agreement on the post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals and prepare to reach new global commitments to tackle climate change by the end of 2015.

Among the shared threats identified throughout the report, land-use change is identified as an important driver of biodiversity loss with concurrent implications for many of our most pressing public health challenges. For example, land use change through deforestation is a leading driver of disease emergence in humans and is believed to have contributed to the recent Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

While the resulting development of our freshwater and terrestrial resources is also associated with some health benefits, these are unevenly distributed, often to the detriment of our most vulnerable populations and carry unintended consequences. For example, under unsustainable conditions, industrial agricultural practices in many parts of the world may also exacerbate biodiversity loss, pest and disease outbreaks, micronutrient deficiencies, antibiotic resistance

and the impacts of climate change on the health. These outcomes are not inevitable. They can be averted through concerted global efforts, by connecting our vast scientific and local knowledge, and developing coherent, cross-sectoral policy priorities toward a healthier, more equitable, sustainable future.

Contributions from over 100 scientists and practitioners working in global public health and biodiversity conservation policy were included in the report, including experts from Bioversity International, COHAB Initiative, DIVERSITAS, EcoHealth Alliance, Harvard School of Public Health, the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, IUCN, United Nations University, and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

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[The Africa Competitiveness Report 2015](#)

World Bank Group.

2015/06/01 - Report Number 96997 :: 206 pages

Bah, El-hadj M.; Conde, Carlos; Di Battista, Attilio; Hanouz, Margareta Drzeniek; Galvan, Caroline; Heinrigs, Philipp; Hoffman, Barak Daniel; Mckenna, Jonathan Miles; Moyo, Jennifer Mbabazi; O'Sullivan, Anthony; Saez, Juan Sebastian; Speakman, John F.; Verdier-Chouchane, Audrey

Complete Report: [Official PDF, 206 pages](#)

Abstract

The Africa Competitiveness Report 2015 comes out at a promising time for the continent: for 15 years growth rates have averaged over 5 percent, and rapid population growth holds the promise of a large emerging consumer market as well as an unprecedented labor force that - if leveraged - can provide significant growth opportunities. Moreover, the expansion of innovative business models, such as mobile technology services, is indicative of the continent's growth potential. However, Africa continues to be largely agrarian, with an economy that is underpinned by resource-driven growth and a large and expanding informal sector. Indeed, more than a decade of consistently high growth rates have not yet trickled down to significant parts of the population: nearly one out of two Africans continue to live in extreme poverty, and income inequality in the region remains among the highest in the world. What is more, across sectors - from agriculture to manufacturing and services - productivity levels remain low. It will be necessary to raise productivity across all sectors of the economy to achieve higher growth and create quality employment, and turn this progress into sustainable inclusive growth.

Press Release

[Boosting Agriculture, Services and Value Chains is Key to Africa's Competitiveness](#)

African Competitiveness Report 2015

CAPE TOWN, June 4, 2015—

:: Despite high economic growth, competitiveness in Africa is stagnating, with few signs that productivity is rising, thus hindering the prospect of inclusive and sustained growth.

:: Poor-quality institutions, infrastructure, health and education hold competitiveness down, although efficiency in goods and labor markets is improving.

:: Supporting Africa's structural transformation will require a comprehensive policy mix that prioritizes transport and ICT infrastructure, education, trade and further regulatory reform.

African economies' prospects for long-term, sustainable growth are under threat from weakness in the core conditions necessary for competitive and productive economies, despite outwardly healthy-looking growth rates in many parts of the region, according to the African Competitiveness Report, which is published today.

The biennial report, themed Transforming Africa's Economies, combines detailed data from the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) with studies on three key areas of economic activity; agricultural productivity, services sector growth and global and regional value chains. The data points to low and stagnating productivity across all sectors: agriculture, manufacturing and services, partly as a result of ongoing weakness in the basic drivers of competitiveness, such as institutions, infrastructure, health and education. This shortfall masks a better performance in other areas of the economy; specifically, better functioning of labour and goods markets.

In view of Africa's young and growing population, labour-intensive sectors must play a larger role in the continent's transformation: the growth in services – both in terms of GDP and employment – cannot propel Africa's growth alone, and even here development remains uneven, with too many people employed in low productivity services.

"Due to the rapid growth of Africa's working-age population, investments in highly productive labor-intensive sectors will be crucial to create more globally competitive economies. These investments will also promote the regional agenda for inclusive growth and generate much-needed employment opportunities for women and youth," said Barak Hoffman, World Bank Group Governance Specialist and co-author of the report.

Key findings from the report's analysis include:

:: Improving agricultural productivity:

Agriculture provides an important source of income for the majority of African citizens, but productivity remains too low and based on small-scale subsistence production. Improvements such as better leveraging of technology (both information and communications technologies, as well as development of high-yield crops and better irrigation), more clearly defined land property rights and promotion of rights and opportunities for women, who represent a significant share of the agricultural workforce on the continent, are all needed to address this. Moreover, enabling greater market access for small-scale farmers would help ensure inclusiveness, while the development of regional value chains would serve as a useful stepping stone, enabling them to improve production and marketing processes, and ultimately to meet the quality standards of world markets.

:: Leveraging services:

Services exports are typically viewed as an area of comparative advantage for more advanced economies, but a deeper examination of trade statistics suggests that they are much more significant for Africa than previously thought, especially as inputs into exports from other sectors. Further development of low-cost, high-quality services will help countries participate in local, regional and global value chains. It will also encourage policy-makers to promote services development as part of a wider growth agenda.

:: Tapping global value chains (GVCs):

Greater participation in global and regional value chains can accelerate African economic transformation through the gains associated with enhanced productivity and the development of new activities. However, gains from GVC participation are not automatic and require a broad set of policies, with a particular focus on trade facilitation, investment, transport infrastructure and access to finance. Many of these policy areas have economy-wide benefits beyond GVC integration.

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EBOLA/EVD [to 6 June 2015]

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

WHO: Ebola Situation Report – 3 June 2015

[Excerpts]

SUMMARY

:: Since the week ending 10 May, when a 10-month low of 9 cases of Ebola virus disease (EVD) were reported from 2 prefectures of Guinea and 1 district of Sierra Leone, both the intensity and geographical area of EVD transmission have increased. In the week ending 31 May, a total of 25 confirmed cases were reported from 4 prefectures of Guinea and 3 districts of Sierra Leone. Several cases in both Guinea and Sierra Leone arose from unknown sources of infection in areas that have not reported confirmed cases for several weeks, indicating that chains of transmission continue to go undetected. Rigorous contact tracing, active case finding, and infection prevention and control must be maintained at current intensive levels in order to uncover and break every chain of transmission. However, the onset of the rainy season will make field operations more difficult from now onwards.

COUNTRIES WITH WIDESPREAD AND INTENSE TRANSMISSION

:: There have been a total of 27 145 reported confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (figure 1, table 1), with 11 147 reported deaths (this total includes reported deaths among probable and suspected cases, although outcomes for many cases are unknown). A total of 13 new confirmed cases were reported in Guinea and 12 in Sierra Leone in the 7 days to 31 May. The outbreak in Liberia was declared over on 9 May.

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:: Agency/Government/IGO Watch

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

United Nations System Organizational Chart

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

United Nations – Secretary General, Security Council, General Assembly

[to 6 June 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases/Meetings Coverage

5 June 2015

SC/11921

[Security Council Press Statement on Attacks against Civilians in Syria](#)

4 June 2015

SC/11919-AFR/3152

[Security Council Press Statement on Burundi](#)

4 June 2015

GA/PAL/1334

[Palestinians in 'Catch 22' amid Doubts about Their Authority, Constraining Aid, But 'Collective Process' on Statehood Envisioned, Rights Committee Told](#)

Urging the international community to shun unmet expectations from direct Palestinian-Israeli talks over the past 20 years, the top representative of the observer State of Palestine called for the application of a "collective process", which had shown promising results on Iran, Syria and Ukraine.

3 June 2015

SG/SM/16817-AFR/3149

[Secretary-General to Set Up External Review to Examine United Nations Handling of Sexual Abuse Allegations in Central African Republic](#)

3 June 2015

SC/11916-AFR/3150

[Security Council Press Statement on South Sudan](#)

2 June 2015

SC/11915

[Security Council Press Statement on the Situation in Yemen](#)

2 June 2015

SG/SM/16814-GA/11650

[Along 'Last Mile' of Ebola Response, Secretary-General Warns Assembly: Investments, Sacrifices Could Be Lost Unless 'We Complete the Job'](#)

1 June 2015

SG/SM/16812

[Secretary-General Praises Canada's Truth, Reconciliation Commission for Setting Example by Addressing Systemic Rights Violations against Indigenous Peoples](#)

UN OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 6 June 2015]

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

[Zeid calls for justice for rights abuses in Nigeria](#)

GENEVA (5 June 2015) – UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein on Friday said interviews with individuals who had fled or were rescued from towns previously held by Boko Haram painted a picture of “absolute terror and grave human rights violations” by the insurgents in northeast Nigeria, and also yielded reports of violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law by Nigerian armed forces.

The High Commissioner urged the new administration of Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari to take urgent measures to bring to justice perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses, whether non-State or State actors. He also called on the authorities to ensure that counter-insurgency operations do not result in furthering the human rights devastation in the northeast of the country...

Committee on the Rights of the Child

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

[Committee on the Rights of the Child concludes sixty-ninth session](#)

5 June 2015

[Committee on the Rights of the Child meets with States to discuss new working methods and other issues](#)

3 June 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 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified

SRSG/SVC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [to 6 June 2015]

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

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

[UNHCR deeply concerned about abduction of asylum-seekers in eastern Sudan](#)

5 June 2015

[UNHCR launches its 2015 World Refugee Day Campaign](#)

2 June 2015

UN OCHA [to 6 June 2015]

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

04 Jun 2015

[Iraq: UN Assistant Secretary-General Kyung-Wha Kang, remarks at the launch of the humanitarian response plan for Iraq](#)

03 Jun 2015

[Central African Republic: Appointment of a new Humanitarian Coordinator in the Central African Republic](#)

03 Jun 2015

[World: The League of Arab States and the United Nations Renew Commitment to Work Together on Humanitarian Action \[EN/AR\]](#)

03 Jun 2015

[Nepal: More funds needed to assist 2.8 million earthquake survivors in Nepal](#)

02 Jun 2015

[Afghanistan: Statement from the Humanitarian Coordinator, Mark Bowden: Aid workers killed in Afghanistan](#)

01 Jun 2015

[United Republic of Tanzania: UN Emergency Fund releases \\$15 million to support thousands fleeing Burundi](#)

01 Jun 2015

[World: Stephen O'Brien takes up the role of UN Humanitarian Chief](#)

UNICEF [to 6 June 2015]

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

Selected press release and news notes

[New formulation of HIV treatment to save more children's lives -- UNICEF and UNAIDS](#)

NEW YORK/GENEVA, 5 June 2015—Children affected by HIV and AIDS will benefit from the decision by the United States Food and Drug Administration to grant approval to a new antiretroviral formulation that can be mixed with food to make it easier for children living with HIV to take the life-saving medicines, UNAIDS and UNICEF said today.

[Iraq on the brink of humanitarian disaster due to surging conflict and massive funding shortfall warns UN](#)

BRUSSELS, 4 June, 2015 – Vital aid operations supporting millions of people affected by the conflict in Iraq risk closure unless funds are made available immediately, the official overseeing humanitarian operations in the country said today.

[Child victims of violence rarely have access to justice, UNICEF says](#)

BRUSSELS, 3 June 2015 — Most child victims of violence in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia find themselves unable to speak up and file charges in court, according to a new UNICEF regional report launched here today.

[Child maltreatment in Asia-Pacific is costing countries US \\$209 billion each year, says UNICEF](#)

BANGKOK, 2 June 2015 – Child abuse and violence is costing countries in East Asia and the Pacific around US \$209 billion/year, equivalent to 2 percent of the region's GDP, according to newly published research commissioned by UNICEF. This is the first ever costing of child maltreatment in the region and was conducted by a team of global experts using a proven methodology previously employed in Australia and the US. [4 pages]

IOM / International Organization for Migration [to 6 June 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[More Europeans Migrate to Latin America, Caribbean than Other Way Around: IOM Study](#)

06/05/15

Switzerland - IOM has released a study today that reveals a trend of increased migration flows from the EU to Latin America and the Caribbean region.

[Renewed Violence Displaces More People in Northern Mali](#)

06/05/15

Mali - Renewed fighting in northern Mali has displaced some 59,000 people in the regions of Timbuktu, Gao and Mopti.

[IOM, Ghana, Launch EU-Funded Migration Consultation Centre](#)

06/05/15

Ghana - IOM and Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) have begun construction of a Migration Consultation Centre (MCC) in Sunyani. The construction is part of a larger information campaign to promote safe and legal migration under IOM's Ghana Integrated Migration Management Approach (GIMMA) project, funded by the European Union (EU).

[Cambodia Receives First Group of Refugees from Nauru](#)

06/04/15

Cambodia - The first group of refugees to be settled from Nauru to Cambodia landed today (4/6) on a commercial flight in Phnom Penh.

[Most G20 Nations "Want Immigration Levels Maintained or Increased": IOM](#)

06/02/15

Turkey - An IOM / Gallup survey of G20 governments prepared at the request of Turkish G20 presidency shows positive views of immigration.

[Peak Sailing Season Sees More Mediterranean Migrant Rescues, Deaths](#)

06/02/15

Italy - Nearly 5,000 migrants were rescued in the Channel of Sicily over the weekend, as part of the expanded EU search and rescue operation in the Mediterranean.

UN Women [to 6 June 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[Boosting financial and business literacy in Rwanda](#)

Date : June 2, 2015

Over 200 executive women from government, private enterprises, and international organizations took part in a two-hour financial planning and business investment seminar dubbed "Finishing Rich", the first in a series of luncheon-events supported by the Rwanda Development Board, UN Women and the International Finance Corporation (IFC)...

[Income empowers Kilimanjaro women to seek justice](#)

Date : June 1, 2015

Through a programme supported by UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality, more than 1,000 women have joined savings and loans groups, started businesses, and sought legal advice to claim their rights...

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

WHO & Regionals [to 6 June 2015]

[Liberia tackles measles as Ebola comes to an end](#)

2 June 2015

As Liberia emerges from the devastating Ebola epidemic, it has been battling the worst measles outbreak in years. The Ebola outbreak led to the collapse of most health services in Liberia, including routine vaccinations. The Liberian government moved swiftly to organize a countrywide vaccination campaign with the help of WHO and partners.

[Read more about the vaccination campaign](#)

[WHO and the Republic of Korea to carry out joint mission for the MERS-CoV outbreak](#)

5 June 2015 -- The pressing objective of this joint mission is to gain information and review the situation in the Republic of Korea including the epidemiological pattern, the characteristic of the virus and clinical features. The team will also assess the public health response efforts and provide recommendations for response measures going forward.

[Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus in the Republic of Korea: situation assessment](#)

June 2015 -- The outbreak of Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in the Republic of Korea continues to evolve. WHO is in close contact with the country's government and Ministry of Health, and is receiving information as soon as facts are confirmed.

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

6 June 2015 - Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Republic of Korea

6 June 2015 - Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia

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

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

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

:: WHO Regional Offices

WHO African Region AFRO

:: [Dr Moeti applauds Zambia for reducing illnesses and deaths of mothers and children](#)

Lusaka, 04 June 2015 - The WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti has applauded the Zambian government for progress made in reducing deaths and illnesses amongst women and children under five years old.

:: [WHO strengthens capacities of national blood transfusion systems in Ebola-affected countries - 02 June 2015](#)

WHO Region of the Americas PAHO

:: [PAHO/WHO urges measles and rubella vaccination for travelers to the 2015 Americas Cup \(06/04/2015\)](#)

WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO

:: [Medical Camp Kits replace primary health care facilities before onset of Nepal's monsoon](#)

01 June 2015

WHO European Region EURO

:: [Diphtheria detected in Spain](#) 05-06-2015

:: [Dramatic increase in Caesarean sections](#) 01-06-2015

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO

:: [Inequality has transformed surviving childhood into a global postcode lottery \(commentary\)](#)

3 June 2015

:: [Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus \(MERS-CoV\) in the Republic of Korea](#)

2 June 2015

WHO Western Pacific Region

:: [The World Health Organization \(WHO\) and the Republic of Korea to carry out Joint Mission for the MERS-CoV Outbreak](#)

MANILA, 5 June 2015 – In light of the recent outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV), the World Health Organization and the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Health and Welfare will conduct a joint mission to the Republic of Korea. The mission comes after close consultation between WHO and the Government.

...[Read the news release](#)

...[WHO supports member states in its response to the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus \(MERS-CoV\) within the Western Pacific Region](#)

:: [Strategy for malaria elimination in the Greater Mekong Subregion \(2015-2030\)](#)

5 June 2015

In close consultation with countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion, the WHO Regional Offices for the Western Pacific and South-East Asia have developed a malaria elimination strategy for the Subregion, where emerging antimalarial multidrug resistance, including resistance to artemisinin-based combination therapies, is threatening our recent gains. The elimination strategy is fully aligned with the Global technical strategy for malaria 2016-2030, which has just been endorsed by the World Health Assembly. The first subregional document

that effectively operationalizes the global strategy, it is a prime example of partnership and collaboration, with six countries, WHO (two regions and headquarters) and multiple development partners joining forces to fight a common threat.

UNAIDS [to 6 June 2015]

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

[New formulation of HIV treatment to save more children's lives -- UNICEF and UNAIDS](#)

05 June 2015 | [PDF](#)

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNDP United Nations Development Programme [to 6 June 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[Senegal to host new rule of law center for Africa](#)

Jun 5, 2015

Senegal will host a new regional training center for legal officials and experts, it was announced today at a summit of Justice Ministers from West and North Africa.

[Helen Clark: Speech at the launch of the 2nd State of the World Volunteerism Report: Transforming Governance, UN ECOSOC Chamber](#)

Jun 5, 2015 New York, USA

UN Division for Sustainable Development [to 6 June 2015]

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

[Zero draft of the outcome document for the UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#)

TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD BY 2030: A NEW AGENDA FOR GLOBAL ACTION

2 June 2015

Preamble

This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity that also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. All countries acting in collaborative partnership will implement the Agenda. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet for present and future generations. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps needed to shift the world on to a sustainable path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind.

The new Agenda sets out, inter alia, to:

- :: End poverty and hunger;
- :: Secure education, health and basic services for all;
- :: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;
- :: Foster inclusive economic growth, shared prosperity and sustainable lifestyles for all;

:: Promote safe and inclusive cities and human settlements;
:: Protect the planet, fight climate change, use natural resources sustainably and safeguard our oceans;
:: Strengthen governance and promote peaceful, safe, just and inclusive societies; and
:: Revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development...

UN Statistical Commission :: UN Statistics Division [to 6 June 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) took place on 1-2 June 2015 in New York. The IAEG-SDGs was 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.

...Agenda

...List of participants (as of 29 May 2015)

...First list of proposed priority indicators and detailed inputs

Introduction to agenda item 2: Methods of work

Introduction to agenda item 3: Indicator framework

Introduction to agenda item 4: Process of selecting indicators

Introduction to agenda item 9: Way forward

UN Video of meeting:

(Part 1) <http://webtv.un.org/watch/part-1-first-meeting-of-the-inter-agency-and-expert-group-on-sustainable-development-goal-indicators-iaeg-sdgs/4269287594001>

(Part 2) <http://webtv.un.org/watch/part-2-first-meeting-of-the-inter-agency-and-expert-group-on-sustainable-development-goal-indicators-iaeg-sdgs/4270691758001>

(Part 3) <http://webtv.un.org/watch/part-3-first-meeting-of-the-inter-agency-and-expert-group-on-sustainable-development-goal-indicators-iaeg-sdgs/4271438175001>

(Part 4) <http://webtv.un.org/watch/part-4-first-meeting-of-the-inter-agency-and-expert-group-on-sustainable-development-goal-indicators-iaeg-sdgs/4271721614001>

(Part 5) <http://webtv.un.org/watch/part-5-first-meeting-of-the-inter-agency-and-expert-group-on-sustainable-development-goal-indicators-iaeg-sdgs/4275496308001>

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme [to 6 June 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[World Can Avert Financial and Environmental Costs of Resource Depletion and Save Millions in Efficiency Gains - New UN World Environment Day Report Shows How](#)

Cities and Municipalities Lead the Way in Innovation and Adaptability Says the New Handbook Launched at Expo Milano by UNEP Chief, Achim Steiner and Italian Minister of Environment Gian Luca Galletti.

05/06/2015

UNISDR UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 6 June 2015]

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

[Asia meets to implement Sendai Framework](#)

Seventeen of the world's most disaster-prone countries are meeting this week in Bangkok to discuss how to press forward with implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction across Asia.

4 Jun 2015

[UN General Assembly endorses global disaster risk plan](#)

The head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Margareta Wahlström, today welcomed the UN General Assembly's endorsement of a new global plan to reduce deaths and injuries, the numbers of people affected and economic losses arising from disasters.

4 Jun 2015

UN DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNESCO [to 6 June 2015]

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

[UNESCO Director-General commends national efforts to curb smuggling of antiquities from Iraq and Syria](#)

06 June 2015

[Nepal's heritage sites on shaky ground after devastating quake](#)

06 June 2015

[UNESCO received financial assistance from the Government of Flanders in support of Nepal's earthquake response](#)

06 June 2015

[The Qingdao Declaration - International Conference on ICT and Post-2015 Education](#)

05 June 2015

[WSIS Forum 2015: Ethical dimensions of the information society linked to sustainable development](#)

01 June 2015

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

FAO Food & Agriculture Organization [to 6 June 2015]

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

[José Graziano da Silva re-elected FAO Director-General](#)

Incumbent FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva was today re-elected to a second term in the Organization's top post with the highest number of votes ever in the history of the Organization.

6-06-2015

[World leaders urge FAO to pursue rights, equality and social protection](#)

FAO's 39th Conference opened today, with representatives from 194 countries including more than 130 ministers gathered to discuss the Organization's future workplan, set a new two-year budget, and elect the next FAO Director-General.

6-06-2015

[FAO leader calls for change in the way we produce food](#)

"We need to change the way we produce food," FAO Director-General Jose Graziano da Silva said today in a World Environment Day speech advocating "creating positive connections" between food, agriculture and the environment." He called for a "new and holistic way of thinking and acting."

5-06-2015

[Near East and North Africa region falls short of halving hunger by 2015](#)

Most countries in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) achieved their international pledge to reduce the share of their population suffering from hunger, but conflicts and protracted crises in Iraq, Sudan, Syria and Yemen, as well as the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, have made it the only region to have seen its overall prevalence of undernourishment (PoU) increase from the levels of a quarter of a century ago.

3-06-2015

[IKEA of Sweden and FAO to work together on sustainable forest management](#)

FAO and IKEA of Sweden today agreed to begin working together on a forestry certification initiative aimed at promoting the sustainable management of forest plantations and empowering forest-reliant communities in Viet Nam.

3-06-2015

[Africa shows progress in halving proportion of population suffering undernourishment, overall numbers of the hungry](#)

Angola, Djibouti, Cameroon, Gabon, Ghana, Mali and Sao Tome and Principe have met both the Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of the population suffering from undernourishment and the more stringent World Food Summit target of halving the absolute numbers of the hungry.

2-06-2015

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 6 June 2015]

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

5 June: Development projects in Bangladesh reduce rural poverty

[Bengali](#) | [English](#)

3 June: Italian top chef Carlo Cracco cooks a "Recipe for Change" on World Environment Day

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

ILO International Labour Organization [to 6 June 2015]

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

Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention

[Niger signs up to end modern slavery](#)

05 June 2015

Niger has ratified the 2014 Protocol to the 1930 ILO Forced Labour Convention, as part of a renewed global effort to eradicate modern slavery. The Protocol, a legally binding instrument, brings the existing convention into the modern era, with new provisions on prevention, protection and victims' access to remedies.

104th International Labour Conference

[ILO Director-General calls for global initiative on the future of work](#)

01 June 2015

"We need to look at the longer term drivers of change, the transformational mega-trends, and what they imply for the goals we pursue in the ILO in its second century," said Guy Ryder in front of more than 4,000 delegates gathering in Geneva.

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization [to 6 June 2015]

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

[Safety, Security and Human Resources Development Top ICAO AFI Aviation Week Agenda](#)

MONTREAL, 3 June 2015 – Some 600 participants from 48 States and 18 international and regional organizations gathered in Maputo, Mozambique this May for a special four-day series of meetings for 'AFI Aviation Week' hosted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

ICAO Secretary General Raymond Benjamin opened the event, which was designed to further the development of the aviation network supporting Africa and delivered important results in the areas of safety, security, facilitation and human resources capacity-building. All present recognized the value of the AFI Aviation Week's consolidated meetings and agreed that it should become an annual event on Africa's aviation calendar...

IMO International Maritime Organization [to 6 June 2015]

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

[Guide to rescue at sea for refugees and migrants now available in six languages](#)

02/06/2015

The updated and revised Rescue at Sea: A guide to principles and practice as applied to refugees and migrants is now available in six languages, providing guidance on relevant legal provisions, on practical procedures to ensure the prompt disembarkation of rescued persons, and on measures to meet their specific needs, particularly in the case of refugees and asylum seekers.

The guide has been prepared jointly by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)...

WMO World Meteorological Organization [to 6 June 2015]

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

[Petteri Taalas appointed Secretary-General of World Meteorological Organization](#)

4 June 2015

GENEVA 4 June 2015 (WMO) - Petteri Taalas, Director-General of the Finnish Meteorological Institute, has been appointed as the next Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization for a four-year mandate starting 1 January 2016. He succeeds Michel Jarraud (France)...

... "The importance of WMO and the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services is growing due to higher number of disasters hitting all parts of the world," said Mr Taalas. "Proper early warning services are essential in protecting human life and property. Scientific know-how for climate adaptation and water resource management are also crucially needed in several WMO Member countries. I am highly motivated to work for an effective and service oriented WMO."

[Development Partners Launch Climate and Disaster Resilience Initiative for Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

2 June 2015

The World Meteorological Organization, African Development Bank and World Bank Group today launched an initiative to support the modernization and strengthening of Sub-Saharan African meteorological and hydrological services. These services are key to strengthening resilience to extreme weather events and enabling economic development.

Entitled, 'Strengthening Climate and Disaster Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa', this initiative is a direct response to the anticipated adverse impacts from climate change, including food insecurity, which pose severe risks to growth and development across the region.

[Climate Services for the Andes](#)

1 June 2015

The first phase of the project CLIMANDES (Servicios climáticos con énfasis en los Andes en apoyo a las decisiones), aiming to improve climate services in Peru has, been successfully completed, highlighting the potential to bring substantial socio-economic benefits and increase resilience to climate variability and climate change.

In addition to improving climate services, the project also envisages the formation and training of students and professionals in meteorology and climatology.

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 6 June 2015]

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

[New ISO 50001 publication to help smaller firms break energy barrier](#)

Friday, 05 June 2015

VIENNA, 5 June 2015 – While energy management and energy efficiency remain largely the preserve of big business, a new approach tailored for small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) should help them break the energy barrier...

UNWTO World Tourism Organization [to 6 June 2015]

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

[Message by UNWTO Secretary-General Taleb Rifai on the occasion of World Environment Day 2015](#)

5 June 2015

ITU International Telecommunications Union [to 6 June 2015]

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

[ITU symposium to mark switchover from analogue to digital TV](#)

Geneva, 1 June 2015 – The deadline for the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting, set for 17 June 2015, is applicable for all countries belonging to [ITU Region-1](#) (Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia) and the Islamic Republic of Iran. ITU will mark this key milestone with a thought-provoking symposium at its headquarters in Geneva to highlight the inherent advantages offered by digital terrestrial broadcasting today and in the future.

The above deadline for switching off analogue television broadcasting in the UHF band was set by ITU Member States at the Regional Radiocommunication Conference in 2006, known as the GE06 Regional Agreement...

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity [to 6 June 2015]

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

[Loss of biodiversity impacts human health, says CBD and WHO](#)

2015-06-04

Healthy communities rely on well-functioning ecosystems. They provide clean air, fresh water, medicines and food security. They also limit disease and stabilize the climate. But biodiversity loss is happening at unprecedented rates, impacting human health worldwide, according to a new state of knowledge review of the Convention on Biological Diversity and World Health Organization.

.....

USAID [to 6 June 2015]

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

[USAID Announces Groundbreaking Online Training for Global Health Workforce](#)

June 1, 2015

Today, the U.S. Agency for International Development and partners from the public and private sector announced a new comprehensive online library of resources for training health workers across the globe. This is the first-ever resource that will be freely available and accessible through internet-enabled mobile devices. The online library, called ORB, has the potential to support 100,000 frontline health workers by 2017 who are delivering services to more than 10 million women and children around the world.

DFID [to 6 June 2015]

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

[What works in addressing violence against women and girls?](#)

Published 4 June 2015 Research and analysis DFID

[New UK support as UN launches Iraq appeal](#)

Published 4 June 2015 News story DFID

[UK continues to provide support for Burma](#)

Published 3 June 2015 News story DFID

[UK provides humanitarian support for Burundian refugees](#)

Published 3 June 2015 News story DFID

[Nutrition for Growth: 2 years on](#)

Published 3 June 2015 News story DFID

ECHO [to 6 June 2015]

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

[Iraq: New funding to tackle worsening humanitarian crisis](#)

04/06/2015

The European Commission has announced an extra €25 million in humanitarian aid for the victims of the humanitarian crisis in Iraq. The funding is responding to the rapidly increasing needs of internally displaced people in Iraq, and in particular...

[Commissioner Stylianides condemns South Sudan's expulsion of UN aid coordinator](#)

02/06/2015

The government of South Sudan expelled a senior UN representative without an official explanation. Toby Lanzer has served as the Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in South Sudan, as well as the UN Development...

.....

African Union [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

The African Development Bank Group [to 6 June 2015]

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

[African Development Bank unveils first-ever study of female board membership in Africa](#)

03/06/2015 - Africa may stack up pretty well compared with the world's regions on having companies with female board members, but the continent has a distance to go to make sure its strong economic growth includes its most talented women at the top, according to the first-ever study of female board membership in Africa, unveiled during the World Economic Forum Africa, by the African Development Bank, commissioner of the study

ASEAN [to 6 June 2015]

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

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

[ASEAN Continues to Enhance Competition Policy and Law Beyond 2015](#)

HO CHI MINH CITY, 3 June 2015 - ASEAN will convene the 5th ASEAN Competition Conference (ACC) from 4-5 June in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam with the theme "Advancing Competition Policy and Law Post-2015: Progress, Opportunities and Challenges."

European Union [to 6 June 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]

[EU launches new partnership to combat Undernutrition with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#)

External relations and foreign affairs | 03/06/2015 12:00 | European Commission

[European Development Days 2015 to focus on ending poverty and creating sustainable growth](#)

External relations and foreign affairs | 02/06/2015 12:00 | European Commission

OECD [to 6 June 2015]

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

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

[Strengthening the international community's fight against offshore tax evasion: Australia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, India, Indonesia and New Zealand join multilateral agreement to automatically exchange information](#)

In a boost for international efforts to strengthen co-operation against offshore tax evasion, seven new countries have joined the agreement to exchange information automatically under the OECD/G20 standard.

4-June-2015

[Ministers back OECD Principles on Water Governance](#)

Ministers from OECD's 34 member countries today welcomed the new OECD Principles on Water Governance, which set standards for more effective, efficient and inclusive design and implementation of water policies, and encouraged governments to put them into action
4-June-2015

[OECD Ministers launch new framework to boost sustainable investment](#)

OECD Ministers have endorsed updated guidelines to help national governments and regional groups create the right conditions to attract domestic and foreign investment.
4-June-2015

[OECD updates its Better Life Index](#)

The OECD today launched the 2015 update of the Better Life Index (www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org), an online, interactive tool that invites people to create their own index according to their priorities in 11 topics – housing, income, jobs, community, education, environment, governance, health, life satisfaction, safety, work-life balance.
2-June-2015

Organization of American States (OAS) [to 6 June 2015]

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

[OAS Announces Recipients of Scholarships to Entrepreneurship Camp in South Korea](#)

E-193 June 5, 2015

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) [to 6 June 2015]

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

[OIC Participates in the High Level Meeting of The Good Humanitarian Donorship](#)

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) participated on 3rd June 2015 in New York in a meeting of the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) group. The OIC delegation was led by Ambassador Hesham Youssef, the Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs...
06/06/2015

[OIC and USAID sign new Joint Plan of Action on humanitarian activities](#)

A delegation from the OIC Department of Humanitarian Affairs held talks in Washington on 1st June 2015 with USAID and the State Department on the best ways and means of furthering cooperation between the two institutions in the humanitarian domain. The OIC delegation was led by Ambassador Hesham Youssef, the ASG for Humanitarian Affairs and the US team was headed by Mr. Thomas H. Staal, the Acting Assistant Administrator at USAID. ...
05/06/2015

[Key Points of Moderators' summary of the 5th Meeting of Istanbul Process for the "full and effective implementation of UN HRC Resolution 16/18", held in Jeddah, KSA 3-4 June 2015.](#)

In continuation of the previous four constructive meetings, the 5th Meeting of the Istanbul Process was held in the Headquarters of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from 3-4 June 2015 to consider the full and effective implementation of UN HRC Resolution 16/18...
04/06/2015

[Opening of 5th Session of Istanbul Process: "From Resolution to Realization – How to Promote Effective Implementation of the HRC Res 16/18"](#)

JEDDAH: Over 90 leading experts on human rights, law, politics and minorities—including UN special procedures as well as representatives of UN Member States—met at the OIC headquarters in Jeddah on Wednesday (June 3) as part of a two-day meeting on how to effectively implement UN Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18 on combating religious intolerance, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against people due to their religion or beliefs...

03/06/2015

[OIC and KAICIID Join Hands in the Promotion of Inter-Religious and Inter-Cultural Dialogue](#)

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID) signed today a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen their cooperation and partnership in the area of interreligious and intercultural dialogue. The agreement was signed by the OIC Secretary General, Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, and the Secretary General of KAICIID, Mr. Faisal bin Abdulrahman bin Muaammar...

03/06/2015

Group of 77 [to 6 June 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

[Statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by a representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations, at the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS annual session: evaluation \(New York, 5 June 2015\)](#)

[Statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by H.E. Ambassador Kingsley J.N. Mamabolo, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations, Chair of the Group of 77, at the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS annual session: UNDP segment \(New York, 4 June 2015\)](#)

UNCTAD [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

World Trade Organisation [to 6 June 2015]

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

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

[Azevêdo says time for political decisions draws closer](#)

4 June 2015

Director-General Roberto Azevêdo has used the opportunity of the OECD annual Ministerial Council Meeting in Paris on 4 June to talk with a range of Ministers on the ongoing work in Geneva to conclude, by July this year, a work programme on the remaining issues of the Doha Development Agenda. The work programme will be an important springboard towards a successful WTO Ministerial Conference in Nairobi in December.

IMF [to 6 June 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

World Bank [to 6 June 2015]

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

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

[Building Intelligence Systems Vital to Protect Elephants in Africa](#)

Weak governance and poverty, inadequate natural resource management and increasingly sophisticated crime networks are some of the primary reasons for active ivory trafficking, the report states. Poaching rings are run like sophisticated, established businesses, making it tough for many national law enforcement agencies to catch or prevent poaching in time. Elephant ivory, in addition to rhino horns and tiger products, is among the most sought-after poached items in the world. According to the World Wildlife Fund, poaching is the fifth most profitable illicit trade in the world, estimated at up to \$10 billion annually. But protecting the African elephant has much wider implications than preserving the species. For example, it promotes biodiversity and conducive habitats for several other species, and aids tree species with seed dispersal and germination. It also helps maintain a robust tourism industry, which is vital to rural communities that derive thousands of jobs and livelihoods...

Date: June 5, 2015

[GEF Approves New \\$90 Million Grant Program for Global Partnership to Support Wildlife Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods](#)

WASHINGTON, June 4, 2015 – A \$90 million grant program was approved by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) yesterday for a global partnership to promote investments in biodiversity conservation, preserve wildlife and encourage sustainable livelihoods in Africa and Asia. The new Global Partnership on Wildlife Conservation and Crime Prevention for Sustainable Development builds on the urgent need to address wildlife poaching and illegal trade as a development issue that deprives countries of their natural assets. It aims to strengthen cooperation between development partners that will bring together biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods activities, and poverty reduction." The GEF is pleased to support the critical fight against illegal wildlife trade and poaching, and we are looking forward to work with country partners and other stakeholders to address this significant driver of biodiversity loss that has such negative impacts on protected area sustainability...

Date: June 4, 2015

[Boosting Agriculture, Services and Value Chains is Key to Africa's Competitiveness](#)

African Competitiveness Report 2015 CAPE TOWN, June 4, 2015—Despite high economic growth, competitiveness in Africa is stagnating, with few signs that productivity is rising, thus hindering the prospect of inclusive and sustained growth. Poor-quality institutions, infrastructure, health and education hold competitiveness down, although efficiency in goods and labor markets is improving. Supporting Africa's structural transformation will require a comprehensive policy mix that prioritizes transport and ICT infrastructure, education, trade and further regulatory reform. African economies' prospects for long-term, sustainable growth are under threat from weakness in the core conditions necessary for competitive and productive economies, despite outwardly healthy-looking growth rates in many parts of the region, according to the African Competitiveness Report, which is published today.

Date: June 4, 2015

Type: Press Release

[Development Partners Launch Climate and Disaster Resilience Initiative for Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

GENEVA, June 2, 2015 — The World Meteorological Organization, African Development Bank and World Bank Group today launched an initiative to support the modernization and strengthening of Sub-Saharan African meteorological and hydrological services. These services are key to strengthening resilience to extreme weather events and enabling economic development. Entitled, 'Strengthening Climate and Disaster Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa', this initiative is a direct response to the anticipated adverse impacts from climate change, including food insecurity, which pose severe risks to growth and development across the region. "Reliable and real-time weather and climate information is a prerequisite for multiple sectors of the economy, including water, agriculture, transport, energy and public health," said Makhtar Diop, the World Bank Vice President for the Africa Region.

Date: June 2, 2015

Type: Press Release

[Statement by World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim on Carbon Pricing Announcement by Major Oil and Gas Companies](#)

WASHINGTON, June 1, 2015—World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim issued the following statement today: "I welcome the call today for a price on carbon by six of the world's major oil and gas companies. This is an important step in global efforts to drive the world's economy toward a low-carbon, resilient future and lower climate risks. The CEOs of BG, BP, ENI, Royal Dutch Shell, Statoil and Total have signaled their intention to act and have drawn attention to the role business must play as governments prepare for climate talks in Paris at the end of this year. Clarity and ambition in Paris can help to reduce uncertainty and stimulate clean investment. We need more business leaders from this industry and others to support putting a price on carbon, which will create new economic opportunities for sustainable energy sources and help move us toward a low-carbon future."

Date: June 1, 2015

Type: Press Release

IPU Inter-Parliamentary Union [to 6 June 2015]

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

Press Releases

[Guidance on national aid policies](#)

<http://www.ipu.org/pdf/publications/national-aid-en.pdf>

29 MAY 2015

Key questions such as why States should have a national aid policy and how to ensure that all participants in aid activities are held accountable are addressed in a [new guidance note](#) on development cooperation. Analysis by IPU, the United Nations Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Action Aid shows that many aid-recipient countries either do not have a proper national aid policy, or have policies that are not strong enough to include strong accountability mechanisms. As a partner in the DCF, IPU commissioned the guidance note for development cooperation policymakers and practitioners as a tool to develop mutual accountability among all partners. The aim is to provide guidance on: working together to develop a clear set of commitments on aid management at the country level, become better advocates for the adoption or improvement of national aid policies, and how to effectively take part in their implementation. With parliaments insufficiently involved in the aid policy process, the note, which draws on a detailed review of 26 national aid policies, is also meant to support greater parliamentary engagement and is available online only on the IPU website.

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:: INGO/Collaborations/Initiatives Watch

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

Amref Health Africa [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Aravind Eye Care System [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

BRAC [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

CARE International [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Danish Refugee Council [to 6 June 2015]

<http://drc.dk/news/archive/>
No new digest content identified.

Casa Alianza [to 6 June 2015]
Covenant House [to 6 June 2015]
<http://www.casa-alianza.org.uk/news>
<https://www.covenanthouse.org/>
No new digest content identified.

ECPAT [to 6 June 2015]
<http://www.ecpat.net/news>
No new digest content identified.

Fountain House [to 6 June 2015]
<http://www.fountainhouse.org/about/news-press>
No new digest content identified.

Handicap International [to 6 June 2015]
http://www.handicap-international.us/press_releases
No new digest content identified.

Heifer International [to 6 June 2015]
<http://www.heifer.org/about-heifer/press/press-releases.html>
No new digest content identified.

HelpAge International [to 6 June 2015]
<http://www.helpage.org/newsroom/press-room/press-releases/>
[New chair for HelpAge International](#)

Posted: 03 June 2015

Arun Maira, 71, former member of the Planning Commission of India, is taking over as the next Chair of the Board of Trustees of HelpAge International, the leading global network of organisations working with and for older men and women.

Arun Maira has held leadership positions across the private as well as the public sectors, working with the Tata Group in India, and Arthur D Little in the USA, before returning to India as Chairman of the Boston Consulting Group...

International Rescue Committee [to 6 June 2015]
<http://www.rescue.org/press-release-index>
05 Jun 2015

[Rt Hon David Miliband President & CEO, IRC Speech at the Launch of the New York University Global Ties for Children Center](#)

[Story of Redemption: A hospital in Liberia devastated by Ebola comes back to life](#)

Posted by The IRC on June 5, 2015

After the only free general hospital in Liberia's bustling capital—once the heart of the country's Ebola outbreak—was forced to shut its doors, the IRC worked with the hospital staff to reopen with the resources and procedures needed for proper infection prevention and control, rigorous Ebola response training for staff, and much needed renovations of its pediatric and emergency wards.

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[Bringing education to the most vulnerable children in crisis](#)

Posted by The IRC on June 5, 2015

The IRC's Children of Peace program in Niger and Tanzania provides vital education to refugee children whose lives have been turned upside-down by conflict and crisis.

[Burundi crisis: Aid worker updates \[STORIFY\]](#)

Posted by The IRC on June 4, 2015

As violence continues in Burundi following a contested presidential reelection bid, over 111,000 people – most of them women and children – have fled to neighboring countries. Get updates from IRC aid workers responding to the crisis.

[As Burundian refugees arrive in Tanzania, the IRC supports survivors of sexual violence](#)

Posted by The IRC on June 4, 2015

Spend a day with IRC aid worker Jonia Karumuna as she meets Burundian refugees arriving in a Tanzanian refugee camp to identify anyone who may need medical care or has experienced sexual violence.

[The IRC's ramped-up cholera response helps curb spread of infections among Burundian refugees](#)

Posted by The IRC on June 2, 2015

The IRC's prevention efforts in the town of Kigoma in western Tanzania has significantly helped curb the spread of cholera and other diseases among locals and Burundian refugees fleeing from political unrest in their country.

ICRC [to 6 June 2015]

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

[Nigeria: ICRC helps Maiduguri Hospital treat victims of violence](#)

The ICRC is supporting health facilities in north-east Nigeria as they treat an influx of patients displaced from elsewhere in the region. Many ...

04-06-2015 | Photo gallery

[Nepal earthquake: Helping communities face their fears](#)

The powerful earthquake and aftershocks in Nepal have left many communities traumatized and scared that their ordeal is far from over. The Nepal Red Cross ...

03-06-2015 | Video

IRCT [to 6 June 2015]

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

News

[Hemayat marks 20th anniversary...](#)

02 June 2015

The IRCT would like to congratulate its Austrian member Hemayat on celebrating 20 years of rehabilitation work.

Founded in 1995, Hemayat has established itself in Vienna as a key centre for medical, psychological and psychotherapeutic care of torture survivors and victims of war. The centre is an independent NGO working in cooperation with hospitals, other NGOs and the Austrian state to provide the best services possible for those in need...

Islamic Relief [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières [to 6 June 2015]

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

Press Releases

[Syria: 130 Wounded by Missile Strikes in Idlib Governorate](#)

June 05, 2015

BRUSSELS/NEW YORK—Three missiles struck a town in Idlib Governorate, [Syria](#), yesterday afternoon causing mass casualties and carnage, the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said today.

A local MSF-supported field hospital received an influx of 130 wounded people. As violence continues unabated in Syria, MSF calls for a massive increase of emergency assistance to Syrian medics working on the front lines.

Press release

[MSF Calls on G7 Leaders to Take Concrete Action to Fight Epidemics](#)

June 03, 2015

Berlin, June 3, 2015—The global health system remains unprepared for mass disease epidemics, warned the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) today, ahead of the G7 summit in Elmau, Germany.

Press release

[MSF Responds to Growing Cholera Outbreak in Kenya](#)

June 02, 2015

NAIROBI/NEW YORK—The international medical humanitarian organization Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF), health authorities, and other partners continue their response to a major cholera outbreak in Kenya that has spread to 10 of the country's 47 counties. The outbreak, which began in January, has killed 72 people, according to official figures.

Field news

[Update: June 2 Helicopter Crash in Nepal](#)

June 03, 2015

On Tuesday, June 2, 2015, a helicopter delivering humanitarian aid crashed in Sindhupalchowk district, Nepal. Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) regrets to confirm the death of three of its staff members in this crash. The team was delivering much-needed medical and humanitarian assistance in Sindhupalchowk district when the accident occurred. MSF extends its deepest condolences to the families and friends of our staff, and to those of the pilot of the helicopter, who was also sadly killed.

Field news

[MSF Provides Psychological First Aid to Mediterranean Survivors](#)

June 02, 2015

On Sunday, May 31, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) teams provided emergency psychological support to 18 out of 454 migrants at the port of Augusta who had been rescued at sea after trying to cross the Mediterranean from Libya over the weekend. Seventeen of the passengers brought to Augusta had already died before being rescued due to asphyxiation from inhaling gasoline vapor during an engine breakdown. The 18 who received counseling from MSF's psychological first-aid team were deeply traumatized by the deaths of their friends and family members during the journey.

Mercy Corps [to 6 June 2015]

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

[Mercy Corps: Escalated Fighting in Syria Threatens Critical Humanitarian Supply Routes and Causes New Waves of Displacement](#)

Syria, June 1, 2015

Global organization calls on international community to push for political solution

Gaziantep, Turkey — A major escalation in fighting among all parties to the Syrian conflict is threatening critical supply routes for humanitarian aid in areas between the Turkish border and Aleppo City and forcing thousands of vulnerable civilians trapped between the front lines to flee their homes, according to global humanitarian organization Mercy Corps. As foreign ministers from more than 20 countries gather in Paris on June 2 to discuss the crises in Syria and Iraq, Mercy Corps calls on the international community to step up diplomatic efforts to end the war and to fund the humanitarian response at a scale commensurate to the human suffering...

Operation Smile [to 6 June 2015]

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

[Program Schedule](#)

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

OXFAM [to 6 June 2015]

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

[G7 coal dependence set to cost world \\$450 billion a year by end of century](#)

6 June 2015

Coal plants in the G7 are on track to cost the world \$450 billion a year by the end of the century and reduce crops by millions of tonnes as they fuel the gathering pace of climate change

[Multinational companies cheat Africa out of billions of dollars](#)

2 June 2015

Africa was cheated out of US\$11 billion in 2010 through just one of the tricks used by multinational companies to reduce tax bills, according to new Oxfam report, 'Africa: Rising for the few,' released today.

[G7 companies cheat Africa out of billions of dollars](#)

2 June 2015

G7 based companies and investors cheated Africa out of an estimated US\$6 billion in 2010 through just one form of tax dodging, according to a new Oxfam report 'Money talks: Africa at the G7', released today

Norwegian Refugee Council [to 6 June 2015]

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

Norwegian Refugee Council warns:

[Iraq turning into whirlwind of displacement](#)

04. juni 2015

More than 100,000 Iraqis displaced in Anbar in the last two weeks are desperately seeking to flee to safety while hardly any aid is reaching them, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) warned today. The situation is getting more desperate for more than 8.2 million people.

NRC Horn of Africa

[Delivering aid in a time of massive crises](#)

03. juni 2015

More than 1 million people in the Horn of Africa, South Sudan and Yemen received direct assistance from NRC in 2014, shows the new annual report for 2014.

Partners In Health [to 6 June 2015]

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

Jun 05, 2015

[Wall Street Journal: West Africa, PIH Resolve to Build Health Systems](#)

Jun 04, 2015

[Adama Nylenkeh: Recent Graduate, Rising Star](#)

Jun 03, 2015

[Navajo Nation Hosts Pioneering Cancer Talks](#)

Jun 02, 2015

[Rwanda: Training Focuses on Newborn Care](#)

Doctors and nurses from across Rwanda gathered at Rwinkwavu District Hospital this spring, aiming to walk away with an understanding of the country's new neonatal care package.

Jun 02, 2015

[Celebrating a Safe Birth in Lesotho](#)

PATH [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Plan International [to 6 June 2015]

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

05/06/2015:

[Delivering for adolescent girls: Ambitious indicators for a transformative Post-2015 agenda](#)

04/06/2015:

[Plan International supporting Burundian refugees in Rwanda and Tanzania](#)

Save The Children [to 6 June 2015]

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

[Survival of 17,000 Children at Risk Every Day if G7 Leaders Fail to Take Action](#)

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 5, 2015) – The survival of 17,000 children and 800 mothers is at stake every day if leaders and heads of state do not take decisive action at the 41st G7 summit in Germany this weekend, warns Save the Children and Save the Children Action Network.

“We can end millions of preventable maternal and child deaths by 2030, but it is critical for G7 leaders to make bold political and financial commitments this year to achieve that ambitious goal,” said Mark Shriver, President of Save the Children Action Network. “G7 leaders must send a clear signal ahead of the Financing for Development conference in July in Addis Ababa, and the United Nations General Assembly in September in New York, by endorsing these goals or we risk stalling vital progress.”...

SOS-Kinderdorf International [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Tostan [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Women for Women International [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

:::::

ChildFund Alliance [to 6 June 2015]

<http://childfundalliance.org/>

Website not functioning at review.

Disasters Emergency Committee [to 6 June 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

The Elders [to 6 June 2015]

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

[The Elders' Debate on BBC Global – the highlights](#)

4 June 2015

Kofi Annan, Jimmy Carter, Hina Jilani and Mary Robinson took part in a live broadcast debate on BBC World to discuss some of the world's biggest issues, from Syria and Ukraine to migration and extremism. [Watch the debate](#)

END Fund [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

GAVI [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Global Fund [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Hilton Prize Laureates [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

InterAction

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

[InterAction Protests the Expulsion of UN Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan](#)

Jun 02, 2015

As an alliance representing humanitarian and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who have worked with the people of South Sudan for many years, InterAction is extremely concerned by the decision of the Government of South Sudan to expel Toby Lanzer, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator...

Start Network [to 6 June 2015]

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

[Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies]

No new digest content identified.

Muslim Charities Forum [to 6 June 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

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Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) [to 6 June 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 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

:: People In Aid [to 6 June 2015]

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

[HHR Europe 2015 Day 2: Sharing and learning](#)

Today participants shared case studies on innovative HR practices from their own organisations.

There were lively discussions on HR challenges, successes and areas for improvement.

(3 June 2015)

[HHR Europe 2015 Day 1: Opening speakers on innovative resourcing](#)

The Humanitarian HR Europe conference started today in Antwerp, Belgium with an engaging discussion on the conference theme Innovative resourcing: The talent challenge in a shifting humanitarian landscape.

(3 June 2015)

[Welcome to HHR Europe 2015](#)

People In Aid's Head of HR Services Maduri Moutou welcomes you to Antwerp for the 19th annual HHR Europe conference. The theme this year is Innovative Resourcing - the talent challenge in a shifting humanitarian landscape.

(3 June 2015)

EHLRA/R2HC [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

ODI [to 6 June 2015]

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

[Climate finance for cities: how can climate funds best support low-carbon and climate resilient urban development?](#)

Working and discussion papers | June 2015 | Sam Barnard

An analysis of how multilateral climate funds have attempted to support urban mitigation and adaptation responses. It discusses the implications for ongoing attempts to encourage low-carbon and climate resilient urban development.

[10 things to know about development and the data revolution](#)

Briefing papers | June 2015 | Emma Samman

New infographics on the exponential growth of mobile and digital data, where the gaps are, and what this all means for development.

The data revolution has the potential to lead to sharper, more targeted, better-monitored policies. It could even transform power relations between citizens, governments and businesses. Used well, data can help people reach a clearer picture of their lives – and use the evidence for progress. But people remain uncounted and big gaps in our knowledge remain. Explore development and the data revolution in these 10 infographics.

[Climate finance and public finance management: professional development reading pack](#)

Toolkits, Working and discussion papers | June 2015 | Neil Bird

A reading pack on climate finance and links to public finance management designed for independent study by individuals or groups, including an introduction to recommended readings.

[Global mental health policy influence toolkit](#)

Toolkits | June 2015 | Jessica Mackenzie, Caroline Cassidy

A set of tools for researchers working in global mental health. Designed to be used by project teams, tools can be applied individually or together as part of wider strategic planning.

The Sphere Project [to 6 June 2015]

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

[Building Sphere capacity in Nepal](#)

6 June 2015 | Sphere Project

As the humanitarian community is busy responding to the crisis unleashed by the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that hit Nepal on 25 April, an initiative to build Sphere capacity in the country received a warm welcome.

Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP) [to 6 June 2015]

<https://phap.org/>

No new digest content identified.

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:: Foundation/Major Donor Watch

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

BMGF (Gates Foundation) [to 6 June 2015]

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

JUNE 02, 2015

[The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announces new \\$776 million investment in nutrition to tackle child mortality and help all women and children survive and thrive](#)

Melinda Gates makes announcement in Brussels during European Development Days

Clinton Foundation [to 6 June 2015]

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

Press Releases

[President Bill Clinton to Receive Seven Generations Award at City Year's Red Jacket Ball](#)

Little Rock, AR Press Release

June 4, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

...we celebrate 10 years of City Year AmeriCorps Members serving in Little Rock schools. We are excited to honor President Bill Clinton with the Seven Generations Award, recognizing his life-long commitment to public service and improving the lives of people around the world. The award is named after an Iroquois proverb that says, "In every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations."..

Editor's Note: *We selectively include major articles and analysis on the foundations, NGOs, and agencies we monitor and will identify them clearly as separate content from that otherwise presented under the organization name.*

Washington Post

June 2, 2015

[The inside story of how the Clintons built a \\$2 billion global empire](#)

By [David A. Fahrenthold](#), [Tom Hamburger](#) and [Rosalind S. Helderman](#)

... Today, the Clinton Foundation is unlike anything else in the history of the nation and, perhaps, the world: It is a global philanthropic empire run by a former U.S. president and closely affiliated with a potential future president, with the audacious goal of solving some of the world's most vexing problems by bringing together the wealthiest, glitziest and most powerful people from every part of the planet.

The evolution of the foundation, which began as a modest nonprofit focused largely on the ex-president's library in Arkansas, is a nearly perfect reflection of the Clintons themselves. It was not designed as a master plan but rather has grown, one brainstorm at a time, in accordance with the ambitious, loyal, restless and often scattered nature of its primary namesake...

Ford Foundation [to 6 June 2015]

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

5 June 2015:

[Behind the latest news on Internet privacy](#)

A victory at the intersection of art, tech and social change

This week, the U.S. Senate ended the NSA's bulk collection of millions of Americans' phone records by passing the [USA Freedom Act](#). This significant reform of U.S. surveillance policy came after intensive efforts by activists and advocates (many of them supported by the Ford Foundation) to protect citizens' right to privacy on the Internet. And of course, it was preceded by Edward Snowden's revelations of the U.S. government's mass data collection of citizens' Internet and phone communications....

... We recently explored these issues with leading experts in technology, government, business, and philanthropy at [NetGain](#), a forum on building a digital society that promotes innovation, social justice, and progress. And we will continue to support people and organizations working at the critical intersections of art, technology, and social change—where some of the most important and dynamic work on these issues is happening.

1 June 2015

[Darren Walker addresses the Presidio Graduate School Class of 2015](#)

The foundation's president reflects on building a more sustainable future

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Kellogg Foundation [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

MacArthur Foundation [to 6 June 2015]

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

Publication

[Assessing Urban Governance in Europe and China](#)

Published June 5, 2015

Two papers from the London School of Economics [New Urban Governance](#) Project, supported by MacArthur, explore the evolution of urban governance in [Europe](#) and [China](#). The first posits that urban governance in the European Union is characterized by intercity competition, increasing self-reliance in economic terms, and an emphasis on innovation in governance and service delivery. The second describes three decades of urban reforms in China and states that the country's future success is dependent on how well the nation and its people will govern the ongoing "urban revolution."

Publication

[Family Support in Aging Societies](#)

Published May 29, 2015

A [report](#) by the [Pew Research Center](#) finds that majorities of adults across the United States, Italy, and Germany believe adult children have a responsibility to provide financial assistance to an aging parent in need. The report, which cites research from the [MacArthur Foundation Research Network on an Aging Society](#), shows that Americans, Italians, and Germans are split on who should bear the greatest responsibility for the financial well-being of their older family members: families, the government, or older adults themselves. The report compares the ways families in the U.S., Germany and Italy are coping as more people enter their senior years.

Open Society Foundation [to 6 June 2015]

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

[The Open Society Foundations Name Head of Economic Advancement Program](#)

June 3, 2015 News

Sean Hinton will lead the Open Society Foundations' economic advancement agenda, which aims to encourage sound economic policies and wise financial investment that drive shared, equitable growth.

[New Panel Assesses Candidates ahead of Inter-American Human Rights Vote](#)

June 3, 2015 News

An independent panel legal experts is urging the Organization of American States to adopt a more transparent approach to selecting judges and commissioners for the inter-American human rights court and commission.

[Swiss Decision Undermines Efforts to End Conflict Resource Trade](#)

June 2, 2015 News

A decision not to prosecute Argor-Heraus, a Swiss precious metals company that handled pillaged African gold, undermines international efforts to eliminate the illegal resource trade that fuels conflicts around the world.

David and Lucile Packard Foundation [to 6 June 2015]

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

Pew Charitable Trusts [to 6 June 2015]

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

[Pew Commends Congress on Bipartisan Industrial Energy Efficiency Bill](#)

June 04, 2015 Press Release [Clean Energy Initiative](#)

The Pew Charitable Trusts commends the bipartisan group of House and Senate legislators that today introduced the Power Efficiency and Resiliency Act (POWER Act). The bills would ensure that industrial energy efficiency technologies—combined heat and power, and waste heat to power—are treated in a manner that is on par with other renewables covered by the investment tax credit

Rockefeller Foundation [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [to 6 June 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Wellcome Trust [to 6 June 2015]

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

[Wellcome Trust invests in Japanese Global Health Fund](#)

The Wellcome Trust has entered into a new partnership with the Japanese Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT Fund) – a collaboration that will help support the development of new tools to tackle infectious diseases that devastate the world's poorest people.

3 June 2015

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:: Journal Watch

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

American Journal of Disaster Medicine

Vol. 9, No. 3–Summer 2014

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Infection Control

June 2015 Volume 43, Issue 6, p547-662

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Preventive Medicine

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Public Health

Volume 105, Issue 6 (June 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

June 2015; 92 (6)

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

[The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Keeping Our Focus on the Worst Off](#)

Daniel Sharp and Joseph Millum*

Author Affiliations

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Fogarty International Center, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland

Abstract

Non-communicable diseases now account for the majority of the global burden of disease and an international campaign has emerged to raise their priority on the post-2015 development agenda. We argue, to the contrary, that there remain strong reasons to prioritize maternal and child health. Policy-makers ought to assign highest priority to the health conditions that afflict the worst off. In virtue of how little healthy life they have had, children who die young are among the globally worst off. Moreover, many interventions to deal with the conditions that cause mortality in the young are low-cost and provide great benefits to their recipients.

Consistent with the original Millennium Development Goals, the international community should continue to prioritize reductions in communicable diseases, neonatal conditions, and maternal health despite the shifts in the global burden of disease.

[Needs, Acceptability, and Value of Humanitarian Medical Assistance in Remote Peruvian Amazon Riverine Communities](#)

Juan F. Sanchez, Eric S. Halsey, Angela M. Bayer, Martin Beltran, Hugo R. Razuri, Daniel E. Velasquez, Vitaliano A. Cama, Paul C. F. Graf, Antonio M. Quispe, Ryan C. Maves, Joel M. Montgomery, John W. Sanders and Andres G. Lescano*

Author Affiliations

U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit No. 6 (NAMRU-6), Lima, Peru; David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles, California; Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, School of Public Health and Management, Lima, Peru; Alto Amazonas Health Network, Peruvian Ministry of Health, Yurimaguas, Peru; Division of Parasitic Diseases and Malaria, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia; Naval Medical Center, San Diego, California

Abstract.

Much debate exists regarding the need, acceptability, and value of humanitarian medical assistance. We conducted a cross-sectional study on 457 children under 5 years from four remote riverine communities in the Peruvian Amazon and collected anthropometric measures, blood samples (1–4 years), and stool samples. Focus groups and key informant interviews assessed perspectives regarding medical aid delivered by foreigners. The prevalence of stunting, anemia, and intestinal parasites was 20%, 37%, and 62%, respectively. Infection with multiple parasites, usually geohelminths, was detected in 41% of children. The prevalence of intestinal parasites both individual and polyparasitism increased with age. Participants from smaller communities less exposed to foreigners expressed lack of trust and fear of them. However, participants from all communities were positive about foreigners visiting to provide health support. Prevalent health needs such as parasitic infections and anemia may be addressed by short-term medical interventions. There is a perceived openness to and acceptability of medical assistance delivered by foreign personnel.

BMC Health Services Research

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

(Accessed 6 June 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Infectious Diseases

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

(Accessed 6 June 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Medical Ethics

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

(Accessed 6 June 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

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

(Accessed 6 June 2015)

Research article

[Opportunities to improve postpartum care for mothers and infants: design of context-specific packages of postpartum interventions in rural districts in four sub-Saharan African countries](#)

Els Duysburgh, Birgit Kerstens, Seni Kouanda, Charles Kaboré, Danielle Belemsaga Yugbare, Peter Gichangi, Gibson Masache, Beatrice Crahay, Gilda Gondola Sitefane, Nafissa Bique Osman, Severiano Foia, Henrique Barros, Sofia Castro Lopes, Susan Mann, Bejoy Nambiar, Tim Colbourn, Marleen Temmerman *BMC Pregnancy & Childbirth* 2015, 15:131 (3 June 2015)

BMC Public Health

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

(Accessed 6 June 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Research Notes

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

(Accessed 6 June 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

British Medical Journal

06 June 2015(vol 350, issue 8011)

<http://www.bmj.com/content/350/8011>

Editor's Choice

A test of our humanity

BMJ 2015; 350 doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.h3031> (Published 04 June 2015)

Navjoyt Ladher, clinical editor, The BMJ

Last week UK newspapers carried reports from the Greek island of Kos, with anguished British tourists complaining about their holidays being spoilt by Syrian refugees fleeing to the island and declaring they would go elsewhere for their summer break next year. If the reaction from these holidaymakers has you wondering about our compassion, the Australian government's response to the migrant crisis makes for grim reading.

As part of Australia's "stop the boats" policy, people arriving by boat in Australian waters are moved to offshore immigration detention centres on Pacific islands. Healthcare workers have described conditions in these centres as "appalling," with reports of substandard medical care, abuse of children, and unhygienic accommodation. As Michael Woodhead reports from Sydney this week (doi:[10.1136/bmj.h3008](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.h3008)), under new legislation enacted as part of the policy doctors face two years in jail if they raise concerns about mistreatment of asylum seekers in detention centres. Barri Phataford, co-founder of Doctors for Refugees and a GP in Sydney, said, "This policy is a fail on every level. Not only does it clearly compromise the safety and health of those in detention, it puts Australian registered doctors in an ethical and legal conflict."

In an editorial this week David Berger and Kamran Abbasi call for moral leadership from Australia and other western democracies in their treatment of refugees (doi:[10.1136/bmj.h2907](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.h2907)). Berger and Abbasi look to the past and warn that turning a blind eye to the plight of refugees doesn't make these problems go away: "They only get worse and eventually blow up in violent and entirely predictable ways, as the deaths of millions during the second world war and subsequently attest."

What is needed from politicians? "Moral leadership and global statesmanship must supplant a self interested, parochial political agenda . . . The health and welfare of refugees is a test of our humanity, a test that we are failing once again."...

Editorials

Refugees: time for moral leadership from the Western democracies

BMJ 2015; 350 doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.h2907> (Published 28 May 2015)

David Berger , district medical officer 1, Kamran Abbasi , international editor 2

Author affiliations

Australia sets a disgraceful example in its treatment of refugees

Any observer of today's spiraling refugee crises in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia must agree with Hegel that "The only thing we learn from history is that we learn nothing from history." At the Evian conference of 1938, the US encouraged representatives of 32 nations to find a solution to the Jewish refugee crisis in Europe but refused to relax its own, severely limited refugee quotas, as did Britain.^{1 2} The other participating nations followed suit, except the Dominican Republic, which agreed to take 100 000. In the summer of 1939, in the first act of a "stop the boats" doctrine that still plays out today, the St Louis, a German luxury liner carrying over 900 German Jewish refugees, was refused entry by Cuba, the US, and Canada and returned to Europe, where a large number of the would-be refugees were subsequently murdered in the Holocaust.³ This hypocrisy sent a clear message to Hitler that no one else cared about the Jews, or at least not enough to do anything, and he correctly concluded he was able to act with impunity...

Brown Journal of World Affairs

Volume XXI Issue 1 Fall–Winter 2014

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Bulletin of the World Health Organization

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

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/93/6/en/>

EDITORIALS

The Sendai framework: disaster risk reduction through a health lens

Amina Aitsi-Selmi & Virginia Murray

doi: 10.2471/BLT.15.157362

Research

Identifying implementation bottlenecks for maternal and newborn health interventions in rural districts of the United Republic of Tanzania

Ulrika Baker, Stefan Peterson, Tanya Marchant, Godfrey Mbaruku, Silas Temu, Fatuma Manzi & Claudia Hanson

Abstract

Objective

To estimate effective coverage of maternal and newborn health interventions and to identify bottlenecks in their implementation in rural districts of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Methods

Cross-sectional data from households and health facilities in Tandahimba and Newala districts were used in the analysis. We adapted Tanahashi's model to estimate intervention coverage in conditional stages and to identify implementation bottlenecks in access, health facility readiness and clinical practice. The interventions studied were syphilis and pre-eclampsia screening, partograph use, active management of the third stage of labour and postpartum care.

Findings

Effective coverage was low in both districts, ranging from only 3% for postpartum care in Tandahimba to 49% for active management of the third stage of labour in Newala. In Tandahimba, health facility readiness was the largest bottleneck for most interventions, whereas in Newala, it was access. Clinical practice was another large bottleneck for syphilis screening in both districts.

Conclusion

The poor effective coverage of maternal and newborn health interventions in rural districts of the United Republic of Tanzania reinforces the need to prioritize health service quality. Access to high-quality local data by decision-makers would assist planning and prioritization. The approach of estimating effective coverage and identifying bottlenecks described here could facilitate progress towards universal health coverage for any area of care and in any context.

Policy & Practice

Applying the lessons of maternal mortality reduction to global emergency health

Emilie J Calvello, Alexander P Skog, Andrea G Tenner & Lee A Wallis

Over the last few decades, maternal health has been a major focus of the international community and this has resulted in a substantial decrease in maternal mortality globally. Although, compared with maternal illness, medical and surgical emergencies account for far more morbidity and mortality, there has been less focus on global efforts to improve comprehensive emergency systems. The thoughtful and specific application of the concepts used in the effort to decrease maternal mortality could lead to major improvements in global emergency health services. The so-called three-delay model that was developed for maternal mortality can be adapted to emergency service delivery. Adaptation of evaluation frameworks to include emergency sentinel conditions could allow effective monitoring of emergency facilities and further policy development. Future global emergency health efforts may benefit from incorporating strategies for the planning and evaluation of high-impact interventions.

Improving eye care in Rwanda

Agnes Binagwaho, Kirstin Scott, Thomas Rosewall, Graeme Mackenzie, Gweneth Rehnborg, Sjoerd Hannema, Max Presente, Piet Noe, Wanjiku Mathenge, John Nkurikiye, Francois Habiyaremye & Theophile Dushime

Abstract

Problem

Visual impairment affects nearly 285 million people worldwide. Although there has been much progress in combating the burden of visual impairment through initiatives such as VISION 2020, barriers to progress, especially in African countries, remain high.

Approach

The Rwandan Ministry of Health has formed partnerships with several nongovernmental organizations and has worked to integrate their efforts to prevent and treat visual impairment, including presbyopia.

Local setting

Rwanda, an eastern African country of approximately 11 million people.

Relevant changes

The Rwandan Ministry of Health developed a single national plan that allows key partners in vision care to coordinate more effectively in measuring eye disease, developing eye care infrastructure, building capacity, controlling disease, and delivering and evaluating services.

Lessons learnt

Collaboration between stakeholders under a single national plan has ensured that resources and efforts are complementary, optimizing the ability to provide eye care. Improved access to

primary eye care and insurance coverage has increased demand for services at secondary and tertiary levels. A comprehensive strategy that includes prevention as well as a supply chain for glasses and lenses is needed.

Chronicle of Philanthropy

June 1, 2015 Volume 27, Issue 10

<https://philanthropy.com/issue>

Cover Story

June 01, 2015

[Silicon Valley vs. Philanthropy](#)

Charities are clamoring for the support of tech moguls, whose elusive giving patterns may fundamentally change the nonprofit world.

June 01, 2015

[A Famed Business Accelerator Opens the Door to Nonprofit Start-Ups](#)

Y Combinator applies its business principles to support people seeking to solve the world's problems.

June 01, 2015

[Feeling Flush, Hewlett Boosts Giving 80%](#)

The foundation is channeling more money to nonprofits whose grants it had to trim during the financial crisis.

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 6 June 2015]

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

[No new relevant content identified]

Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation

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

(Accessed 6 June 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

Developing World Bioethics

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Development in Practice

Volume 25, Issue 4, 2015

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

Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology

Volume 10, Number 4 (July 2015)

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness

Volume 9 - Issue 02 - April 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Disasters

July 2015 Volume 39, Issue 3 Pages 407–609

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

Papers

[Building disaster-resilient micro enterprises in the developing world](#)

Sameer Prasad¹, Hung-Chung Su², Nezh Altay³ and Jasmine Tata⁴

Article first published online: 29 DEC 2014

DOI: 10.1111/disa.12117

Abstract

Family-owned micro enterprises operating within the informal sector of most developing countries provide millions of citizens with a livelihood and are the economic backbone of many communities. Yet, the turbulence that emanates up or down respective supply chains following a disaster can cause these entities to fail. This study develops a model that recognises the relative weakness of micro enterprises to such disaster-related shocks. The model proposes that micro enterprises can moderate the effect of such shocks by creating resilience through cognitive preparation, continuous learning, and the generation of various forms of social capital (cognitive, relational, and structural). The propositions for the model are established through an extensive literature review, coupled with examples drawn from the documents of humanitarian agencies performing disaster relief work in India. This model also serves as a preliminary basis with which to derive metrics to set benchmarks or to assess the viability of a micro enterprise's ability to survive disaster-related shocks.

Papers

[The impact of humanitarian context conditions and individual characteristics on aid worker retention](#)

Valeska P. Korff¹, Melinda Mills³, Liesbet Heyse⁴ and Rafael Wittek⁵

Article first published online: 9 JAN 2015

DOI: 10.1111/disa.12119

Abstract

High employee turnover rates constitute a major challenge to effective aid provision. This study examines how features of humanitarian work and aid workers' individual characteristics affect retention within one humanitarian organisation, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Holland. The study extends existing research by providing new theoretical explanations of employment opportunities and constraints and by engaging in the first large-scale quantitative analysis of aid worker retention. Using a database of field staff (N=1,955), a logistic regression is performed of the likelihood of reenlistment after a first mission. The findings demonstrate that only 40 per cent of employees reenlist for a second mission with MSF Holland, and that workplace location and security situation, age, and gender have no significant effect. Individuals are less likely to reenlist if they returned early from the first mission for a personal reason, are in a relationship, are medical doctors, or if they come from highly developed countries. The paper reflects on the findings in the light of policy.

Emergency Medicine Journal

June 2015, Volume 32, Issue 6

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Epidemics

Volume 11, *In Progress* (June 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

End of Life Journal

2015, Volume 5, Issue 1

<http://eolj.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 6 June 2015]

[No new relevant content]

Global Public Health

Volume 10, Issue 5-6, 2015

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Globalization and Health

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

[Accessed 6 June 2015]

[No new relevant content identified]

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>

[Reviewed earlier]

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 6 June 2015]

[No new relevant content]

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 5, No 1 (2015) June 2015

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

IDRiM Conference Special Issue Articles

Changing land use, disaster risk and adaptive responses in upland communities in Thailand

Malin Beckman, Junko Mochizuki, Sopon Naruchaikusol

Abstract

The Forensic Investigations of Disaster (FORIN) research approach was utilized to investigate the inter- relationships between land-use changes and adaptive capacity to climate risk in Northern Thailand, and how these are influenced by policy-related and economic activities at national, provincial and local levels. Scenario-based analysis indicated the necessity of community planning concerning future climate risk(s) and adaptive-capacity enhancement. The study highlighted numerous climate risks facing villagers, including flash floods, heavy rainfall, temperature extremes, and prolonged drought. The marginalized communities under study are located in National Park and Forest Reserve areas, and the limitations of their existing resources make them especially vulnerable to climate risk. In addition, recent land-use changes and increasing dependence on mono-culture crops planted on sloping land have rendered them more vulnerable to non-climate-based risks including pest outbreaks and market-price fluctuations. The study sees the need for further governmental support in the form of agricultural extension, community- based forest management, diversification and other livelihood strategies that would help to promote the resilience of these forest-dependent communities.

Infectious Diseases of Poverty

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

[Accessed 6 June 2015]

[No new relevant content]

International Health

Volume 7 Issue 3 May 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction

Volume 13, In Progress (September 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Infectious Diseases

June 2015 Volume 35, p1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Mass Emergencies & Disasters

March 2015 (VOL. 33, NO. 1)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology

Volume 22, Issue 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

June 2, 2015, Vol 313, No. 21

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

JAMA Pediatrics

June 2015, Vol 169, No. 6

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Journal of Community Health

Volume 40, Issue 3, June 2015

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

[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>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (JPIDS)

Volume 4 Issue 2 June 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Public Health Policy

Volume 36, Issue 2 (May 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of the Royal Society – Interface

06 May 2015; volume 12, issue 106

<http://rsif.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Knowledge Management for Development Journal

Vol 11, No 1 (2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

The Lancet

Jun 06, 2015 Volume 385 Number 9984 p2223-2322

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

Comment

An updated Ebola vaccine: immunogenic, but will it protect?

Andrea Marzi, Darryl Falzarano

Published Online: 24 March 2015

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)60613-4](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)60613-4)

The largest outbreak of Ebola virus ever recorded has been ongoing for about 16 months in west Africa. In the past week, Liberia, which had nearly reached the halfway point to being declared Ebola free, has reported a new case, and new Ebola infections continue to be confirmed in Sierra Leone and Guinea.¹ With more than 24 000 cases and almost 10 000 fatalities,¹ this outbreak is one of the biggest public health crises so far this century. When the outbreak was first confirmed in March, 2014, none of the experimental vaccine platforms with promising results in non-human primate studies² had advanced beyond assessment in phase 1 clinical trials in human beings, let alone been approved for human use. But only a few months later, with the epidemic spreading and thousands of people infected in west Africa, the international community pulled together to accelerate phase 1 clinical trials in humans for vaccine platforms based on recombinant adenovirus (ClinicalTrials.gov numbers [NCT02289027](#), [NCT02368119](#), [NCT02231866](#), [NCT02354404](#), [NCT02240875](#), [NCT02267109](#)) and vesicular stomatitis virus ([NCT02287480](#), [NCT02269423](#), [NCT02296983](#), [NCT02314923](#), [NCT02280408](#), [NCT02374385](#), [NCT02283099](#)).

The timely study by Feng-Cai Zhu and colleagues³ in The Lancet is the fourth report of a phase 1 trial in humans using either recombinant adenovirus-based or DNA-based vaccination strategies.^{4, 5, 6} The recombinant adenovirus type-5 vaccine platform has previously been tested by other investigators with a prototypic Ebola virus glycoprotein.² The present study updated the vaccine vector to encode the glycoprotein from the 2014 west African Ebola virus isolate, making it the first Ebola vaccine report to use an immunogen that matches that of the currently circulating Ebola virus strain.

In the study, 120 healthy Chinese individuals were randomly assigned to receive placebo (n=40), or a low dose (4×10^{10} viral particles; n=40) or high dose (1.6×10^{11} viral particles; n=40) of the recombinant adenovirus type-5 vaccine.³ In each group, roughly 60% of the participants had pre-existing neutralising antibody titres greater than 1:200 to adenovirus type-5. In a previous phase 1 trial based on a different recombinant adenovirus type-5-based Ebola vaccine vector with promising data in non-human primates, pre-existing adenovirus type-5 neutralising antibodies negatively affected the immune response to the vaccine (55% vs 100%

response).^{2, 7} These data provided the basis for replacement of the adenovirus-type-5 vector with a chimpanzee adenovirus vector.⁵

The increased vaccine doses used in Zhu and colleagues' study³ seem to partly circumvent pre-existing immunity to the vector, because participants in the high-dose group had a 100% response rate, with no resultant increase in adverse events. Glycoprotein-specific antibody titres significantly increased in the low-dose and high-dose vaccine groups at both day 14 (geometric mean titre 421·4 [95% CI 249·7–711·3] and 820·5 [598·9–1124·0], respectively) and day 28 (682·7 [424·3–1098·5] and 1305·7 [970·1–1757·2], respectively), with T-cell responses peaking at day 14 in both these groups (median 465·0 spot-forming cells [IQR 180·0–1202·5] and 765·0 cells [400·0–1460·0], respectively). The antigen-specific immunoglobulin-G responses in participants in the high-dose group with low pre-existing adenovirus type-5 immunity ($\leq 1:200$) resulted in geometric mean titres of 2231·8 (95% CI 1268·6–3926·2) at 4 weeks after vaccination, but titres decreased to 946·5 (705·4–1270·1) when the immunised individuals had pre-existing neutralising titres greater than 1:200. This finding is a major concern about this vaccine platform, because 80% of the target population in Africa are expected to have adenovirus type-5 neutralising antibody titres.⁸ Furthermore, findings from previous studies^{9, 10} in non-human primates suggest that with adenovirus-based vaccines, an Ebola virus glycoprotein-specific ELISA 90% effective concentration (the metric also used in the present study) titre of 3000 is required for protection, and this concentration was not reached in the present trial, particularly in participants with pre-existing adenovirus type-5 immunity. This recombinant adenovirus-based type-5 Ebola virus vaccine also elicits a similar T-cell response in humans to that shown with the chimpanzee adenovirus vector, peaking 14 days after vaccination.⁵

The glycoprotein from the present outbreak strain has 97% similarity to previously known Ebola virus vaccine isolates,¹¹ and vaccines using the prototypic antigen are expected to protect against infection with the west African isolates. Data from preclinical animal studies will hopefully provide information about the importance of having a vaccine antigen that is identical to that of circulating viruses.

Because Zhu and colleagues' report³ is preliminary, antibody responses have only been assessed up to day 28 after vaccination. Thus, the durability of a single-dose recombinant adenovirus type-5 vaccination is still unknown, and assessment of whether subsequent boosts will be necessary to maintain or establish sufficient long-term immunity will be important. 82 (68%) participants reported at least one solicited adverse reaction within 7 days of vaccination (19 in the placebo group vs 27 in the low-dose group vs 36 in the high-dose group). The only reported adverse event in all three groups was mild pain at the injection site (eight in the placebo group, 14 in the low-dose group, and 29 in the high-dose vaccine group),³ a minor side-effect, suggesting that administration of the high dose probably needed in Africa would be acceptable. However, follow-up was only for 28 days and no conclusion about long-term side-effects can be made.

This adenovirus type-5 Ebola vaccine vector is an example of how quickly existing vaccine platforms can be modified to incorporate a new virus strain, and moved, with minimum testing in animals, into trials in humans during a crisis situation. However, for this vector, efficacy testing in non-human primates to establish whether the high-dose vaccine would be effective against homologous and heterologous Ebola virus strains still needs to be done. The

outstanding question remains as to whether DNA, recombinant adenovirus, or recombinant chimpanzee adenovirus vaccine platforms will be more effective than a recombinant vesicular stomatitis virus-based vaccine, which by contrast is fast acting and not affected by pre-existing vector immunity.¹² Ultimately, the effectiveness of all these vaccines will only become clear when they proceed to phase 2 efficacy trials in outbreak regions.

Articles

Safety and immunogenicity of a novel recombinant adenovirus type-5 vector-based Ebola vaccine in healthy adults in China: preliminary report of a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 1 trial

Feng-Cai Zhu, MSc, Li-Hua Hou, PhD, Jing-Xin Li, MSc, Shi-Po Wu, PhD, Prof Pei Liu, PhD, Gui-Rong Zhang, PhD, Yue-Mei Hu, BSc, Fan-Yue Meng, MSc, Jun-Jie Xu, PhD, Rong Tang, MSc, Jin-Long Zhang, PhD, Wen-Juan Wang, MSc, Lei Duan, MSc, Kai Chu, MSc, Qi Liang, MSc, Jia-Lei Hu, MSc, Li Luo, MSc, Tao Zhu, PhD, Jun-Zhi Wang, PhD, Dr Wei Chen, PhD  

Published Online: 24 March 2015

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Summary

Background

Up to now, all tested Ebola virus vaccines have been based on the virus strain from the Zaire outbreak in 1976. We aimed to assess the safety and immunogenicity of a novel recombinant adenovirus type-5 vector-based Ebola vaccine expressing the glycoprotein of the 2014 epidemic strain.

Methods

We did this randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 1 clinical trial at one site in Taizhou County, Jiangsu Province, China. Healthy adults (aged 18–60 years) were sequentially enrolled and randomly assigned (2:1), by computer-generated block randomisation (block size of six), to receive placebo, low-dose adenovirus type-5 vector-based Ebola vaccine, or high-dose vaccine. Randomisation was pre-stratified by dose group. All participants, investigators, and laboratory staff were masked to treatment allocation. The primary safety endpoint was occurrence of solicited adverse reactions within 7 days of vaccination. The primary immunogenicity endpoints were glycoprotein-specific antibody titres and T-cell responses at day 28 after the vaccination. Analysis was by intention to treat. The study is registered with ClinicalTrials.gov, number [NCT02326194](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study?term=NCT02326194).

Findings

Between Dec 28, 2014, and Jan 9, 2015, 120 participants were enrolled and randomly assigned to receive placebo (n=40), low-dose vaccine (n=40), or high-dose vaccine. Participants were followed up for 28 days. Overall, 82 (68%) participants reported at least one solicited adverse reaction within 7 days of vaccination (n=19 in the placebo group vs n=27 in the low-dose group vs n=36 in the high-dose group; p=0·0002). The most common reaction was mild pain at the injection site, which was reported in eight (20%) participants in the placebo group, 14 (35%) participants in the low-dose group, and 29 (73%) participants in the high-dose vaccine group (p<0·0001). We recorded no statistical differences in other adverse reactions and laboratory tests across groups. Glycoprotein-specific antibody titres were significantly increased in participants in the low-dose and high-dose vaccine groups at both day 14 (geometric mean titre 421·4 [95% CI 249·7–711·3] and 820·5 [598·9–1124·0], respectively; p<0·0001) and day 28 (682·7 [424·3–1098·5] and 1305·7 [970·1–1757·2], respectively; p<0·0001). T-cell responses peaked at day 14 at a median of 465·0 spot-forming cells (IQR 180·0–1202·5) in participants in the low-dose group and 765·0 cells (400·0–1460·0) in those in the high-dose group. 21 (18%)

participants had mild fever (n=9 in the placebo group, n=6 in the low-dose group, and n=6 in the high-dose group). No serious adverse events were recorded.

Interpretation

Our findings show that the high-dose vaccine is safe and robustly immunogenic. One shot of the high-dose vaccine could mount glycoprotein-specific humoral and T-cell response against Ebola virus in 14 days.

Funding

China National Science and Technology, Beijing Institute of Biotechnology, and Tianjin CanSino Biotechnology.

Comment

Ebola: the challenging road to recovery

Michael Edelstein, Philip Angelides, David L Heymann

Published Online: 08 February 2015

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The resurgence of polio in Syria in 2013 has shown how a breakdown in public health can lead to the re-emergence of previously well-controlled diseases.¹ In 2014 and early 2015 Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone have focused all resources on the Ebola response at the expense of other health programmes. Combined with losing a large proportion of the health-care workforce and the population's reluctance to attend health-care facilities for fear of Ebola, this means the three countries are now at increased risk of other diseases that their health programmes usually target.

The Lancet Global Health

Jun 2015 Volume 3 Number 6 e297-e340

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

[Reviewed earlier]

The Lancet Infectious Diseases

Jun 2015 Volume 15 Number 6 p615-746

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

Articles

Statistical power and validity of Ebola vaccine trials in Sierra Leone: a simulation study of trial design and analysis

Dr Steven E Bellan, PhD, Juliet R C Pulliam, PhD, Carl A B Pearson, PhD, David Champredon, MSc, Spencer J Fox, BS, Laura Skrip, MPH, Prof Alison P Galvani, PhD, Manoj Gambhir, PhD, Ben A Lopman, PhD, Prof Travis C Porco, PhD, Prof Lauren Ancel Meyers, PhD, Jonathan Dushoff, PhD

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Summary

Background

Safe and effective vaccines could help to end the ongoing Ebola virus disease epidemic in parts of west Africa, and mitigate future outbreaks of the virus. We assess the statistical validity and power of randomised controlled trial (RCT) and stepped-wedge cluster trial (SWCT) designs in

Sierra Leone, where the incidence of Ebola virus disease is spatiotemporally heterogeneous, and is decreasing rapidly.

Methods

We projected district-level Ebola virus disease incidence for the next 6 months, using a stochastic model fitted to data from Sierra Leone. We then simulated RCT and SWCT designs in trial populations comprising geographically distinct clusters at high risk, taking into account realistic logistical constraints, and both individual-level and cluster-level variations in risk. We assessed false-positive rates and power for parametric and non-parametric analyses of simulated trial data, across a range of vaccine efficacies and trial start dates.

Findings

For an SWCT, regional variation in Ebola virus disease incidence trends produced increased false-positive rates (up to 0.15 at $\alpha=0.05$) under standard statistical models, but not when analysed by a permutation test, whereas analyses of RCTs remained statistically valid under all models. With the assumption of a 6-month trial starting on Feb 18, 2015, we estimate the power to detect a 90% effective vaccine to be between 49% and 89% for an RCT, and between 6% and 26% for an SWCT, depending on the Ebola virus disease incidence within the trial population. We estimate that a 1-month delay in trial initiation will reduce the power of the RCT by 20% and that of the SWCT by 49%.

Interpretation

Spatiotemporal variation in infection risk undermines the statistical power of the SWCT. This variation also undercuts the SWCT's expected ethical advantages over the RCT, because an RCT, but not an SWCT, can prioritise vaccination of high-risk clusters.

Funding

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Maternal and Child Health Journal

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

Commentary

New Dialogue for the Way Forward in Maternal Health: Addressing Market Inefficiencies

Katharine McCarthy, Saumya Ramarao, Hannah Taboada

Abstract

Despite notable progress in Millennium Development Goal (MDG) five, to reduce maternal deaths three-quarters by 2015, deaths due to treatable conditions during pregnancy and childbirth continue to concentrate in the developing world. Expanding access to three effective and low-cost maternal health drugs can reduce preventable maternal deaths, if available to all women. However, current failures in markets for maternal health drugs limit access to lifesaving medicines among those most in need. In effort to stimulate renewed action planning in the post-MDG era, we present three case examples from other global health initiatives to illustrate how market shaping strategies can scale-up access to essential maternal health drugs. Such strategies include: sharing intelligence among suppliers and users to better approximate and address unmet need for maternal health drugs, introducing innovative financial strategies to catalyze otherwise unattractive markets for drug manufacturers, and employing market segmentation to create a viable and sustainable market. By building on lessons learned from other market shaping interventions and capitalizing on opportunities for renewed action

planning and partnership, the maternal health field can utilize market dynamics to better ensure sustainable and equitable distribution of essential maternal health drugs to all women, including the most marginalized

Methodological Notes

Post-disaster Health Indicators for Pregnant and Postpartum Women and Infants

Marianne E. Zotti, Amy M. Williams, Etobssie Wako

Abstract

United States (U.S.) pregnant and postpartum (P/PP) women and their infants may be particularly vulnerable to effects from disasters. In an effort to guide post-disaster assessment and surveillance, we initiated a collaborative process with nationwide expert partners to identify post-disaster epidemiologic indicators for these at-risk groups. This 12 month process began with conversations with partners at two national conferences to identify critical topics for P/PP women and infants affected by disaster. Next we hosted teleconferences with a 23 member Indicator Development Working Group (IDWG) to review and prioritize the topics. We then divided the IDWG into three population subgroups (pregnant women, postpartum women, and infants) that conducted at least three teleconferences to discuss the proposed topics and identify/develop critical indicators, measures for each indicator, and relevant questions for each measure for their respective population subgroup. Lastly, we hosted a full IDWG teleconference to review and approve the indicators, measures, and questions. The final 25 indicators and measures with questions (available online) are organized by population subgroup: pregnant women (indicators = 9; measures = 24); postpartum women (indicators = 10; measures = 36); and infants (indicators = 6; measures = 30). We encourage our partners in disaster-affected areas to test these indicators and measures for relevancy and completeness. In post-disaster surveillance, we envision that users will not use all indicators and measures but will select ones appropriate for their setting. These proposed indicators and measures promote uniformity of measurement of disaster effects among U.S. P/PP women and their infants and assist public health practitioners to identify their post-disaster needs.

The Milbank Quarterly

A Multidisciplinary Journal of Population Health and Health Policy

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

Review Article

Advocacy for Health Equity: A Synthesis Review

LINDEN FARRER*, CLAUDIA MARINETTI, YOLINE KUIPERS CAVACO and CAROLINE COSTONGS

Article first published online: 4 JUN 2015

DOI: 10.1111/1468-0009.12112

Abstract

Context

Health inequalities are systematic differences in health among social groups that are caused by unequal exposure to—and distributions of—the social determinants of health (SDH). They are persistent between and within countries despite action to reduce them. Advocacy is a means of promoting policies that improve health equity, but the literature on how to do so effectively is dispersed. The aim of this review is to synthesize the evidence in the academic and gray literature and to provide a body of knowledge for advocates to draw on to inform their efforts.

Methods

This article is a systematic review of the academic literature and a fixed-length systematic search of the gray literature. After applying our inclusion criteria, we analyzed our findings according to our predefined dimensions of advocacy for health equity. Last, we synthesized our findings and made a critical appraisal of the literature.

Findings

The policy world is complex, and scientific evidence is unlikely to be conclusive in making decisions. Timely qualitative, interdisciplinary, and mixed-methods research may be valuable in advocacy efforts. The potential impact of evidence can be increased by “packaging” it as part of knowledge transfer and translation. Increased contact between researchers and policymakers could improve the uptake of research in policy processes. Researchers can play a role in advocacy efforts, although health professionals and disadvantaged people, who have direct contact with or experience of hardship, can be particularly persuasive in advocacy efforts. Different types of advocacy messages can accompany evidence, but messages should be tailored to advocacy target. Several barriers hamper advocacy efforts. The most frequently cited in the academic literature are the current political and economic zeitgeist and related public opinion, which tend to blame disadvantaged people for their ill health, even though biomedical approaches to health and political short-termism also act as barriers. These barriers could be tackled through long-term actions to raise public awareness and understanding of the SDH and through training of health professionals in advocacy. Advocates need to take advantage of “windows of opportunity,” which open and close quickly, and demonstrate expertise and credibility.

Conclusions

This article brings together for the first time evidence from the academic and the gray literature and provides a building block for efforts to advocate for health equity. Evidence regarding many of the dimensions is scant, and additional research is merited, particularly concerning the applicability of findings outside the English-speaking world. Advocacy organizations have a central role in advocating for health equity, given the challenges bridging the worlds of civil society, research, and policy.

Nature

Volume 522 Number 7554 pp6-122 4 June 2015

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

Editorials

Health plan

Proposals to improve the international emergency response to disease outbreaks in the wake of the Ebola epidemic should be implemented — but local solutions are the best defence.

New England Journal of Medicine

June 4, 2015 Vol. 372 No. 23

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

Perspective

International Health Care Systems

Brazil's Family Health Strategy — Delivering Community-Based Primary Care in a Universal Health System

James Macinko, Ph.D., and Matthew J. Harris, M.B., B.S., D.Phil.

N Engl J Med 2015; 372:2177-2181 [June 4, 2015](#) DOI: 10.1056/NEJMp1501140

[Initial text]

Brazil has made rapid progress toward universal coverage of its population through its national health system, the Sistema Único de Saúde (SUS). Since its emergence from dictatorship in 1985, Brazil — which has the world's fifth-largest population and seventh-largest economy — has invested substantially in expanding access to health care for all citizens, a goal that is implicit in the Brazilian constitution and the principles guiding the national health system.¹ The SUS comprises public and private health care institutions and providers, financed primarily through taxes with contributions from federal, state, and municipal budgets. Health care management is decentralized, and municipalities are responsible for most primary care services as well as some hospitals and other facilities. All publicly financed health services and most common medications are universally accessible and free of charge at the point of service for all citizens — even the 26% of the population enrolled in private health plans (see [table](#))

An important innovation in the system has been the development, adaptation, and rapid scaling up of a community-based approach to providing primary health care...

Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly

June 2015; 44 (3)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration

Volume 4, No. 2 December 2014

<http://oxmofm.com/current-issue/>

[Reviewed earlier]

Pediatrics

June 2015, VOLUME 135 / ISSUE 6

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

Article

Tdap Vaccine Effectiveness in Adolescents During the 2012 Washington State Pertussis Epidemic

Anna M. Acosta, MD^{a,b}, Chas DeBolt, RN, MPH^c, Azadeh Tasslimi, MPH^c, Melissa Lewis, MPH^d, Laurie K. Stewart, MSc, Lara K. Misegades, PhD, MS^b, Nancy E. Messonnier, MD^b, Thomas A. Clark, MD, MPH^b, Stacey W. Martin, MS^b, and Manisha Patel, MD, MS^b

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Abstract

BACKGROUND: Acellular pertussis vaccines replaced whole-cell vaccines for the 5-dose childhood vaccination series in 1997. A sixth dose of pertussis-containing vaccine, tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid, and acellular pertussis, adsorbed (Tdap), was recommended in 2005 for adolescents and adults. Studies examining Tdap vaccine effectiveness (VE) among adolescents who have received all acellular vaccines are limited.

METHODS: To assess Tdap VE and duration of protection, we conducted a matched case-control study during the 2012 pertussis epidemic in Washington among adolescents born during 1993–2000. All pertussis cases reported from January 1 through June 30, 2012, in 7 counties were included; 3 controls were matched by primary provider clinic and birth year to each case. Vaccination histories were obtained through medical records, the state immunization registry, and parent interviews. Participants were classified by type of pertussis vaccine received on the basis of birth year: a mix of whole-cell and acellular vaccines (1993–1997) or all acellular vaccines (1998–2000). We used conditional logistic regression to calculate odds ratios comparing Tdap receipt between cases and controls.

RESULTS: Among adolescents who received all acellular vaccines (450 cases, 1246 controls), overall Tdap VE was 63.9% (95% confidence interval [CI]: 50% to 74%). VE within 1 year of vaccination was 73% (95% CI: 60% to 82%). At 2 to 4 years postvaccination, VE declined to 34% (95% CI: –0.03% to 58%).

CONCLUSIONS: Tdap protection wanes within 2 to 4 years. Lack of long-term protection after vaccination is likely contributing to increases in pertussis among adolescents

Article

First Pertussis Vaccine Dose and Prevention of Infant Mortality

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^bDivision of Global HIV/AIDS, Center for Global Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia

Abstract

BACKGROUND: American infants are at highest risk of severe pertussis and death. We investigated the role of ≥ 1 pertussis vaccinations in preventing pertussis-related deaths and risk markers for death among infants aged < 42 days.

METHODS: We analyzed characteristics of fatal and nonfatal infant pertussis cases reported nationally during 1991–2008. Infants were categorized into 2 age groups on the basis of eligibility to receive a first pertussis vaccine dose at age 6 weeks; dose 1 was considered valid if given ≥ 14 days before illness onset. Multivariable logistic regression was used to estimate the effect of ≥ 1 pertussis vaccine doses on outcome and risk markers.

RESULTS: Pertussis-related deaths occurred among 258 of 45 404 cases. Fatal and nonfatal cases were confirmed by culture (54% vs 49%) and polymerase chain reaction (31% vs 27%). All deaths occurred before age 34 weeks at illness onset; 64% occurred before age 6 weeks. Among infants aged ≥ 42 days, receiving ≥ 1 doses of vaccine protected against death (adjusted odds ratio [aOR]: 0.28; 95% confidence interval [CI]: 0.11–0.74), hospitalization (aOR: 0.69; 95% CI: 0.63–0.77), and pneumonia (aOR: 0.80; 95% CI: 0.68–0.95). Risk was elevated for Hispanic ethnicity (aOR: 2.28; 95% CI: 1.36–3.83) and American Indian/Alaska Native race (aOR: 5.15; 95% CI: 2.37–11.2) and lower for recommended antibiotic treatment (aOR: 0.28; 95% CI: 0.16–0.47). Among infants aged < 42 days, risk was elevated for Hispanic ethnicity and lower with recommended antibiotic use.

CONCLUSIONS: The first pertussis vaccine dose and antibiotic treatment protect against death, hospitalization, and pneumonia.

Special Article

Strategies to Decrease Pertussis Transmission to Infants

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Abstract

The Global Pertussis Initiative (GPI) is an expert scientific forum addressing the worldwide burden of pertussis, which remains a serious health issue, especially in infants. This age cohort is at risk for developing pertussis by transmission from those in close proximity. Risk is increased in infants aged 0 to 6 weeks, as they are too young to be vaccinated. Older infants are at risk when their vaccination schedules are incomplete. Infants also bear the greatest disease burden owing to their high risk for pertussis-related complications and death; therefore, protecting them is a high priority. Two vaccine strategies have been proposed to protect infants. The first involves vaccinating pregnant women, which directly protects through the passive transfer of pertussis antibodies. The second strategy, cocooning, involves vaccinating parents, caregivers, and other close contacts, which indirectly protects infants from transmission by preventing disease in those in close proximity. The goal of this review was to present and discuss evidence on these 2 strategies. Based on available data, the GPI recommends vaccination during pregnancy as the primary strategy, given its efficacy, safety, and logistic advantages over a cocoon approach. If vaccination during pregnancy is not feasible, then all individuals having close contact with infants <6 months old should be immunized consistent with local health authority guidelines. These efforts are anticipated to minimize pertussis transmission to vulnerable infants, although real-world effectiveness data are limited. Countries should educate lay and medical communities on pertussis and introduce robust surveillance practices while implementing these protective strategies.

Commentary

Epidemic Pertussis and Acellular Pertussis Vaccine Failure in the 21st Century

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Author Affiliations

Department of Pediatrics, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Los Angeles, California

[Initial text]

In this issue of Pediatrics Acosta et al¹ present a tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid, and acellular pertussis, adsorbed (Tdap) vaccine effectiveness study in adolescents in Washington State during the first 6 months of 2012. Their findings support the previous Tdap effectiveness data from Wisconsin.² The duration of Tdap effectiveness is disappointing, particularly because case-control studies tend to inflate efficacy.³

In 4 recent publications (including 1 article in Pediatrics) I have discussed epidemic pertussis and why vaccines fail.^{4–7} Before discussing why Tdap vaccine effectiveness wanes so rapidly, it seems worthwhile to discuss how rapidly protection wanes after a natural infection in the pre-Tdap era and to take a realistic look at the resurgence of pertussis.

The resurgence of pertussis is often attributed to the switch from whole-cell pertussis vaccines to acellular products. However, the increase in reported pertussis began ~14 years before the universal use of diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccines in childhood commenced. The 2 greatest contributors to the resurgence of pertussis are greater awareness and more sensitive diagnosis (the routine use ...

PLOS Currents: Disasters

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

[Accessed 6 June 2015]

Supporting Rural Australian Communities after Disaster: the Warrumbungle Bushfire Support Coordination Service

June 1, 2015 · [Research article](#)

Aim: Natural disasters inflict significant trauma upon the individuals and communities in which they occur. In order to gain an understanding of the role of community-based disaster recovery support services in the post-disaster environment, we assessed the acceptability and perceived effectiveness of the Warrumbungle Bushfire Support Coordination Service (BSCS) implemented in response to the January 2013 bushfires in the Warrumbungle Shire, New South Wales, Australia.

Method: A mixed-methods approach was taken to explore the perspectives of former BSCS users and key stakeholders involved with the service. A survey was distributed to former services users (in both paper and online modalities) and included closed and open-ended questions. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with key stakeholders (face to face or via telephone).

Results: A total of 14 former BSCS users and six key stakeholders participated in the research. Almost half of the former service users had accessed the BSCS for more than six months. Regardless of the duration of their use of the service, most reported that the decision to use the service stemmed from the need for 'help'. The majority of former service users were satisfied with the support provided by the BSCS and would recommend the service to others. Although most indicated that the BSCS informed them about where to get support, just over half were confident that they could access appropriate recovery services without the BSCS. Key themes arising from the former service use surveys were connectedness and support, whilst key themes in the interviews with key stakeholders were connectedness and the operation of the service. Both former service users and key stakeholders reported that the BSCS played an important role in facilitating community connectedness in the post-disaster period. Key stakeholders also identified challenges for the BSCS, including finding an appropriate agency and location to oversee the service and made suggestions about sustainability.

Conclusion: On the whole, the BSCS was perceived by former service users and key stakeholders as acceptable and effective. To develop a better understanding of the role of community-based disaster recovery support services, there is a need for more timely, rigorous and representative evaluation of disaster support services like the BSCS. Recommendations are made for the planning and development of future disaster support services. **Key words:** bushfires, natural disaster, Australia, disaster recovery support service, rural and remote, communities

PLOS Currents: Outbreaks

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

(Accessed 6 June 2015)
[No new content]

PLoS Medicine

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

(Accessed 6 June 2015)

Policy Forum

Assessing Development Assistance for Mental Health in Developing Countries: 2007–2013

Barnabas J. Gilbert, Vikram Patel, Paul E. Farmer, Chunling Lu

Published: June 2, 2015

DOI: 10.1371/journal.pmed.1001834

Summary Points

:: Mental disorders are a leading cause of the global burden of disease, and the provision of mental health services in developing countries remains very limited and far from equitable.

:: Using the Creditor Reporting System, we estimate the amounts and patterns of development assistance for global mental health (DAMH) between 2007 and 2013. This allows us to examine how well international donors have responded to calls by global mental health advocates to scale up evidence-based services.

:: Although DAMH did increase between 2007 and 2013, it remains low both in absolute terms and as a proportion of total development assistance for health (DAH). The average annual DAMH between 2007 and 2013 was US\$133.57 million, and the proportion of DAH attributed to mental health is less than 1%.

:: Approximately 48% of total DAMH was for humanitarian assistance, education, and civil services. More annual DAMH was channelled into the nonpublic sector than the public sector. Despite an expanding body of evidence suggesting that sustainable mental health care can be effectively integrated into existing health systems at relatively low cost, mental health has not received significant development assistance.

PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases

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

(Accessed 6 June 2015)

Research Article

Updated Global Burden of Cholera in Endemic Countries

Mohammad Ali , Allyson R. Nelson, Anna Lena Lopez, David A. Sack

Published: June 4, 2015

DOI: 10.1371/journal.pntd.0003832

Abstract

Background

The global burden of cholera is largely unknown because the majority of cases are not reported. The low reporting can be attributed to limited capacity of epidemiological surveillance and laboratories, as well as social, political, and economic disincentives for reporting. We previously estimated 2.8 million cases and 91,000 deaths annually due to cholera in 51 endemic countries. A major limitation in our previous estimate was that the endemic and non-endemic countries were defined based on the countries' reported cholera cases. We overcame the

limitation with the use of a spatial modelling technique in defining endemic countries, and accordingly updated the estimates of the global burden of cholera.

Methods/Principal Findings

Countries were classified as cholera endemic, cholera non-endemic, or cholera-free based on whether a spatial regression model predicted an incidence rate over a certain threshold in at least three of five years (2008-2012). The at-risk populations were calculated for each country based on the percent of the country without sustainable access to improved sanitation facilities. Incidence rates from population-based published studies were used to calculate the estimated annual number of cases in endemic countries. The number of annual cholera deaths was calculated using inverse variance-weighted average case-fatality rate (CFRs) from literature-based CFR estimates. We found that approximately 1.3 billion people are at risk for cholera in endemic countries. An estimated 2.86 million cholera cases (uncertainty range: 1.3m-4.0m) occur annually in endemic countries. Among these cases, there are an estimated 95,000 deaths (uncertainty range: 21,000-143,000).

Conclusion/Significance

The global burden of cholera remains high. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for the majority of this burden. Our findings can inform programmatic decision-making for cholera control.

Author Summary

The global burden of cholera is largely unknown because the majority of cases are not reported. The low reporting can be attributed to limited capacity of epidemiological surveillance and laboratories, as well as social, political, and economic disincentives for reporting. We previously estimated 2.8 million cases and 91,000 deaths annually due to cholera in 51 endemic countries. A major limitation in our previous estimate was that the endemic and non-endemic countries were defined based on the countries' reported cholera cases. If a country did not report cases even though the country had cholera, the country was classified as cholera free. This time we addressed this limitation by using a spatial modelling technique, which helped us define the cholera-endemic countries based on access to improved water and sanitation in the country as well as cholera incidence in neighboring countries. Our new estimate illustrates 2.9 million of cases and 95,000 deaths in 69 endemic countries, with the majority of the burden in Sub-Saharan Africa. The sustained high burden of cholera points to the necessity for integrated and improved control efforts, and these findings may help programmatic decision-making for controlling the disease in endemic countries.

What Factors Might Have Led to the Emergence of Ebola in West Africa?

Kathleen A. Alexander, Claire E. Sanderson, Madav Marathe, Bryan L. Lewis, Caitlin M. Rivers, Jeffrey Shaman, John M. Drake, Eric Lofgren, Virginia M. Dato, Marisa C. Eisenberg, Stephen Eubank

Published: June 4, 2015

DOI: 10.1371/journal.pntd.0003652

Abstract

An Ebola outbreak of unprecedented scope emerged in West Africa in December 2013 and presently continues unabated in the countries of Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. Ebola is not new to Africa, and outbreaks have been confirmed as far back as 1976. The current West African Ebola outbreak is the largest ever recorded and differs dramatically from prior outbreaks in its duration, number of people affected, and geographic extent. The emergence of this deadly disease in West Africa invites many questions, foremost among these: why now, and why in West Africa? Here, we review the sociological, ecological, and environmental drivers that might have influenced the emergence of Ebola in this region of Africa and its spread throughout the region. Containment of the West African Ebola outbreak is the most pressing, immediate

need. A comprehensive assessment of the drivers of Ebola emergence and sustained human-to-human transmission is also needed in order to prepare other countries for importation or emergence of this disease. Such assessment includes identification of country-level protocols and interagency policies for outbreak detection and rapid response, increased understanding of cultural and traditional risk factors within and between nations, delivery of culturally embedded public health education, and regional coordination and collaboration, particularly with governments and health ministries throughout Africa. Public health education is also urgently needed in countries outside of Africa in order to ensure that risk is properly understood and public concerns do not escalate unnecessarily. To prevent future outbreaks, coordinated, multiscale, early warning systems should be developed that make full use of these integrated assessments, partner with local communities in high-risk areas, and provide clearly defined response recommendations specific to the needs of each community.

PLoS One

[Accessed 6 June 2015]

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

Research Article

Coverage of Community-Based Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition Programmes in Twenty-One Countries, 2012-2013

Eleanor Rogers, Mark Myatt, Sophie Woodhead, Saul Guerrero, Jose Luis Alvarez

Published: June 4, 2015

DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0128666

Abstract

Objective

This paper reviews coverage data from programmes treating severe acute malnutrition (SAM) collected between July 2012 and June 2013.

Design

This is a descriptive study of coverage levels and barriers to coverage collected by coverage assessments of community-based SAM treatment programmes in 21 countries that were supported by the Coverage Monitoring Network. Data from 44 coverage assessments are reviewed.

Setting

These assessments analyse malnourished populations from 6 to 59 months old to understand the accessibility and coverage of services for treatment of acute malnutrition. The majority of assessments are from sub-Saharan Africa.

Results

Most of the programmes (33 of 44) failed to meet context-specific internationally agreed minimum standards for coverage. The mean level of estimated coverage achieved by the programmes in this analysis was 38.3%. The most frequently reported barriers to access were lack of awareness of malnutrition, lack of awareness of the programme, high opportunity costs, inter-programme interface problems, and previous rejection.

Conclusions

This study shows that coverage of CMAM is lower than previous analyses of early CTC programmes; therefore reducing programme impact. Barriers to access need to be addressed in order to start improving coverage by paying greater attention to certain activities such as community sensitisation. As barriers are interconnected focusing on specific activities, such as decentralising services to satellite sites, is likely to increase significantly utilisation of nutrition

services. Programmes need to ensure that barriers are continuously monitored to ensure timely removal and increased coverage.

PLOS Pathogens

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

(Accessed 6 June 2015)

Pearls

A 21st Century Perspective of Poliovirus Replication

Nicolas Lévesque, Bert L. Semler

Published: June 4, 2015

DOI: 10.1371/journal.ppat.1004825

Featured in [PLOS Collections](#)

Why Poliovirus Replication Has Been Studied for More Than 50 Years

Poliovirus is the etiologic agent of poliomyelitis, an acute flaccid paralysis affecting 1%–2% of infected patients and, on rare occasions, causing death by paralyzing muscles that control the throat or breathing. A striking feature of infection is lifelong disabilities that may affect survivors of the acute disease. Transmitted by the fecal–oral and oral–oral route, this virus (three serotypes) was one of the most feared pathogens in industrialized countries during the 20th century affecting hundreds of thousands of children every year, via outbreaks during warm summer months. Although there are highly effective vaccines to control poliomyelitis, it remains endemic in a few countries, from which spread and outbreaks continue to occur throughout the world. Since its discovery in 1908, poliovirus has been intensively studied to better understand and control this formidable pathogen. The history of poliovirus is not, however, limited to the fight against the disease. Poliovirus replication studies also have played important roles in the development of modern virology since poliovirologists and, more generally, picornavirologists have been pioneers in many domains of molecular virology. Poliovirus was, for example, the first animal RNA virus to have its complete genome sequence determined, the first RNA animal virus for which an infectious clone was constructed, and, along with the related rhinovirus, the first human virus that had its three-dimensional structure solved by X-ray crystallography. Indeed, the history of over half a century of poliovirus replication studies is marked by major discoveries, many of which are summarized here and illustrated in [Fig 1](#)...

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

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

(Accessed 6 June 2015)

Financial competitiveness of organic agriculture on a global scale

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[Author Affiliations](#)

Edited by M. S. Swaminathan, Centre for Research on Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development, Madras, India, and approved May 1, 2015 (received for review December 10, 2014)

Significance

Some recognize organic agriculture as being important for future global food security, whereas others project it to become irrelevant. Although organic agriculture is rapidly growing, it currently occupies only 1% of global cropland. Whether organic agriculture can continue to

expand will likely be determined by whether it is economically competitive with conventional agriculture. Accordingly, we analyzed the financial performance of organic and conventional agriculture from 40 y of studies covering 55 crops grown on five continents. We found that, in spite of lower yields, organic agriculture was significantly more profitable than conventional agriculture and has room to expand globally. Moreover, with its environmental benefits, organic agriculture can contribute a larger share in sustainably feeding the world.

Abstract

To promote global food and ecosystem security, several innovative farming systems have been identified that better balance multiple sustainability goals. The most rapidly growing and contentious of these systems is organic agriculture. Whether organic agriculture can continue to expand will likely be determined by whether it is economically competitive with conventional agriculture. Here, we examined the financial performance of organic and conventional agriculture by conducting a meta-analysis of a global dataset spanning 55 crops grown on five continents. When organic premiums were not applied, benefit/cost ratios (–8 to –7%) and net present values (–27 to –23%) of organic agriculture were significantly lower than conventional agriculture. However, when actual premiums were applied, organic agriculture was significantly more profitable (22–35%) and had higher benefit/cost ratios (20–24%) than conventional agriculture. Although premiums were 29–32%, breakeven premiums necessary for organic profits to match conventional profits were only 5–7%, even with organic yields being 10–18% lower. Total costs were not significantly different, but labor costs were significantly higher (7–13%) with organic farming practices. Studies in our meta-analysis accounted for neither environmental costs (negative externalities) nor ecosystem services from good farming practices, which likely favor organic agriculture. With only 1% of the global agricultural land in organic production, our findings suggest that organic agriculture can continue to expand even if premiums decline. Furthermore, with their multiple sustainability benefits, organic farming systems can contribute a larger share in feeding the world.

Prehospital & Disaster Medicine

Volume 30 - Issue 03 - June 2015

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

Editorial

Disastrous Events and Political Failures

Jeffrey Levett

National School of Public Health, Department of Health Service Management, Athens, Greece

Abstract

Response to the Ebola crisis (ongoing event) has been less than efficient. It has been monitored less than adequately by the international community and has been coordinated poorly in the USA. The event is used as a platform to examine deficiencies in public health infrastructure, the limits of its political and financial support, and how political outcomes can be affected. The need to tease out the political determinants implicit in policy failure and disaster management is argued in this Editorial. Failures mentioned include in the Balkans and in Greece with ongoing austerity. Comments on the real heroes of Ebola on the ground in Africa and the need for a charismatic role for political leaders in public health are also included.

Original Research

Humanitarian Assistance and Accountability: What Are We Really Talking About?

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a2 Centre for Research on Health Care in Disasters, Health Systems and Policy, Department of Public Health Sciences, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

Abstract

Background In the past two decades, there has been a worldwide increase in the number of disasters, as well as the number of people affected, along with the number of foreign medical teams (FMTs) deployed to provide assistance. However, in the wake of the 2010 Haiti earthquake, multiple reports and anecdotes questioned the actual, positive contribution of such FMTs and even the intentions behind these aid efforts. This brought on a renewed interest in the humanitarian community towards accountability. Between 2000 and 2012, the number of "Quality and Accountability" initiatives and instruments more than tripled from 42 to 147. Yet, to date, there is no single accepted definition of accountability in the humanitarian context.

Aim The aim of this report was to explore and assess how accountability in the humanitarian context is used and/or defined in the literature.

Methods The electronic database PubMed and a predefined list of grey literature comprising 46 organizations were searched for articles that discussed or provided a definition of accountability in the humanitarian context. The definitions found in these articles were analyzed qualitatively using a framework analysis method based on principles of grounded theory as well as using a summative content analysis method.

Results A total of 85 articles were reviewed in-depth. Fifteen organizations had formal definitions of accountability or explained what it meant to them. Accountability was generally seen in two paradigms: as a "process" or as a "goal." A total of 16 different concepts were identified amongst the definitions. Accountability to aid recipients had four main themes: empowering aid recipients, being in an optimal position to do the greatest good, meeting expectations, and being liable. The concepts of "enforcement/enforceability" under the last theme of "being liable" received the least mention.

Conclusion The concept of accountability is defined poorly in many humanitarian organizations. Humanitarian providers often refer to different concepts when talking about accountability in general. The lack of a common understanding is contributed by the semantic and practical complexities of the term. The lack of emphasis on "enforcement/enforceability" is noteworthy. Other aspects of accountability, such as its "measurability" and by whom, similarly lack a common understanding and community-wide consensus. To what extent these vague definitions of accountability affect agencies' work in the field remains to be documented.

Comprehensive Review

Child Debriefing: A Review of the Evidence Base

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^{a3} Department of Psychology, Loyola University Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland USA

Abstract

Introduction

Debriefing, a controversial crisis intervention delivered in the early aftermath of a disaster, has not been well evaluated for use with children and adolescents. This report constitutes a review of the child debriefing evidence base.

Methods

A systematic search of selected bibliographic databases (EBM Reviews, EMBASE, ERIC, Medline, Ovid, PILOTS, PubMed, and PsycINFO) was conducted in the spring of 2014 using search terms

related to psychological debriefing. The search was limited to English language sources and studies of youth, aged 0 to 18 years. No time limit was placed on date of publication. The search yielded 713 references. Titles and abstracts were reviewed to select publications describing scientific studies and clinical reports. Reference sections of these publications, and of other literature known to the authors that was not generated by the search, were used to locate additional materials. Review of these materials generated 187 publications for more thorough examination; this assessment yielded a total of 91 references on debriefing in children and adolescents. Only 15 publications on debriefing in children and adolescents described empirical studies. Due to a lack of statistical analysis of effectiveness data with youth, and some articles describing the same study, only seven empirical studies described in nine papers were identified for analysis for this review. These studies were evaluated using criteria for assessment of methodological rigor in debriefing studies.

Results

Children and adolescents included in the seven empirical debriefing studies were survivors of motor-vehicle accidents, a maritime disaster, hostage taking, war, or peer suicides. The nine papers describing the seven studies were characterized by inconsistency in describing the interventions and populations and by a lack of information on intervention fidelity. Few of the studies used randomized design or blinded assessment. The results described in the reviewed studies were mixed in regard to debriefing's effect on posttraumatic stress, depression, anxiety, and other outcomes. Even in studies in which debriefing appeared promising, the research was compromised by potentially confounding interventions.

Conclusion

The results highlight the small empirical evidence base for drawing conclusions about the use of debriefing with children and adolescents, and they call for further dialogue regarding challenges in evaluating debriefing and other crisis interventions in children.

Public Health Ethics

Volume 8 Issue 1 April 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Qualitative Health Research

July 2015; 25 (7)

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Refugee Survey Quarterly

Volume 34 Issue 2 June 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Reproductive Health

Volume 12 Supplement 1 [2015]

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

Special Supplement - True costs of maternal death

[Reviewed earlier]

Resilience: International Policies, Practices and Discourses

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)

March 2015 Vol. 37, No.

http://www.paho.org/journal/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=158&Itemid=266&lang=en

[Prevalence of cholera risk factors between migrant Haitians and Dominicans in the Dominican Republic](#) [Prevalencia de los factores de riesgo de cólera entre los inmigrantes haitianos y los dominicanos en la República Dominicana]

Andrea J. Lund, Hunter M. Keys, Stephanie Leventhal, Jennifer W. Foster, and Matthew C. Freeman

[Adequação da assistência pré-natal segundo as características maternas no Brasil](#)

[Adequacy of prenatal care according to maternal characteristics in Brazil]

Rosa Maria Soares Madeira Domingues, Elaine Fernandes Viellas,

Marcos Augusto Bastos Dias, Jacqueline Alves Torres, Mariza Miranda Theme-Filha, Silvana Granado Nogueira da Gama e Maria do Carmo Leal

[A systematic review of nursing research priorities on health system and services in the Americas](#) [Revisión sistemática de las prioridades de investigación de enfermería en sistemas y servicios de salud en la Región de las Américas]

Alessandra Bassalobre Garcia, Silvia Helena De Bortoli Cassiani, and Ludovic Reveiz

Risk Analysis

April 2015 Volume 35, Issue 4 Pages 555–758

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Science

5 June 2015 vol 348, issue 6239, pages 1053-1172

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Social Science & Medicine

Volume 138, In Progress (August 2015)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/02779536/138>

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Stability: International Journal of Security & Development

[accessed 6 June 2015]

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

[No new relevant content identified]

Sustainability

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

TORTURE Journal

Volume 25, Nr. 1, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Tropical Medicine and Health

Vol. 43(2015) No. 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Tropical Medicine & International Health

July 2015 Volume 20, Issue 7 Pages 821–966

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

Systematic Reviews

Utilization of maternal health services among adolescent women in Bangladesh: A scoping review of the literature (pages 822–829)

A. S. M. Shahabuddin, Thérèse Delvaux, Saloua Abouchadi, Malabika Sarker and Vincent De Brouwere

Article first published online: 27 MAR 2015 | DOI: 10.1111/tmi.1250

Abstract

Objective

To understand the health-seeking behaviour of adolescent women in Bangladesh with respect to the use of maternal health services.

Methods

Literature review of seven electronic databases: PubMed, ISI Web of Knowledge, PsycINFO, Embase, CINAHL, POPLINE and Global Health. Studies published in English between 1990 and 2013 which describe Bangladeshi adolescent women's healthcare-seeking behaviour during pregnancy, delivery and post-partum were included.

Results

Twelve studies were included in this review. 11 used quantitative methods and one used a mixed-methods approach. All studies included married adolescent women only. Women with lower educational levels are less likely to seek skilled maternal health services than those with higher levels of education. Use of maternal health services is also less common among rural

married adolescent women than women in urban areas. Being part of the richest bands of wealth, having had previous experiences of childbirth and higher women's autonomy positively influence the use of skilled maternal health services among married adolescent women in Bangladesh. Antenatal care is a key predictor of the use of skilled birth attendants for delivery and post-natal care.

Conclusion

Maternal health-related programmes should be designed targeting rural and uneducated married adolescent women in Bangladesh. More qualitative investigations are required to broaden our understanding on maternal health-seeking behaviour of both married and unmarried adolescent women.

[Psychological interventions for Common Mental Disorders for People Living With HIV in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: systematic review \(pages 830–839\)](#)

Dixon Chibanda, Frances M. Cowan, Jessica L. Healy, Melanie Abas and Crick Lund

Article first published online: 20 MAR 2015 | DOI: 10.1111/tmi.12500

[Pneumococcal carriage in rural Gambia prior to the introduction of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine: a population-based survey \(pages 871–879\)](#)

Effua Usuf, Henry Badji, Abdoulie Bojang, Sheikh Jarju, Usman Nurudeen Ikumapayi, Martin Antonio, Grant Mackenzie and Christian Bottomley

Article first published online: 6 APR 2015 | DOI: 10.1111/tmi.12505

Abstract

Objective

To evaluate pneumococcal colonisation before and after the introduction of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) in eastern Gambia.

Methods

Population-based cross-sectional survey of pneumococcal carriage between May and August 2009 before the introduction of PCV into the Expanded Program on Immunization.

Nasopharyngeal swabs were collected from all household members, but in selected households, only children aged 6–10 years were swabbed. This age group participated in an earlier trial of a nine-valent PCV between 2000 and 2004.

Results

The prevalence of nasopharyngeal pneumococcal carriage in 2933 individuals was 72.0% in underfives (N = 515), 41.6% in children aged 5–17 (N = 1508) and 13.0% in adults ≥18 (N = 910) years. The age-specific prevalence of serotypes included in PCV7, PCV10 and PCV13 was 24.7%, 26.6% and 46.8% among children <5 years of age; 8.5%, 9.2% and 17.7% among children 5–17 years; and 2.5%, 3.3% and 5.5% among adults ≥18 years. The most common serotypes were 6A (13.1%), 23F (7.6%), 3 (7.3%), 19F (7.1%) and 34 (4.6%). There was no difference in the overall carriage of pneumococci between vaccinated and unvaccinated children 8 years after the primary vaccination with three doses of PCV (48.3% vs. 41.1%).

Conclusion

Before the introduction of PCV, serotypes included in PCV13 accounted for about half the pneumococcal serotypes in nasopharyngeal carriage. Thus, the potential impact of PCV13 on pneumococcal disease in the Gambia is substantial.

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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