

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

***Week ending 1 August 2015***

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

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

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*The Sentinel is also available as a pdf document linked from this page:  
<http://ge2p2-center.net/>*

***Editor's Note:***

***The Sentinel will resume publication on 22 August 2015 following annual leave for the editor. The edition for that date will cover the intervening period from 2 August.***

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- :: Foundation/Major Donor Watch - Selected Updates***
- :: Journal Watch - Key articles and abstracts from 100+ peer-reviewed journals***

***:: Week in Review***

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

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27 July 2015

SG/SM/16967-GA/11665-DEV/3193

### **Secretary-General Welcomes General Assembly's Endorsement of Addis Ababa Action Agenda as 'Major Step' on Path Towards Sustainable Development**

27 July 2015

GA/11663

### **Secretary-General Hails Launch of 'New Era' for Global Partnership as General Assembly Endorses Framework for Development Financing**

The General Assembly today adopted a resolution endorsing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, a "new global framework" that many said would strengthen cooperation in technology, infrastructure and social protections that were key to realizing inclusive sustainable development.

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### **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons - 30 July 2015**

#### **Trafficking in Persons Report 2015 – July 2015**

U.S. Department of State

384 pages

*Overview*

"This year's Report places a special emphasis on human trafficking in the global marketplace. It highlights the hidden risks that workers may encounter when seeking employment and the steps that governments and businesses can take to prevent trafficking, including a demand for transparency in global supply chains.

"The bottom line is that this is no time for complacency. Right now, across the globe, victims of human trafficking are daring to imagine the possibility of escape, the chance for a life without fear, and the opportunity to earn a living wage. I echo the words of President Obama and say to them: We hear you, and we will do all we can to make that dream come true. In recent decades, we have learned a great deal about how to break up human trafficking networks and help victims recover in safety and dignity. In years to come, we will apply those lessons relentlessly, and we will not rest until modern slavery is ended."

– John F. Kerry, Secretary of State

PDF Format

-[Trafficking in Persons Report 2015 -- Complete Report \(PDF\)](#)

-[Introductory Material \(PDF\)](#)

-[Country Narratives: A-C \(PDF\)](#)

-[Country Narratives: D-I \(PDF\)](#)

-[Country Narratives: J-M \(PDF\)](#)

-[Country Narratives: N-S \(PDF\)](#)

-[Country Narratives: T-Z and Special Case \(PDF\)](#)

-[Relevant International Conventions/Closing Material \(PDF\)](#)

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## **"Fighting human trafficking is not just about law enforcement" – UN rights expert**

*World Day Against Trafficking in Persons - Thursday 30 July 2015*

GENEVA (28 July 2015) – Speaking ahead of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, United Nations human rights expert Maria Grazia Gianninari calls for sweeping changes in policy and on perception of trafficking. Fighting trafficking is not just about law enforcement, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children reminds governments across the world.

"After more than a decade of efforts aimed at combatting trafficking in persons, we have to recognize that results are still modest. The vast majority of trafficked persons -not less than 20 million people globally- are not recognized as such, and as a result do not have access to justice and remedies.

Trafficking means extreme exploitation -often in slavery-like conditions- of women, men and children who are socially vulnerable, mostly due to their being undocumented migrants. To tackle these gross human rights violations, a policy shift is needed, and the same perception of trafficking in persons should change.

So far, trafficking has been considered mostly a law enforcement issue. Today, we should look at trafficking as an economic and social issue, linked with global trends including migration. Therefore prevention is key.

To prevent trafficking in persons, national authorities should deal with a broader area of exploitation, in the sex industry, in agriculture, fishery, domestic work, garments, and the tourist industry.

Governments and the private sector must prevent and combat exploitation wherever and whenever it takes place, especially when migrant workers are involved, and tackle the driving factors of exploitation. Among them, one of the most powerful is the lack of regular channels for migration.

In that regard, policy coherence is essential: the fight against trafficking is incompatible with restrictive migration policies that place people in a situation of irregularity and vulnerability to exploitation and trafficking.

Furthermore, within mixed migration flows, an increasing number of people migrate to flee from conflict and crisis areas. Better international cooperation is needed to ensure that people entitled to international protection are offered a viable solution in one of their preferred countries.

However, in the current situation, asylum seekers and refugees are amongst the most vulnerable migrants, often exposed to the risk of trafficking, including children traveling alone, women and girls who are raped during the journey and exploited in prostitution at destination, men, women and children obliged to accept inhuman working conditions to survive.

This is the policy shift which is much needed today: to prevent trafficking and to protect trafficked persons' rights, it is necessary to protect the rights of all migrants, and of all vulnerable people, be they foreigners or nationals.

Once someone is recognized as being subjected to exploitation and/or trafficking, she/he should have immediate access to legal counseling, healthcare, and tailored forms of assistance, in order to be able to claim their rights.

These opportunities should be given without any condition. No legal requirements should be established which actually denies exploited and trafficked persons their right to access justice and remedies.

Trafficking - as in the case of historical slavery - takes place because enormous economic interests lie behind exploitation of the global poor. However, this can be stopped, if people of good will - both powerful people and simple citizens - feel that trafficking is morally and socially unacceptable, and take action against exploitation, injustice, and human rights violations."

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### **On World Day against Trafficking in Persons, far more still needs to be done to help victims and end impunity for criminals**

PRESS RELEASE: UNODC – UN Office on Drugs and Crime

Vienna, 30 July 2015 - Each year millions of women, men and children are trafficked for profit. They are sexually exploited, made to undertake demanding and often dangerous work in homes, farms and factories across the globe, and find themselves victims of one of the many other forms of abuse such as forced marriage or organ removal. Yet despite the wide-spread recognition that this is one of today's most exploitative crimes, action is lacking: more needs to be done to dismantle the organized criminal networks behind this, while at the same time it is critical that assistance to victims be stepped up.

Against this background, and with the second annual World Day against Trafficking in Persons being marked today, UNODC is calling for definitive and marked action to both end the impunity of traffickers, and to drastically boost the much-needed support being provided to victims.

UNODC's most recent biennial Global Report on Trafficking in Persons highlights the true extent of the crime. With at least 152 countries of origin and 124 countries of destination affected by trafficking in persons, and over 510 trafficking flows crisscrossing the world, no country is immune. Coupled with this, society's most vulnerable appear to be increasingly targeted by those responsible for this crime: 33 per cent of known victims of trafficking are children, a five point increase compared with the 2007-2010 period. Girls make up two out of every three child victims. Together with women, they now account for 70 per cent of trafficked persons worldwide.

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which came into force a decade ago represents a major step towards tackling this crime. For the first time, this international instrument called for all acts of human trafficking to be criminalized,

including trafficking for sexual exploitation, forced labour, organ removal, domestic servitude and other similar practices.

Yet despite this and other encouraging progress, legislation in some countries still does not always comply with the Protocol and fails to cover all forms of trafficking and their victims, leaving billions of people inadequately protected and vulnerable...

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### **Human Trafficking, the Slavery of the 21st Century**

By Luis Almagro, Secretary General, Organization of American States

July 30, 2015

*(Translation of the Secretary General's OP-ED published by *El País*, *Le Nouvelliste* and *Le Devoir*)*

Human trafficking is a silent crime, hard to identify and roughly as profitable as drug and illegal arms trafficking. No country is untouched by this crime—a sad and challenging 21st century reality.

Today is the day chosen by the United Nations to remind us of the moral precariousness in which we live at an incalculable cost—human dignity.

Human trafficking subjects men, women, and children, many lured by their dreams and hopes for a better life, to exploitation of all types, comparable to slavery.

According to data from the International Labour Organization (ILO), more than 20 million people are subjected to forced labor (including sexual exploitation) around the world. Nearly 2 million of which are in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The vast majority of these people are exploited by businesses or individuals. Approximately 4.5 million are sexually exploited, while nearly 70 percent are forced to work in areas ranging from agriculture and construction to manufacturing and household jobs.

Women and girls represent the majority of the victims of labor exploitation (11.4 million, 55%), compared with 9.5 million (45%) men and boys, although boys represent 26% of the total (5.5 million child victims).

The figures are shocking and failing to act against this 21st century barbarity implies moral complicity.

Since taking office as Secretary General of the OAS, I have proclaimed that my goal during the next years will be "more rights for more people" in the Americas.

There is nothing more appropriate to guide our common work in the defense and protection of millions of such vulnerable people. To that end, among other things, we will create a Secretariat of Access to Rights and Equality that will work on these and other areas of exclusion.

There is a commitment by the countries of this hemisphere to confront this scourge, with strategies for prevention and the protection of victims and the punishment of those responsible.

This commitment must be translated into continuous action.

In 2000, the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children was approved.

In much of the hemisphere, human trafficking was not even defined in national laws and the legal frameworks were limited or nearly nonexistent.

Fifteen years later, countries have legal instruments that, in addition to punishing traffickers, protect the rights of victims. We have moved from a restricted vision of exploitation being confined to prostitution to one in which the various forms this crime takes are recognized.

And so, thousands of traffickers are in jail, and thousands of victims have been able to remake their lives. But it is not enough.

We now have a clear Work Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere for the 2015-2018 period, approved by all the member countries of the OAS.

Preventing the crime means making potential victims less vulnerable through the creation of economic and social opportunities. If opportunities continue to depend on social condition, gender, race, or where one was born, traffickers will continue to flourish.

Conversely, the crime must be made more evident, and therefore, more often reported; its authors must be held responsible and punished appropriately; and people victimized by criminal networks must be protected, aided and made capable of rebuilding their lives.

Governments cannot do this alone. Civil society, the private sector, unions, and churches must be part of a coalition that defeats this scourge and restores to millions of human beings their violated rights.

Simply put, we cannot accept a world in which dreams, rights and freedom are bought and sold.

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#### **DECLARATION OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS AGAINST MODERN SLAVERY**

*On December 2, 2014, leaders representing Anglican, Buddhist, Catholic, Hindu, Jewish, Orthodox, and Islamic faiths met at the Vatican to sign the historic Declaration of Religious Leaders against Modern Slavery.*

We, the undersigned, are gathered here today for a historic initiative to inspire spiritual and practical action by all global faiths and people of good will everywhere to eradicate modern slavery across the world by 2020 and for all time.

In the eyes of God,\* each human being is a free person, whether girl, boy, woman or man, and is destined to exist for the good of all in equality and fraternity. Modern slavery, in terms of human trafficking, forced labour and prostitution, organ trafficking, and any relationship that

fails to respect the fundamental conviction that all people are equal and have the same freedom and dignity, is a crime against humanity.

We pledge ourselves here today to do all in our power, within our faith communities and beyond, to work together for the freedom of all those who are enslaved and trafficked so that their future may be restored. Today we have the opportunity, awareness, wisdom, innovation and technology to achieve this human and moral imperative.

*Signatories*

:: His Grace Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury  
:: Venerable Bhikkhuni Thich Nu Chan Khong (representing Zen Master Thích Nhát Hanh)  
:: The Most Venerable Datuk K. Sri Dhammaratana, Chief High Priest of Malaysia  
:: His Holiness Pope Francis  
:: Her Holiness Mata Amritanandamayi (Amma)  
:: Dr. Abbas Abdalla Abbas Soliman, Undersecretary of State of Al Azhar Alsharif (representing Mohamed Ahmed El-Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar)  
:: Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Taqi al-Modarresi  
:: Sheikh Naziyah Razzaq Jaafar, Special advisor (representing Grand Ayatollah Sheikh Basheer Hussain al Najafi)  
:: Sheikh Omar Abboud  
:: Rabbi Dr. Abraham Skorka  
:: Rabbi Dr. David Rosen  
:: His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France (representing His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew)

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**The World Population Prospects: 2015 Revision**

*Key Findings and Advance Tables*

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Population Division

ESA/P/WP.241 - July 2015 :: 66 pages

Pdf: [http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/Key\\_Findings\\_WPP\\_2015.pdf](http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/Key_Findings_WPP_2015.pdf)

*Press Release*

**The World Population Prospects: 2015 Revision**

29 July 2015, New York

The current world population of 7.3 billion is expected to reach 8.5 billion by 2030, 9.7 billion in 2050 and 11.2 billion in 2100, according to a new UN DESA report, "World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision", launched today.

"Understanding the demographic changes that are likely to unfold over the coming years, as well as the challenges and opportunities that they present for achieving sustainable development, is key to the design and implementation of the new development agenda," said Wu Hongbo, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

Most of the projected increase in the world's population can be attributed to a short list of high-fertility countries, mainly in Africa, or countries with already large populations. During 2015-2050, half of the world's population growth is expected to be concentrated in nine countries: India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, United Republic

of Tanzania, United States of America (USA), Indonesia and Uganda, listed according to the size of their contribution to the total growth.

#### *Shifts in the current population rankings*

China and India remain the two largest countries in the world, each with more than 1 billion people, representing 19 and 18 % of the world's population, respectively. But by 2022, the population of India is expected to surpass that of China.

Currently, among the ten largest countries in the world, one is in Africa (Nigeria), five are in Asia (Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, and Pakistan), two are in Latin America (Brazil and Mexico), one is in Northern America (USA), and one is in Europe (Russian Federation). Of these, Nigeria's population, currently the seventh largest in the world, is growing the most rapidly. Consequently, the population of Nigeria is projected to surpass that of the United States by about 2050, at which point it would become the third largest country in the world. By 2050, six countries are expected to exceed 300 million: China, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and the USA.

#### *Growing population in Africa*

With the highest rate of population growth, Africa is expected to account for more than half of the world's population growth between 2015 and 2050.

During this period, the populations of 28 African countries are projected to more than double, and by 2100, ten African countries are projected to have increased by at least a factor of five: Angola, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Somalia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

"The concentration of population growth in the poorest countries presents its own set of challenges, making it more difficult to eradicate poverty and inequality, to combat hunger and malnutrition, and to expand educational enrolment and health systems, all of which are crucial to the success of the new sustainable development agenda," said John Wilmoth, Director of the Population Division in the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

While there is always some degree of uncertainty surrounding any projection, the large number of young people in Africa, who will reach adulthood in the coming years and start having children of their own, ensures that the region will play a central role in shaping the size and distribution of the world's population over the coming decades.

#### *Slower world population growth due to lower fertility rates*

Future population growth is highly dependent on the path that future fertility will take, as relatively small changes in fertility behaviour, when projected over decades, can generate large differences in total population. In recent years, fertility has declined in virtually all areas of the world, even in Africa where fertility levels remain the highest of any major area.

#### *Ageing population growing rapidly*

The slowdown in population growth, due to the overall reduction in fertility, causes the proportion of older persons to increase over time. Globally the number of persons aged 60 or above is expected to more than double by 2050 and more than triple by 2100.

A significant ageing of the population in the next several decades is projected for most regions of the world, starting with Europe where 34 % of the population is projected to be over 60 years old by 2050. In Latin America and the Caribbean and in Asia, the population will be transformed from having 11% to 12% of people over 60 years old today to more than 25% by

2050. Africa has the youngest age distribution of any major area, but it is also projected to age rapidly, with the population aged 60 years or over rising from 5% today to 9% by 2050...

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## **The World Bank Group and ILO Universal Social Protection Initiative**

Joint Statement by World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim and ILO Director General Guy

Ryder

June 30, 2015

*Concept note*

[undated :: 5 pages]

Pdf: [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/genericdocument/wcms\\_378996.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/genericdocument/wcms_378996.pdf)

*[Excerpts]*

In the early 21st century, we are proud to endorse the consensus that has emerged – that social protection is a primary development priority. Well-designed and implemented social protection systems can powerfully shape countries, enhance human capital and productivity, eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and contribute to building social peace. They are an essential part of National Development Strategies to achieve inclusive growth and sustainable development with equitable social outcomes.

Universal coverage and access to social protection are central to ending poverty and boosting shared prosperity, the World Bank's twin goals by 2030. Universal social protection coverage is at the core of the ILO's mandate, guided by ILO social security standards including the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, No. 202, adopted by 185 states in 2012. Many countries have embarked in expanding social protection coverage and are reporting significant progress...

...Universal social protection includes adequate cash transfers for all who need it, especially: children; benefits/support for people of working age in case of maternity, disability, work injury or for those without jobs; and pensions for all older persons. This protection can be provided through social insurance, tax-funded social benefits, social assistance services, public works programs and other schemes guaranteeing basic income security.

*Why support universal social protection?*

There is considerable rigorous scientific evidence that well-designed and implemented social protection systems can be the foundation for sustained social and economic development – for individuals, communities, nations and societies.

:: It prevents and reduces poverty, promotes social inclusion and dignity of vulnerable populations;

:: It contributes to economic growth: raising incomes increases consumption, savings and , investment at the household level, and raises domestic demand at the macro level;

:: It promotes human development: cash transfers facilitate access to nutrition and education, thus resulting in better health outcomes, higher school enrolment rates, reduced school drop-out rates, and a decline in child labor;

:: It increases productivity and employability by enhancing human capital and productive assets;

- :: It protects individuals and families against the losses due to shocks, whether they be pandemics, natural disasters, or economic downturns;
- :: It builds political stability and social peace, reducing inequalities, social tensions and violent conflict; social protection ensure greater social cohesion and participation;
- :: It is a human right that everyone, as a member of society, should enjoy, including children, mothers, persons with disabilities, workers, older persons, migrants, indigenous peoples and minorities....

*The Vision: Universal social protection to ensure that no one is left behind*

The World Bank and the ILO share a vision of a world where anyone who needs social protection can access it at any time.

The vision states that both institutions recognize that universal social protection is a goal that we strive to help countries deliver. Achieving universality would facilitate the delivery of the World Bank's corporate goals of reducing poverty and increasing shared prosperity and the ILO's mandate of promoting decent work and social protection for all. This shared mission would drive the development agenda to ensure lasting peace, prosperity and progress.

*The Objective: Increase the number of countries adopting Universal Social Protection*

The ILO and the World Bank's shared objective is: "To increase the number of countries that can provide universal social protection, supporting countries to design and implement universal and sustainable social protection systems."

The objective recognizes the aspirational elements of the ILO and the World Bank's shared vision, and that the means of achieving the vision is through either the progressive or immediate realization of social protection, as well as through ensuring that there is no retrogression on progress achieved.

The objective recognizes that if countries develop comprehensive systems providing universal protection across the life cycle, and there is sufficient evidence that social protection systems are affordable, efficient, effective and equitable, then more countries will adopt these systems as part of their national development strategies. It also recognizes that there are large synergies and advantages if the ILO and World Bank collectively support the development of universal social protection systems in countries, with a focus on sustainable domestic financing...

*Timebound Actions*

The World Bank and the ILO declare that they will work together to achieve this shared vision until the Sustainable Development Goals are realized.

In the short term, the ILO and the World Bank will:

- :: *Launch the initiative* (June 30) with a high-level statement calling the attention of world leaders to the importance of universal social protection policies, as well as financing mechanisms. This statement will also articulate the shared vision of the two organizations, and outline tangible activities to advance universal social protection both in the lead-up to and following adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.

:: *Document country experiences on universal social protection coverage:* Succinct case studies presenting how countries achieved universal social protection coverage, and extracting good practices relevant for other countries.

:: *Financing universal social protection:* Analyze the financing implications of universal social protection together with the generation of evidence about ways this can be innovatively resourced and other topics important to generate political will such as the investment case and socio-economic benefits of providing universal social protection.

:: *Monitoring framework for universal social protection in the post-2015 agenda:* as part of the ongoing collaboration on social protection statistics (meeting of experts scheduled for October 2015).

:: *Global conference on universal social protection for inclusive and sustainable growth:* High-level public event (2016), presenting the country case studies, the joint framework for monitoring progress, and launching a Global Observatory for Universal Social Protection for public monitoring and reporting on agreed targets.

In the medium term (1-15 years), the World Bank and the ILO will use their individual and collective resources and influence to support countries in their move towards providing universal coverage. This will include joint support to countries in their efforts to harmonize social protection policies, programs and administration systems, expanding fiscal space for universal social protection, addressing bottlenecks and adequately integrating universal social protection into their national development strategies.

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**Rockefeller Foundation** [to 1 August 2015]

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

**Human activities are jeopardizing Earth's natural systems and health of future generations**

[undated] NEW YORK—A new report released today by The Rockefeller Foundation-Lancet Commission on Planetary Health, calls for immediate, global action to protect the health of human civilization and the natural systems on which it depends. The report, Safeguarding Human Health in the Anthropocene Epoch, provides the first ever comprehensive examination of evidence showing how the health and well-being of future generations is being jeopardised by the unprecedented degradation of the planet's natural resources and ecological systems.

"This Commission aims to put the health of human civilizations, and their special relationship with the larger biosphere, at the centre of concerns for future planetary sustainability. Our civilization may seem strong and resilient, but history tells us that our societies are fragile and vulnerable. We hope to show how we can protect and strengthen all that we hold dear about our world," says Dr Richard Horton, Editor-in-Chief of The Lancet and one of the report authors. The report was written by a Commission of 15 leading academics and policymakers from institutions in 8 countries, and was chaired by Professor Sir Andy Haines of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK. It demonstrates how human activity and development have pushed to near breaking point the boundaries of the natural systems that support and sustain human civilizations.

"The Rockefeller Foundation-Lancet Planetary Health Commission has issued a dire warning: Human action is undermining the resilience of the earth's natural systems, and in so doing we

are compromising our own resilience, along with our health and, frankly, our future," said Dr Judith Rodin, President of The Rockefeller Foundation. "We are in a symbiotic relationship with our planet, and we must start to value that in very real ways. Just as Foundation leaders 100 years ago took a holistic view and launched the field of public health, the Commission's report marks a paradigm shift for a new era of global public health, one that must be integrated with broader policy decisions."

The Commission warns that a rising population, unsustainable consumption and the over-use of natural resources will exacerbate these health challenges in the future. The world's poorest communities will be among those at greatest risk, as they live in areas that are most strongly affected and have greater sensitivity to disease and poor health.

"We are on the verge of triggering irreversible, global effects, ranging from ocean acidification to biodiversity loss," says Professor Haines. "These environmental changes – which include, but extend far beyond climate change – threaten the gains in health that have been achieved over recent decades and increase the risks to health arising from major challenges as diverse as under-nutrition and food insecurity, freshwater shortages, emerging infectious diseases, and extreme weather events."

Concerns that global environmental change represents a growing threat to human health are underlined by two new research articles being published in conjunction with the report. One article, published in *The Lancet*, quantifies for the first time the human health implications of declines in animal pollinators (such as bees and other insects). The study, led by one of the report Commissioners, Dr Samuel Myers, from Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, USA, shows that global declines in animal pollinators could lead to up to 1.4 million excess deaths annually (an increase in global mortality of 2.7%) from a combination of increased vitamin A and folate deficiency and increased incidence of non-communicable diseases like heart disease, stroke, and certain cancers. The research shows that these health effects would be experienced in both developed and developing countries.

The second study, also led by Dr Myers, and published in *The Lancet Global Health*, quantifies for the first time a major global health threat associated with anthropogenic carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions. The study shows that reductions in the zinc content of important food crops as a response to rising concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere will place between 132-180 million people at new risk for zinc deficiency globally by around 2050. In addition, these nutrient reductions will exacerbate existing zinc deficiency for billions around the world. Zinc deficiency leads to hundreds of thousands of premature deaths from infectious disease because of reduced immune function.

Solutions to these clear and potent dangers are within reach, say the Commission authors, but the world needs to take decisive, coordinated action to protect the environment and secure the health of future generations.

The Commission outlines a range of beneficial policies and actions that can be taken by governments, international organizations, researchers, health professionals and citizens that are good for both health and the environment. Examples include benefits from reduced air pollution, healthy diets with more fruit and vegetables, active transport (walking and cycling), reduced urban heat stress from green spaces, and increased resilience to coastal flooding from

intact wetlands and mangroves. In addition, the report identifies some major gaps in evidence and the research that is needed. Some of the recommendations include:

:: *Integrated social, economic and environmental policies*: Policies and initiatives need to be designed to promote more efficient use of current resources to allow for the replenishment of natural systems. They should also spur innovation and make sustainable practices more mainstream, such as reducing waste and developing resilient cities.

:: *Better governance*: Leaders need to take initiatives to reduce the risks to health and vital ecosystems, and implement policies to reduce subsidies that block sustainable practices, encourage behavioral change, incentivize the private sector, support research, and promote public discourse. To help ensure that Planetary Health is at the center of national policy, governments should give responsibility for monitoring trends and developing policies to a body that answers directly to the Head of State.

:: *Improved health systems*: Environmental health needs must be integrated into health budgeting and purchasing. In addition, as environmental threats will be characterised by surprise and uncertainty, health systems must be designed for resilience, planning for potential risks and adapting quickly to meet challenges and restore services.

:: *A reorganization and expansion of our knowledge on Planetary Health*: There are substantial gaps in knowledge that can be closed with the expansion of trans disciplinary research, improved understanding of the links between health and environmental change and potential adaptation strategies, building integrated surveillance systems and reporting on progress nationally and internationally.

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**UNEP** United Nations Environment Programme [to 1 August 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

### **Experts & Policymakers Re-Imagine African Agriculture in Face of Climate Change**

*65% of Africa's Land Affected by Degradation; New Approach Essential*

Nairobi, 31 July 2015 - Over 1,200 experts, policy makers and participants today adopted the Nairobi Action Agenda on Ecosystem based Adaptation for food security and formed the Ecosystem Based Adaptation for Food Security Assembly (EBAFOSA), which re-imagines a system of agriculture for the continent that would be beneficial both economically and environmentally.

The formation of EBAFOSA and the adoption of its constitution come as land degradation affects nearly 65 percent of Africa's land, with some 6 million hectares of productive land lost each year. Part of the Nairobi Action Agenda, the assembly is a result of the 'Africa Ecosystem Based Adaptation for Food Security (EBAFOSC): Re-imagining Africa Food Security Now and into the Future under a Changing Climate' conference, the second of its kind.

As the world gears up for the Climate Change conference and the adoption of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) later this year, a new approach is urgently needed to build an inclusive food system that is robust enough to create jobs and wealth for all in Africa, including the youth. Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) provides flexible, cost-effective, and broadly applicable alternatives for building robust food systems on fewer inputs while reducing the impacts of climate change.

The participants at the conference converted existing lessons and experiences into common solutions for food security and climate change adaptation on the continent, their objectives

being to determine how to protect and restore Africa's ecosystems, achieve food security, identify scalable inclusive business and finance models, put in place policies that incentivize public and private investment in EbA and increase the likelihood of increased investment from oil earnings back into the Earth's ecosystems, which underpin the entire food security system.

The adoption of the Nairobi Action Agenda reflects the importance of the issues on a continent where food imports exceed food exports by 30 percent and the agricultural sector uses over 60 percent of Africa's labour force.

The EBAFOSA replaces the Ecosystem Based Adaptation for Food Security Conference (EBAFOSC) to become the continental body dialoguing and working with the African Union and other partners to help drive the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) agenda in line with the Malabo Declaration as well as the proposed SDGs and Agenda 2063...

### **New Lending and Investment Tool Sets Agricultural Supply Chain on Sustainable Path, Reducing Deforestation Threat**

*New research by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Natural Capital Declaration highlights the critical need to fundamentally strengthen how financial institutions view, address and manage deforestation and degradations risks.*

Nairobi, Oxford, 29 July 2015 - A new lending and investment policy tool for financial institutions, unveiled today, aims to reduce the deforestation risk caused by the unsustainable production, trade, processing and retail of soft commodities, especially soy, palm oil and beef.

New research by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Natural Capital Declaration highlights the critical need to fundamentally strengthen how financial institutions view, address and manage deforestation and degradations risks.

Of the 30 financial institutions assessed, the majority did not have policies that explicitly require clients to comply with applicable local, national and ratified international laws and regulations related to forest conservation.

The study, entitled "Bank and Investor Risk Policies for Soft Commodities" highlights policies that banks and investors can adopt to help reduce deforestation and forest degradation risks resulting from unsustainable practices across agricultural supply chains that are major drivers of tropical deforestation.

An accompanying Soft Commodities Forest-risk Assessment Tool provides a framework to evaluate policies adopted by banks and investors to address deforestation and forest degradation risk in the agricultural value chain.

UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner, said, "Addressing deforestation is high on the twenty-first century policy agenda. The continuing loss of the world's tropical rainforests represents a significant threat to the security of water, food, energy, health and climate for millions worldwide."...

:: [Download Report and New Tool](#)



### **EBOLA/EVD** [to 1 August 2015]

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

## **Ebola Situation Report - 29 July 2015**

*[Excerpts]*

### **SUMMARY**

:: There were 7 confirmed cases of Ebola virus disease (EVD) reported in the week to 26 July: 4 in Guinea and 3 in Sierra Leone. This is the lowest weekly total for over a year, and comes after 8 consecutive weeks during which case incidence had plateaued at between 20 and 30 cases per week. Although this decline in case incidence is welcome, it is too early to tell whether it will be sustained. There have been several high-risk events in both Guinea and Sierra Leone in the past 14 days, and past experience has shown that it can take a single high-risk case or missed contact to spark a new cluster of cases. In addition, there are over 2000 contacts still within their 21-day follow-up period in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, representing a substantial residual risk of further cases. Refinements to the response continue to yield improvements, with recent weeks seeing a higher proportion of cases arising from contacts and a lower proportion of cases identified post-mortem than at any time previously, but the continued occurrence of high-risk transmission events means that an increase in case incidence in the near term is a strong possibility...

### **COUNTRIES WITH WIDESPREAD AND INTENSE TRANSMISSION**

:: There have been a total of 27,748 reported confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (figure 1, table 1) up to 26 July, with 11,279 reported deaths (this total includes reported deaths among probable and suspected cases, although outcomes for many cases are unknown). A total of 4 new confirmed cases were reported in Guinea and 3 in Sierra Leone in the week to 26 July...

## **WHO: World on the verge of an effective Ebola vaccine**

*News release*

Geneva | 31 July 2015 - Results from an interim analysis of the Guinea Phase III efficacy vaccine trial show that VSV-EBOV (Merck, Sharp & Dohme) is highly effective against Ebola. The independent body of international experts - the Data and Safety Monitoring Board – that conducted the review, advised that the trial should continue. Preliminary results from analyses of these interim data are published today in the British journal *The Lancet*.

"This is an extremely promising development," said Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization. "The credit goes to the Guinean Government, the people living in the communities and our partners in this project. An effective vaccine will be another very important tool for both current and future Ebola outbreaks."

While the vaccine up to now shows 100% efficacy in individuals, more conclusive evidence is needed on its capacity to protect populations through what is called "herd immunity". To that end, the Guinean national regulatory authority and ethics review committee have approved continuation of the trial.

## **UNMEER: Statement by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the transition of UN Ebola emergency response**

New York/Geneva, 31 July 2015

As we continue to actively strive to end the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, we have reached an important milestone in the global Ebola response.

**The UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response – UNMEER – will close on 31 July.**

The Mission has achieved its core objective of scaling up the response on the ground and establishing unity of purpose among responders in support of the nationally led efforts. As of 1 August, oversight of the UN system's Ebola emergency response will fully be led by the World Health Organization (WHO), under the direct authority of the WHO Director-General. UN agencies, funds and programmes, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the UN Mission in Liberia and national and international partners have undertaken the necessary steps, to enable this seamless transition.

I have determined that, to maintain the high-level, dedicated UN leadership needed to get to zero cases, the Ebola Crisis Managers will remain in the countries under the oversight of WHO and with the support of the UN Resident Coordinators and UN country teams. In Liberia, this high-level UN leadership for the Ebola emergency response will be provided by my Deputy Special Representative and Resident Coordinator, with the support of the UN country team. My Special Envoy on Ebola will continue to provide strategic guidance for the response.

The United Nations remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting the Governments of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone in getting to and staying at zero cases. We have made considerable progress, but the crisis is not yet over. At this critical juncture, additional resources are needed by the United Nations and partners to sustain full support to nationally led efforts to end the outbreak and to support recovery activities in affected countries. I therefore urge Member States to sustain the financial and political support necessary to end the outbreak.

*[back to table of contents]*

\* \* \* \*

***:: 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 1 August 2015]*

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

*Selected Press Releases/Meetings Coverage*

*31 July 2015*

*SG/SM/16982*

*[Secretary-General Announces Closure of Ebola Emergency Response Mission as Core Objective Achieved, Oversight to Be Led By World Health Organization](#)*

30 July 2015

SC/11991

[Issues Facing Small Island Developing States 'Global Challenges' Demanding Collective Responsibility, Secretary-General Tells Security Council](#)

Transnational crime, illicit exploitation of resources, climate change, natural disasters and other factors that threatened small island developing States must be addressed globally and in the context of international stability, speakers today stressed in an all-day open debate in the Security Council.

30 July 2015

GA/11666

[Speakers Call for Concerted Action to Crush Multibillion-Dollar Illicit Wildlife Trade as General Assembly Adopts Sweeping Text](#)

Addressing a range of issues, the General Assembly today adopted a decision on the world body's review of the implementation of outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, filled a position in the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and adopted a wide-ranging resolution on illicit trafficking in wildlife, taking steps to encourage States to end the "abhorrent" multibillion-dollar trade often associated with organized crime networks, armed groups and terrorist organizations.

29 July 2015

SG/SM/16977-SC/11989

[Disappointed at Impotence of Resolutions on Syrian Crisis, Secretary-General Asks Security Council to Support Special Envoy's Approach to Political Settlement](#)

28 July 2015

SC/11985

[Yemen's 'Overwhelming' Humanitarian Need 'Woefully Under-Resourced', Emergency Relief Coordinator Tells Security Council, Urging Pause in Fighting](#)

The conflict in Yemen had brought "appalling damage" on an already suffering people, the top United Nations humanitarian official told the Security Council today, emphasizing the need to secure a pause in fighting that all parties would honour.

27 July 2015

SG/SM/16967-GA/11665-DEV/3193

[Secretary-General Welcomes General Assembly's Endorsement of Addis Ababa Action Agenda as 'Major Step' on Path Towards Sustainable Development](#)

27 July 2015

GA/11663

[Secretary-General Hails Launch of 'New Era' for Global Partnership as General Assembly Endorses Framework for Development Financing](#)

The General Assembly today adopted a resolution endorsing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, a "new global framework" that many said would strengthen cooperation in technology, infrastructure and social protections that were key to realizing inclusive sustainable development.

**UN OHCHR** Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 1 August 2015]

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

**"Fighting human trafficking is not just about law enforcement" – UN rights expert**

*World Day Against Trafficking in Persons - Thursday 30 July 2015*

GENEVA (28 July 2015) – Speaking ahead of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, United Nations human rights expert Maria Grazia Giammarinaro calls for sweeping changes in policy and on perception of trafficking. Fighting trafficking is not just about law enforcement, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children reminds governments across the world.

**Committee on the Rights of the Child** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

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

[to 1 August 2015]

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Children/Pages/ChildrenIndex.aspx>

*No new digest content identified.*

**SRSG/CAAC** Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict [to 1 August 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 1 August 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 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**UN OCHA** [to 1 August 2015]

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

29 Jul 2015

[:: Nepal: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene \(WASH\): Nepal Earthquake Cluster Brief, July 2015](#)

[:: Nepal: Protection: Nepal Earthquake Cluster Brief, July 2015](#)

- :: [Nepal: Nutrition: Nepal Earthquake Cluster Brief, July 2015](#)
- :: [Nepal: Logistics: Nepal Earthquake Cluster Brief, July 2015](#)
- :: [Nepal: Health: Nepal Earthquake Cluster Brief, July 2015](#)
- :: [Nepal: Food Security: Nepal Earthquake Cluster Brief, July 2015](#)
- :: [Nepal: Emergency Telecommunications \(ETC\): Nepal Earthquake Cluster Brief, July 2015](#)
- :: [Nepal: Early Recovery: Nepal Earthquake Cluster Brief, July 2015](#)
- :: [Nepal: Education: Nepal Earthquake Cluster Brief, July 2015](#)
- :: [Nepal: Camp Coordination and Camp Management \(CCCM\): Nepal Earthquake Cluster Brief, July 2015](#)

Yemen

[Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien - Statement to the Security Council on Yemen, 28 July 2015](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

[Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien Statement to the Security Council on Syria New York, 28 July 2015](#)

Yemen

[Statement attributable to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General on Yemen \(26 July 2015\)](#)

**UNICEF** [to 1 August 2015]

[http://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_78364.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_78364.html)

*Selected press release and news notes*

[UNICEF condemns killing of infant in West Bank attack](#)

NEW YORK, 31 July 2015 - "The death of an 18-month old Palestinian baby in an arson attack on his home in the West Bank is a tragedy - and an outrage.

[Better workplace policies needed for breastfeeding](#)

NEW YORK/GENEVA, 1 August, 2015 - Every year, the global community sets aside a week to draw attention to the vital importance of breastfeeding, not only in the lives of the most disadvantaged children but also in the strength of societies. The theme of this year's World Breastfeeding Week, Breastfeeding and Work -- Let's make it work!, focuses on what we can do to help millions of working mothers give their babies the best possible start in life -- by supporting stronger workplace policies that promote breastfeeding.

[More than 70,000 children born during the Ebola outbreak in Liberia at risk of exclusion if not registered, warns UNICEF](#)

MONROVIA, Liberia 31 July 2015 – UNICEF is supporting a drive by the Liberian Government to register more than 70,000 children whose births were not recorded during the Ebola crisis, leaving them vulnerable to marginalization and exclusion.

**IOM / International Organization for Migration** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

[IOM, UNHCR Train Libyan Partners on Saving Lives at Sea](#)

07/31/15

Libya - The IOM office in Tripoli, with UNHCR, has organized a two-day technical workshop for Libyan partners on saving lives of migrants off the Libyan coast.

[Afghanistan Hit by Multiple Natural Disasters in July](#)

07/31/15

Afghanistan - Afghanistan has been affected by over 30 natural disasters in the past month, causing deaths, injuries and displacement.

[Madagascar PM Unveils National Counter Trafficking Awareness Raising Campaign](#)

07/31/15

Madagascar - On the occasion of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons (TiP) 2015 (on 30/7), the Government of Madagascar launched an IOM-backed national awareness raising campaign.

[IOM Trains Ghana Border Officials in Ebola Prevention](#)

07/31/15

Ghana - IOM yesterday (30/7) launched a series of trainings to build the capacity of border officials to conduct Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)-related screening and infection control procedures at borders.

[IOM Aids Vulnerable, Displaced Sudanese Ahead of Rainy Season](#)

07/31/15

Sudan - IOM has this year provided life-saving emergency shelter and non-food relief items (ES/NFIs) to 16,525 vulnerable internally displaced people (IDPs) across three states in Sudan. It plans to reach 65,000 vulnerable IDPs with ongoing ES/NFI aid distributions funded by multiple donors by year-end.

[IOM, Sahel Governments, Promote Coordinated Border Management](#)

07/31/15

Niger - IOM has brought together government representatives from the Sahel G5 countries – Mali, Niger, Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Chad – and key partners for a two-day regional workshop on coordinated border management.

[On World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, IOM Calls for Renewed Commitment to Combat Exploitation](#)

07/30/15

Switzerland - Exploitation and trafficking of victims is a growing phenomenon in a world awash in conflict and natural disasters.

[Fishermen at Risk of Human Trafficking Rescued from Vessel off Papua New Guinea](#)

07/29/15

Papua New Guinea - Authorities in Papua New Guinea (PNG) are conducting a search and rescue operation in Western Province waters.

[IOM Evacuates Somalis from Yemen to Somalia](#)

07/28/15

Somalia - IOM's second evacuation flight from Yemen to Somalia arrived in Mogadishu at 07.45 on July 27, 2015.

[IOM Provides Cash Aid to Displaced Families in Baghdad](#)

07/28/15

Iraq - IOM Iraq is conducting a cash distribution today for over 100 recently displaced families living in Baghdad governorate.

[Ice Melt Triggers Tajikistan Flooding, Displacement](#)

07/28/15

Tajikistan - Unusually high summer temperatures in Tajikistan have caused severe glacial melt, resulting in mudflows and flooding.

[Travelling Arts Festival Promotes Migrants Rights in Central America](#)

07/28/15

El Salvador - As part of its awareness raising activities in support of migrants, IOM this month organized a Community Festival for the Rights of People who Migrate in El Salvador

**UN Women** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

[New Gender Alert highlights need to support women and girls in the humanitarian response in Yemen](#)

Date : July 31, 2015

A new Gender Alert emphasizes how essential it is that any needs assessment in Yemen reflect gender in their scope and analysis and are based on accurate sex and age disaggregated data, so that the needs and vulnerabilities of the women, men, girls and boys of the crisis affected population are adequately identified and addressed.

[Reaching out to survivors of violence in post-earthquake Nepal](#)

Date : July 29, 2015

With counsellors dealing with rising cases of domestic and sexual violence, UN Women, the Government of Nepal, and partners have set up a multipurpose women's centre to address trauma and provide psychosocial support.

[World Day Against Trafficking in Persons](#)

Date : July 29, 2015

All forms of violence against women and girls, sexual exploitation and trafficking, are serious human rights violations. Evidence shows, every country across the world is affected by human trafficking—as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims.

**Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

## **WHO & Regionals [to 1 August 2015]**

The [Weekly Epidemiological Record \(WER\) 31 July 2015](#), vol. 90, 31 (pp. 381–392) includes:

- :: Health conditions for travellers to Saudi Arabia for the pilgrimage to Mecca (Hajj), 2015
- :: Meeting of the International Task Force for Disease Eradication, April 2015

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

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

- :: [Report pdf, 618kb](#)
- :: [Conference guide pdf, 1.05Mb](#)

### [World Breastfeeding Week: 1-7 August](#)

31 July 2015 -- The theme for this year's World Breastfeeding Week is, "Breastfeeding and Work. Let's make it work!", to encourage family-friendly policies in the workplace. Breastfeeding is the key to a child's survival, health, growth and development. WHO recommends exclusive breastfeeding in the first hour of life and the following 6 months to stimulate brain development, and to prevent childhood obesity and non-communicable diseases later in life.

### [WHO Fact sheet: Cholera 29 July 2015](#)

:: [WHO Regional Offices](#)

WHO African Region AFRO

:: [World on the verge of an effective Ebola vaccine](#)

:: [WHO calls for urgent action to curb hepatitis - 28 July 2015](#)

:: [WHO and Gates Foundation agree on ways to strengthen collaboration to improve health in the African Region - 27 July 2015](#)

WHO Region of the Americas PAHO

:: [Support for mothers' breastfeeding can benefit employers' bottom line](#) (07/31/2015)

:: [PAHO/WHO calls for urgent action to curb hepatitis](#) (07/27/2015)

:: [Experts seek answers to increasing rates of HPV-related oral cancer](#) (07/27/2015)

WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO

:: [WHO sets up advisory group to guide post-quake recovery support in Nepal](#)

The World Health Organization has set up an advisory group to guide its support to earthquake-hit Nepal for rebuilding resilient health systems. Over 80% health facilities have been damaged in 14 districts worst hit by earthquakes that rocked Nepal on 25 April and 12 May this year.

"Improving health system in Nepal as it goes through recovery, requires all of us to rethink and innovate. Long-term development and scaling up risk reduction and preparedness for the health sector are key features of WHO's ongoing engagement in Nepal," Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia, told the first meeting of the advisory group in New Delhi on July 31.

The advisory group, comprising of academicians, policy makers, social scientists, economists, epidemiologists and other experts, will advise on WHO strategic approaches to ensure that the

needs of the affected people are met through the process of transition from response to recovery and development...

:: [WHO calls for strengthening malaria elimination strategy, says 3.2 billion people still at risk](#)  
29 July 2015

WHO European Region EURO  
*No new digest content identified.*

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO  
*No new digest content identified.*

WHO Western Pacific Region  
:: [Intensified public health measures help control MERS-CoV outbreak in the Republic of Korea](#)  
Web update

MANILA, 28 July 2015 - Intensified public health measures, including contact tracing, quarantine and isolation of all contacts and suspected cases, and infection prevention and control have brought the Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) under control in the Republic of Korea. Since 4 July no new cases have been reported. Yesterday, all remaining contacts were released from quarantine symptom-free, following 14 days of isolation and monitoring...

**UNAIDS** [to 1 August 2015]  
<http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/>  
[UNAIDS calls on trade negotiators to uphold governments' commitments to public health and access to medicines](#)  
27 July 2015 |

**UNFPA** United Nations Population Fund [to 1 August 2015]  
<http://www.unfpa.org/press/press-release>  
27 July 2015  
Press Release  
[UNFPA helping Pregnant Women Deliver Safely in Yemen](#)

UNITED NATIONS, New York, 27 July 2015—As the United Nations intensifies its humanitarian efforts to respond to the ongoing crisis in Yemen, UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is working with partners to ensure safe birth for pregnant women and to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.

Among the more than 21 million people affected by the conflict, an estimated 472,000 women are pregnant, of whom nearly 70,000 might experience complications over the next nine months, requiring emergency obstetric care. Pregnant women are more vulnerable in crisis situations due to factors such as movement restrictions and the closure of health facilities.

To meet the needs of these women, UNFPA has sent equipment for emergency obstetric and newborn care to Sana'a, Lahj and Sa'adah. The Fund was also part of the first UN aid convoy of 19 trucks to enter Aden earlier this month, carrying 356.5 metric tonnes of medical equipment, vaccines, cooking supplies and hygiene items, which will benefit more than half a million people...

**UNDP** United Nations Development Programme [to 1 August 2015]

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

[Enhancing resilience to climate change in Southeast Asia: Sompo Japan Nipponkoa Group joins the Business Call to Action](#)

Jul 31, 2015 Tokyo —

Leading Japanese insurance company Sompo Japan Nipponkoa Group joined the Business Call to Action (BCtA) with a commitment to enhance the resilience of 30,000 small-scale farmers in Southeast Asia by 2025 through its weather index insurance. The first major insurance company to join the BCtA, the Group developed this innovative initiative to mitigate against climate change's adverse impacts by offering financial services to low-income farmers....

**UN Division for Sustainable Development** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**UN Statistical Commission :: UN Statistics Division** [to 1 August 2015]

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

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**UNEP** United Nations Environment Programme [to 1 August 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

[Experts & Policymakers Re-Imagine African Agriculture in Face of Climate Change](#)

*65% of Africa's Land Affected by Degradation; New Approach Essential*

Nairobi, 31 July 2015 - Over 1,200 experts, policy makers and participants today adopted the Nairobi Action Agenda on Ecosystem based Adaptation for food security and formed the Ecosystem Based Adaptation for Food Security Assembly (EBAFOSA), which re-imagines a system of agriculture for the continent that would be beneficial both economically and environmentally...

[First UN Resolution on Wildlife Trafficking Historic Step Forward, Chief of UN Environment Programme Says](#)

In calling for wildlife crime to be treated as a serious crime, both nationally and across borders, the resolution sends a clear signal to organized criminal networks involved in this illicit trafficking that their time will soon be up.

31/07/2015

[UN Report Warns Borneo's Orangutans Face Severe Threats from Land Cover and Climate Change](#)

An estimated 55,000 Bornean orangutans remain in the wild, split into three distinct subspecies.

29/07/2015

## [New Lending and Investment Tool Sets Agricultural Supply Chain on Sustainable Path, Reducing Deforestation Threat](#)

*New research by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Natural Capital Declaration highlights the critical need to fundamentally strengthen how financial institutions view, address and manage deforestation and degradations risks.*

Nairobi, Oxford, 29 July 2015 - A new lending and investment policy tool for financial institutions, unveiled today, aims to reduce the deforestation risk caused by the unsustainable production, trade, processing and retail of soft commodities, especially soy, palm oil and beef.

New research by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Natural Capital Declaration highlights the critical need to fundamentally strengthen how financial institutions view, address and manage deforestation and degradations risks...

## [UNEP Head Launches New Resource Center for UNEP Live Data Platform](#)

By integrating big data gathered from sensors embedded in smartphones with satellite data, UNEP Live can support governments to tackle climate change and at the same time help cities reduce premature deaths caused by air pollution.

## [Montreal Protocol Parties Move Closer to Managing Hydrofluorocarbons under Most-Successful Environmental Treaty](#)

HFCs are used in the air conditioning, refrigeration, foam and aerosol sectors as replacements for many ozone-depleting substances (ODSs)

28/07/2015

## [UNEP and Brazil Launch Research Project to Manage Mercury Risks](#)

The Minamata Convention paves the way for greater international cooperation on mercury pollution and global efforts to remove a serious health and environmental threat from the lives of people across the globe

28/07/2015

## **UNISDR** UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 1 August 2015]

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

### *Selected Press Releases*

#### [UN backs disaster resilience plans for hotels in Asia and the Pacific](#)

The head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Margareta Wahlström, today announced a plan to develop and pilot disaster risk management standards for the hotel industry in Asia and the Pacific, home to 80% of the world's disaster events.

29 Jul 2015

#### ['Knowledge for Life' – UN launches search for communities good at managing the risk of disasters](#)

The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) today launched a search for communities that demonstrate excellence in managing disaster risk in order to draw attention to the importance of local knowledge, traditions and customs in the struggle against extreme weather events, climate change and earthquakes.

28 Jul 2015

**UN DESA** United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 1 August 2015]  
<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news.html>

*Selected Press Releases*

[World population projected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050](#)

29 July 2015, New York

The current world population of 7.3 billion is expected to reach 8.5 billion by 2030, 9.7 billion in 2050 and 11.2 billion in 2100, according to a new UN DESA report, "World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision", launched today.

**UNESCO** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

31.07.15

[At Geneva meeting, UNESCO affirms its commitment to Indigenous Peoples Rights](#)

UNESCO is fully committed to engage with indigenous peoples as a genuine wellspring of knowledge and strength, to help meet the challenges of sustainable development in all areas of its mandate. This was the key message of UNESCO's special event that was organized at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 22 July 2015, with the participation of Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as one of speakers, as well as experts from UNESCO Secretariat.

The objective of this meeting, held on the margins of the 8th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), was to present an update on the on-going work in the elaboration of UNESCO's policy on engaging with indigenous peoples and to collect comments and inputs from indigenous peoples' representatives in the process...

31.07.15

[TERCE study: Student performance improves in Latin America, but inequality and other factors continue to affect learning](#)

**UNODC** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 1 August 2015]

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

30/07/2015 –

[On World Day against Trafficking in Persons, far more still needs to be done to help victims and end impunity for criminals](#)

27/07/2015 –

[Statement of the Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Yury Fedotov, on World Hepatitis Day](#)

**UN-HABITAT** United Nations Human Settlements Programme [to 1 August 2015]

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

*Website unreachable at review*

**FAO** Food & Agriculture Organization [to 1 August 2015]

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

### [Momentum gathers for international agreement to combat rogue fishing](#)

Some 12 countries have now completed ratification of the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. The agreement comes into force when 25 countries have deposited their instrument of ratification, known as acceptance of accession

30-07-2015

### [Helping farmers and buyers build mutually beneficial partnerships](#)

Contract farming – an expanding practice in which farmers produce agricultural goods for specific buyers in set quantities at prearranged prices – is getting a new tool to guide growers and buyers in establishing sound contracts and conflict resolution procedures.

28-07-2015

**IFAD** International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 1 August 2015]

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

28 July 15: [Niger receives IFAD financing to support family farmers in the regions of Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder](#)

| [French](#)

28 July 15: [Helping farmers and buyers build mutually beneficial partnerships](#)

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

**ILO** International Labour Organization [to 1 August 2015]

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

*World Breastfeeding Week*

["Breastfeeding and Work - Let's Make it Work!"](#)

*"Ensuring adequate maternity protection and time and space for breastfeeding at work is not only the right thing to do, it also makes economic sense," says ILO Director-General Guy Ryder.*  
*Statement / 31 July 2015*

The theme of this year's World Breastfeeding Week ["Breastfeeding and Work – Let's Make it Work!"](#) highlights the importance of supporting working mothers to breastfeed. I am pleased to endorse this workplace initiative and to align the ILO's support with that of [UNICEF](#) and the [WHO](#).

Breastfeeding is a cornerstone of children's survival, health, growth and development. Ensuring adequate maternity protection and time and space for breastfeeding at work is not only the right thing to do, it also makes economic sense. Women who have adequate maternity benefits value their employers, leading to job satisfaction and loyalty. Likewise, breastfed children fall sick less often, resulting in fewer days that care givers are absent from work.

Workplace action has a key role in increasing breastfeeding rates.

The International Labour Organization has adopted three maternity protection Conventions that stipulate protective measures for pregnant women and for women who have recently given birth. One hundred countries worldwide now provide at least 14 weeks maternity leave in accordance with the [ILO Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 \(No. 183\)](#). Additionally, provisions are made in at least 121 countries for breaks, mostly paid, or reductions in daily working hours for nursing mothers...

**ICAO** International Civil Aviation Organization [to 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**IMO** International Maritime Organization [to 1 August 2015]

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

[Funding agreed for Global Maritime Energy Efficiency Partnerships Project \(GloMEEP\)](#)

27/07/2015

IMO, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have signed an agreement to allocate US\$2.0 million to a two-year global maritime energy efficiency partnership project, which aims to support increased uptake and implementation of energy-efficiency measures for shipping.

The so-called GloMEEP project, formally designated "Transforming the Global Maritime Transport Industry towards a Low Carbon Future through Improved Energy Efficiency", will focus in particular on building capacity to implement technical and operational measures in developing countries, where shipping is increasingly concentrated. The aim is to promote a low-carbon maritime sector, in order to minimize the adverse impacts of shipping emissions on climate change, ocean acidification and local air quality...

**WMO** World Meteorological Organization [to 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**UNIDO** United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**UNWTO** World Tourism Organization [to 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**ITU** International Telecommunications Union [to 1 August 2015]

[http://www.itu.int/net/pressoffice/press\\_releases/index.aspx?lang=en#.VF8FYcl4WF8](http://www.itu.int/net/pressoffice/press_releases/index.aspx?lang=en#.VF8FYcl4WF8)

[ITU World Radiocommunication Conference set for Geneva, 2-27 November 2015](#)

*Radiocommunication Assembly meets 26-30 October 2015*

Geneva, 30 July 2015 – The World Radiocommunication Conference, the international treaty-making Conference, will review the international regulatory framework for radiocommunications – the Radio Regulations – and revise them as needed to take into account the rapid evolution of information and communication technologies (ICT), ensuring that reliable radio services are available everywhere, enabling people to live and travel safely and enjoy high performance radiocommunications.

The World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15), 2-27 November 2015, will be preceded by the Radiocommunication Assembly, 26-30 October...

**WIPO** World Intellectual Property Organization [to 1 August 2015]

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

[WIPO Re:Search Continues Expansion](#)

July 28, 2015

In the first half of 2015, [WIPO Re:Search](#) partner [BIO Ventures for Global Health \(BVGH\)](#) brokered 12 new agreements spanning four diseases and involving 17 members from nine countries.

Out of the 89 [collaborations](#) established to date, 44 are currently active and four have advanced to the next stage of product development.

Four new "User Members" and one new "Supporter" joined the Consortium in the first six months of the year. Four of these members are located in developing countries, home to most of the people living with neglected tropical diseases, tuberculosis and malaria.

A full round up of activities are found in "Catalyzing Partnerships for Global Health" – the 2015 Partnership Hub [Mid-Year Report from BVGH](#), based in Seattle, Washington, USA...

**CBD** Convention on Biological Diversity [to 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**USAID** [to 1 August 2015]

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

[USAID Provides Additional \\$65 million for Critical Food Assistance to Syrians](#)

July 31, 2015

The United States Agency for International Development announced today a \$65 million contribution through the UN World Food Program (WFP) to allow the organization to continue to reach an estimated 4 million Syrians inside the country and approximately 1.6 million refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Egypt. This contribution will help keep WFP programs operating through November and avert an imminent shutdown.

[Large Shipment of Life-Saving Food Assistance Arrives in Yemen](#)

July 31, 2015

*USAID food will feed more than one million people*

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced the arrival of enough wheat to feed more than one million people for two months in Yemen this morning. The wheat shipment from USAID totals 35,800 tons and is valued at approximately \$21 million. It will support the emergency food assistance efforts of the UN World Food Program (WFP).

[President Obama Announces Major Progress Through Feed the Future Initiative](#)

July 28, 2015

President Obama today announced that Feed the Future, his signature global hunger and food security initiative, is delivering on his promise to reduce hunger and malnutrition through agricultural development. New data demonstrate that, thanks in part to Feed the Future and other U.S. Government efforts, stunting rates have declined in Ethiopia, Ghana, and parts of Kenya by between 9 and 33 percent in recent years, while areas in Uganda have seen a 16 percent drop in poverty.

**DFID** [to 1 August 2015]

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

[UK-IRAQ: CONFLICT, STABILITY AND SECURITY FUND](#)

Updated 30 July 2015 Guidance DFID, FCO, Home Office and MOD

[Rapid evidence assessments](#)

Published 28 July 2015 Collection DFID

[:: Free trade agreements: rapid evidence assessment](#)

[:: Urban finance: rapid evidence assessment](#)

[:: Trade facilitation: rapid evidence assessment](#)

**ECHO** [to 1 August 2015]

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

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

30/07/2015

The European Commission is releasing €4.5 million in humanitarian assistance to help the increasing number of refugees from Burundi that have fled to neighbouring countries. More than 175 000 people, the majority of them women and children...

.....

**African Union** [to 1 August 2015]

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

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

Jul.28.2015 - Jul.31.2015 [Regional Consultative Meeting for Eastern Africa for the Development and Consolidation of the Common African Position on the World Humanitarian Summit, Istanbul, Turkey 2016](#)

Jul.28.2015 [President Obama hails Africa's development in a historic visit to the African Union Headquarters](#)

Jul.28.2015 [U.S. President on historic visit to the African Union](#)

Jul.24.2015 - Sep.15.2015 [The African Union is pleased to announce the call for the submission of project proposals under Theme No. 4 of the African Women's Decade, namely « Education, Science and Technology ».](#)

**The African Development Bank Group** [to 1 August 2015]

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

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

[Infrastructure : Africa50, a step change for infrastructure financing and development in Africa](#)

30/07/2015 - Casablanca, Morocco, 29 July 2015 - Africa50, the new and innovative infrastructure investment platform promoted by the African Development Bank (AfDB) held its Constitutive General Assembly on the 29th of July 2015 in Casablanca, Morocco. Twenty (20) African countries and the AfDB have subscribed for an initial aggregate amount of USD 830 million in share capital.

**ASEAN** Association of Southeast Asian Nations [to 1 August 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 Prepares Future Leaders in Disaster Management](#)

KUALA LUMPUR, 31 July 2015 –The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (the AHA Centre) has officially concluded the second batch of its signature programme – the AHA Centre Executive Programme (ACE Programme) today in Kuala Lumpur. Sixteen disaster management officers from ASEAN Member States' National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam have successfully completed the six-month training with satisfactory performance.

**European Union** [to 1 August 2015]

[http://europa.eu/newsroom/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/newsroom/index_en.htm)

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

[EIGE launches Gender Equality Index 2015: Marginal improvements in gender equality](#)

Justice and citizens rights | 01/08/2015 14:50 | European Institute for Gender Equality

[Spring 2015 Standard Eurobarometer : Citizens see immigration as top challenge for EU to tackle](#)

31/07/2015 12:00 | European Commission

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

30/07/2015 12:00 | European Commission

**OECD** [to 1 August 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]*

*No new digest content identified.*

**Organization of American States (OAS)** [to 1 August 2015]

[http://www.oas.org/en/media\\_center/press\\_releases.asp](http://www.oas.org/en/media_center/press_releases.asp)

*No new digest content identified.*

[S-031/15](#)

[July 30, 2015](#)**Human Trafficking, the Slavery of the 21st Century** [op-ed]

[E-212](#)

[July 29, 2015](#)

[OAS Proposes Mechanisms for Dominican Republic-Haiti Dialogue and Support for Displaced Persons](#)

[S-030/15](#)

[July 29, 2015](#)**REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL FACT-FINDING MISSION ON THE SITUATION IN THE BORDER REGION BETWEEN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND HAITI**

**Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

[OIC Strongly Condemns Arson Attack on Palestinian Child by Extremist Settlers](#)

The General Secretariat of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) condemned in the strongest terms the horrendous crime by extremist settlers who attacked and burned a house in Nablus, in the West Bank, leading to the burning to death of a Palestinian child, Ali Dawabsheh, and the severe wounding of his family...

31/07/2015

[OIC Organizes Roundtable Discussion on the Role of Civil Society in Electoral Processes](#)

In collaboration with the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division (UNEAD), the OIC General Secretariat organized a Roundtable Discussion on the Role of Civil Society and Domestic Observer Groups in Enhancing the Integrity of Electoral Processes during the period of 27-29 July 2015...

29/07/2015

[OIC Condemns Terrorist Attack in Bahrain](#)

The Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Iyad Ameen Madani, condemned the terrorist attack that occurred in Sitra village, Kingdom of Bahrain, on 28 July 2015, killing policemen and wounding others as they performed their duties of protecting the country and the people....

29/07/2015

[Secretary General Strongly Condemns Incursion into Al-Aqsa Mosque and Attack on Worshipers](#)

The Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Iyad Ameen Madani, strongly condemned the incursion into and desecration of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque by groups of extremist settlers under the protection of the Israeli occupation forces. The settlers blocked access to the mosque and savagely attacked the worshippers in the mosque's compound, which is an act of provocation and blatant violation of relevant international resolutions and instruments...

26/07/2015

**Group of 77** [to 1 August 2015]

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

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

[Intervention on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by 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 intergovernmental negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda \(New York, 30 July 2015\)](#)

[Statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by a representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations, on the occasion of the seventh session of the Post-2015 Development Agenda - Means of Implementation \(New York, 29 July 2015\)](#)

[Closing statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by Mr Mahlatse Mminele, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations, at the Third Working Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Sovereign Debt Restructuring Processes \(New York, 28 July 2015\)](#)

[Statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by a representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations, on the occasion of the seventh session of the Post-2015 Development Agenda - Statement on the Preamble and the Declaration \(New York, 27 July 2015\)](#)

[Statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by a representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations, on the occasion of the seventh session of the Post-2015 Development Agenda \(New York, 27 July 2015\)](#)

[Statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by Mr Mahlatse Mminele, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations, at the third working session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Sovereign Debt Restructuring processes \(New York, 27 July 2015\)](#)

[Statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by H.E. Ambassador Kingsley Mamabolo, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations, Chair of the Group of 77, at the plenary meeting in consideration of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development \(New York, 27 July 2015\)](#)

**UNCTAD** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**World Trade Organisation** [to 1 August 2015]

[http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news_e.htm)

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

[DG Azevêdo: Expect "intense, relentless" engagement on DDA issues in September](#)

Director-General Roberto Azevêdo told a meeting of all WTO members today (31 July) that there had not been sufficient progress to deliver a work programme on remaining issues of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) by the 31 July deadline. He said that while this is a "very disappointing result", it should not become an obstacle to achieving outcomes at the WTO's Ministerial Conference in Nairobi in December. "This missed deadline does not represent a barrier to delivering in Nairobi – but it should be a wake-up call about our prospects for success," he said.

**IMF** [to 1 August 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]*

July 23, 2015

[13th Regional Conference on Central America, Panamá, and the Dominican Republic \(CAPDR\), Keynote Speech by Mitsuhiro Furusawa, Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund](#)

**World Bank** [to 1 August 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]*

PRESS RELEASE

[Boosting Regional Trade Policies to Bring Food Security to West Africans](#)

WASHINGTON, JULY 28, 2015 – A new World Bank report says that although 60% of West Africans work in agriculture, these countries still depend heavily on food imports which have tripled over the past 10 years. According to the Bank, West African farmers could expand agriculture production to feed the largest and fastest growing population if governments can work more closely with institutions such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to develop regional trade policies and remove cross border restrictions on food trade.

According to the report—Connecting Food Staples and Input Markets in West Africa: A Regional Trade Agenda for ECOWAS Countries—production of food staples in West Africa such as rice could double and maize could nearly triple if governments rethink their policies and support to agriculture and agribusiness by opening up trade within the region.

The report builds on the 2012 World Bank report, "Africa Can Help Feed Africa," and explores the specific circumstances in West Africa, home to one-third of the continent's population and many of the most vulnerable countries, and brings new analysis to the food staples trade, the multiple regional policies in place, and the implementation of those policies from the perspective of regional institutions...

[WBG and ILO co-launch a joint plan of action on Universal Social Protection](#)

July 27, 2015

On June 30, 2015, World Bank Group (WBG) President Jim Yong Kim and International Labor Organization's Director-General Guy Ryder co-launched a joint plan of action on Universal Social Protection to ensure that no one is left behind.

#### [Getting Quality Textbooks to Every Child in Sub-Saharan Africa is Possible](#)

ABIDJAN, July 27 – Every child in sub-Saharan Africa can have access to affordable and good quality textbooks if policy measures are taken to reduce the cost of textbooks and sustainable financing is ensured...

Date: July 27, 2015 Type: Press Release

#### **IPU Inter-Parliamentary Union** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

[\[back to table of contents\]](#)

\* \* \* \*

#### **:: INGO/Consortia/Joint 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 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

#### **Aravind Eye Care System** [to 1 August 2015]

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

[Aravind Pays Respect to Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam](#)

*[undated]*

It was with great shock and grief that staff at Aravind received the news of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's passing away on July 27. Dr. Kalam, a long-time friend of Aravind was familiar to many here that they felt like the loss of their own family member. Staff across the centres assembled to pay homage to this noble soul and great son of India.

#### **BRAC** [to 1 August 2015]

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

[Minimum age of marriage for girls should be 18](#)

28 July 2015, Dhaka. At the seminar on 'Way forward to stop child marriage', experts

demanded that the minimum age for marriage should be kept 18 years. The seminar, organised by BRAC on 28 July 2015, was attended by government representatives, local representatives, Nikah registrars (kazis), religious leaders (Imams), and representatives from human rights organisations, non-government organisations and media. Sheeba Hafiza, director of BRAC's gender justice and diversity and migration programme...

**CARE International** [to 1 August 2015]

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

[CARE Report Calls for Increased Attention to Refugee Skills Development and Livelihoods Support in Camps](#)

JORDAN

29 JULY 2015

A report by CARE Jordan says current livelihood programs in Azraq refugee camp have closed economic gaps but more must be done to support refugee self-reliance.

**Danish Refugee Council** [to 1 August 2015]

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

[Diaspora actors can improve emergency effectiveness](#) (28.07.15)

Diaspora groups are already heavily involved in development activities in their home countries. A recently launched innovative project explores how they act as providers of humanitarian aid and improve coordination mechanisms between Diasporas and conventional humanitarian aid providers. Together with the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO)/European Union, the Danish Refugee Council, AFFORD and the Berghof Foundation jointly investigate opportunities for diaspora communities as providers of humanitarian aid and relief in Somalia, Sierra Leone and Syria...

**Casa Alianza** [to 1 August 2015]

**Covenant House** [to 1 August 2015]

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

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

[Honduras: Human rights abuses rise amid militarisation](#)

27th Jul 2015

Allegations of human rights abuses have sky-rocketed in Honduras alongside a rise in militarisation in the violence-plagued Central American country. Since a military coup overthrew of left-leaning elected president Manuel Zelaya in 2009, there has been a rising recent years has led to a flood of alleged abuses at the hands of soldiers. Allegations include arbitrary detentions, murder, torture and rape. Militarisation spiked in Honduras after the coup in the name of increasing...

**ECPAT** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Fountain House** [to 1 August 2015]  
<http://www.fountainhouse.org/about/news-press>  
*No new digest content identified.*

**Handicap International** [to 1 August 2015]  
[http://www.handicap-international.us/press\\_releases](http://www.handicap-international.us/press_releases)  
*No new digest content identified.*

**Heifer International** [to 1 August 2015]  
<http://www.heifer.org/about-heifer/press/press-releases.html>  
*No new digest content identified.*

**HelpAge International** [to 1 August 2015]  
<http://www.helpage.org/newsroom/press-room/press-releases/>  
*No new digest content identified.*

**IRC International Rescue Committee** [to 1 August 2015]  
<http://www.rescue.org/press-release-index>  
29 Jul 2015  
[No water, no food, no healthcare – refugees arriving on Lesbos not receiving help is a 'serious concern', say aid agency](#)  
:: International coordination needed to identify and help all arrivals  
:: Aid still slow in arriving at Kara Tepe transit camp  
:: The IRC able to provide interviews and meet with media at Kara Tepe

**ICRC** [to 1 August 2015]  
<https://www.icrc.org/en/whats-new>  
[Lebanon: ICRC and Lebanese University partner to improve weapon-wounded care](#)  
The ICRC and the Lebanese University signed a partnership agreement today to launch the new Faculty of Medical Sciences module on clinical management of the war-wounded.  
31-07-2015 | News release

[Humanitarian aid workers and their protection under international law](#)  
Humanitarian aid, by definition, is provided in complex and insecure settings. Therefore humanitarian workers, including health-care personnel, often face tremendous risks to provide assistance and care to people in need.  
30-07-2015 | Article

[Syria: Survival in the devastated city of Aleppo](#)  
The humanitarian situation in Aleppo is very dramatic. Syria's most populated city and one of the main commercial hubs before the conflict erupted in 2011, Aleppo is today a city devastated by the fighting, de facto partitioned into zones controlled  
29-07-2015 | Video

## [Central African Republic: Over a thousand people still searching for loved ones](#)

One of the tragic consequences of the armed conflict in the west of the Central African Republic is that families have become separated and dispersed as they fled.

28-07-2015 | Article

## [Yemen: International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement condemns attack on ambulance in Taiz](#)

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement condemns in the strongest possible terms the attack on a Yemeni Red Crescent Society (YRCS) ambulance in the city of Taiz on Thursday 23 July, which killed two people.

28-07-2015 | News release

## [Ukraine: Staying safe, despite mines and explosive remnants of war](#)

On both sides of the line of contact in eastern Ukraine, mines and explosive remnants of war lie in wait for unsuspecting passers-by.

27-07-2015 | Video

## [Humanity in action](#)

*Humanity in action 2014* explains the ICRC's wide-ranging activities and how it spends its money, gives an overview of the impact of ICRC action during the year and introduces some of the people who benefited.

27-07-2015 | Publication

## [Ensuring the preparedness and security of health-care facilities in armed conflict and others emergencies](#)

This publication is intended as a practical manual for governments, hospital managers and others concerned, with a view to helping them prepare for and manage situations that could jeopardize their objective of assisting the wounded and sick and main

27-07-2015 | Publication

## **IRCT** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

## **Islamic Relief** [to 1 August 2015]

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

### [Christian and Muslim leaders played "essential role" in tackling the Ebola virus](#)

July 30, 2015

Faith leaders in Sierra Leone and Liberia played an "essential role" in stemming the spread of the Ebola virus, according to a new report, but the delay in involving them in the response cost lives.

Keeping the Faith, a joint report by CAFOD, Christian Aid, Tearfund and Islamic Relief, shows that Christian and Muslim leaders were able to deliver health messages in parts of the two countries that governments and NGOs could not reach. As trusted sources of information, they quashed rumours about the disease – such as that the disease was man-made and being

spread deliberately – and encouraged communities to accept life-saving advice from health workers. They also played a crucial role in counselling survivors and challenging stigma.

But many of those interviewed believe that faith leaders should have been involved far sooner. According to a senior member of the Ebola Task Force in Kenema District in Sierra Leone, the country “would have saved more lives and more money had religious leaders been engaged at an earlier stage of the disease outbreak.”...

**MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*Press Release*

[\*\*MSF to TPP Trade Ministers: Don't create new monopolies for biologic medicines at the 'final' TPP negotiations in Hawaii\*\*](#)

July 30, 2015

Maui Hawaii, July 28, 2015—At the secret Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations taking place this week in Maui, Hawaii, trade ministers from the U.S. and 11 Pacific-Rim countries are reportedly on the verge of agreeing to include new and additional periods of monopoly exclusivity for biologic health products, which would block access to the latest medical advances for millions around the world.

*Field News*

[\*\*Tanzania: MSF Vaccinates 130,000 Refugees Against Cholera\*\*](#)

July 30, 2015

Kigoma/Geneva, 30th July 2015—A cholera vaccination campaign to protect Burundian and Congolese refugees in the overflowing Nyarugusu camp in Tanzania has been completed by the international medical organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) this week.

**Mercy Corps** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Operation Smile** [to 1 August 2015]

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

[Program Schedule](#)

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

**OXFAM** [to 1 August 2015]

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

[\*\*Blockade and violence in Yemen pushing an additional 25,000 people into hunger daily\*\*](#)

28 July 2015

Since the start of the conflict, nearly 25,000 additional people are going hungry each day in Yemen as the blockade and fighting restrict food, fuel and other vital supplies, Oxfam warned today.

**Norwegian Refugee Council** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*Iraq*

[Distributing emergency aid to Anbar's displaced families](#)

Elisabeth Koek (29.07.2015)

On the morning of 27 and 28 July 2015, NRC's distribution teams provided emergency food and hygiene items to more than 700 Iraqi families, living in and around the town of Shaqlawa, north-east of Erbil in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I).

*Somalia*

[Securing vocational opportunities for youth](#)

Perrine Piton and Abdalla Hashi (27.07.2015)

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) commemorates one year since launching its humanitarian mission in Kismayo, South Central Somalia in 2014. A new centre for youth vocational training has been opened and 200 learners have enrolled for courses.

**Partners In Health** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**PATH** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*Announcement | July 27, 2015*

[PATH's Jane Hutchings named "Pioneer of Global Health"](#)

Washington Global Health Alliance award "recognizes a creative and inspirational leader dedicated to solving global health inequity"

**Plan International** [to 1 August 2015]

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

25/07/2015:

[New report: Children express fears and insecurity following devastating Nepal earthquakes](#)

**Save The Children** [to 1 August 2015]

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

[18 States Still Lack Basic Protections for Children, Save the Children's 2015 Disaster Report Card](#)

[Finds \[U.S\]](#)

July 27, 2015

**SOS-Kindergarten International** [to 1 August 2015]

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

[New technologies help increase literacy among children in Kenya](#)

29.07.2015 –

A partnership between companies, governments and civil sector groups is helping to share the benefits of technology with disadvantaged communities in Kenya.

**Tostan** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Women for Women International** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

:::::

**ChildFund Alliance** [to 1 August 2015]

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

[Renewed Focus and New Goals Must Make Child Protection a Priority](#)

Anne Goddard, President and CEO, ChildFund International

Huffington Post Posted: 07/17/2015 9:28 am EDT Updated: 07/19/2015 7:59 pm EDT

**CONCORD** [to 1 August 2015]

*European NGO confederation for relief and development*

<http://www.concordeurope.org/news-room>

*No new digest content identified.*

**Disasters Emergency Committee** [to 1 August 2015]

<http://www.dec.org.uk/media-centre>

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**The Elders** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*Guest blog Mustafa Barghouti 30 July 2015*

[A plea for Palestinian unity](#)

Palestinian physician, activist, and politician, Mustafa Barghouti argues that political unity between the Palestinian people must be achieved before there can be hopes for peace in the region.

**END Fund** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Gavi** [to 1 August 2015]

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

31 July 2015

[Encouraging trial results offer significant hope for rapid availability of Ebola vaccine to end current outbreak](#)

Ring vaccination trial data suggests vaccine is highly effective.

30 July 2015

[Reimbursement of misused amounts identified in Gavi Cash Programme Audit in Nigeria](#)

Statement from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

**Global Fund** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Hilton Prize Laureates** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**InterAction** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Start Network** [to 1 August 2015]

[http://www.start-network.org/news-blog/#.U9U\\_O7FR98E](http://www.start-network.org/news-blog/#.U9U_O7FR98E)

*[Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies]*

*No new digest content identified.*

**Muslim Charities Forum** [to 1 August 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 1 August 2015]

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

**CHS International Alliance**

<http://chsalliance.org/news-events/news>  
29/07/2015

[Humanitarian and development staff worldwide trained on the Core Humanitarian Standard](#)

The CHS Alliance has delivered numerous training workshops and dissemination events in 2015 to ensure humanitarian and development staff are aware of and can apply the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) in their work with crisis-affected and vulnerable people.

**EHLRA/R2HC** [to 1 August 2015]  
<http://www.elrha.org/resource-hub/news/>  
*No new digest content identified.*

**Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA)** [to 1 August 2015]

<http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/>  
[Acute malnutrition in Mauritania](#)

2015/07/30

On 30 July 2015 we responded to a funding alert for acute malnutrition in southeast regions of Mauritania – Hodh El Chargui and Assaba. Both regions suffer from chronic poverty and high food insecurity due to severe drought...

**ODI** [to 1 August 2015]  
<http://www.odi.org/media>

[The impact of free trade agreements between developed and developing countries on economic development in developing countries: a Rapid Evidence Assessment](#)

Research reports and studies | July 2015 |  
Chris Stevens, Muhammad Irfan, Isabella Massa, Jane Kennan

This review assesses the impact of free trade agreements (FTAs) on developed and developing countries and examines the evidence of how developing countries can benefit or avoid harm from new FTAs.

**The Sphere Project** [to 1 August 2015]  
<http://www.sphereproject.org/news/>  
*No new digest content identified.*

**Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP)** [to 1 August 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 1 August 2015]

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

JULY 23, 2015

#### [The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Global Citizen and FC Barcelona Announce Partnership to Beat Extreme Poverty](#)

SAN FRANCISCO (July 23, 2015) – FC Barcelona, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Global Citizen today announced they have joined forces and are launching a campaign called “Beat Extreme Poverty” to further the movement to end extreme poverty. The campaign will engage millions of people to learn about global issues, while taking meaningful actions in support of the world’s poor. 2015 marks a turning point for the future of the planet. At September’s United Nations General Assembly, world leaders will set global goals that will form a roadmap for how we’ll tackle poverty, inequality and climate change. Therefore, FC Barcelona, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Global Citizen’s partnership comes at a crucial time to help make sure millions of people around the world not only understand the goals, but have the opportunity to take effective and meaningful actions.

#### **Clinton Foundation** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*Press Release*

#### [Clinton Foundation Visit to Haiti Shows Progress in Encouraging Economic Growth, Empowering Girls and Women & Supporting Small Businesses](#)

July 29, 2015

*Chelsea Clinton and Donna Shalala Saw Progress on Clinton Foundation Projects and CGI Member Commitments; Expansion of Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership Chakipi Haitian Distribution Enterprise for Female Entrepreneurs Announced*

#### **Ford Foundation** [to 1 August 2015]

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

31 July 2015:

#### [Pell Grants to support education for incarcerated people: The latest news](#)

New federal program will test models for allowing incarcerated Americans to receive Pell Grants and pursue postsecondary education while in prison. Ford Foundation President Darren Walker praised the news.

**William and Flora Hewlett Foundation** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Conrad N. Hilton Foundation** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**IKEA Foundation** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**HHMI - Howard Hughes Medical Institute** [to 1 August 2015]

<https://www.hhmi.org/news>

*Science Education [ July 30, 2015 ]*

[HHMI Selects 45 International Student Research Fellows](#)

HHMI selects 45 predoctoral students from 18 countries to receive fellowships that will help them complete their graduate degrees in the life sciences.

**Kellogg Foundation** [to 1 August 2015]

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

[WKKF increases regional investments to support young men and boys of color](#)

*Mississippi and New Orleans organizations work to eliminate barriers in order to improve outcomes for young men and boys of color*

BATTLE CREEK, MICH.– Today, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) announced a total investment of \$4.7 million to 10 community-based organizations in the foundation’s priority places of Mississippi and New Orleans that are working to promote racial equity and healing in order to eliminate barriers to success for young men and boys of color. Two organizations in Mississippi, working in a coalition and broad collaboration with several other partners, and eight in New Orleans will receive investments ranging from \$150,000 to \$1 million to support their efforts around the major issues that uniquely affect these young men and boys, including school push-out, school discipline policies, policing and workforce training...

**MacArthur Foundation** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*Publication*

[Index Ranks Clean-Tech Activities Nationwide](#)

*Published July 29, 2015*

The 2015 U.S. Clean Tech Leadership Index tracks and ranks the clean-tech activities of all 50 states and the 50 largest metro areas in the U.S.—from electric vehicles and renewables adoption to patent and investment activity. Those who download the report can see how their state and city rank. The Index is a valuable tool for the Energy Foundation—a MacArthur grantee and supporting partner of the report—to help analyze clean energy markets.

**Open Society Foundation** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**David and Lucile Packard Foundation** [to 1 August 2015]

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

[PropelNext Selects 15 California Grantees](#)

July 28, 2015 *In Foundation News, Local Grantmaking*

The [PropelNext California Partnership](#) is excited to announce that fifteen nonprofits have been selected to receive PropelNext grants and join its first California grantee cohort.

Five foundations—the [William and Flora Hewlett Foundation](#), the [David and Lucile Packard Foundation](#), the [Sobrato Family Foundation](#), [Weingart Foundation](#), and the [Edna McConnell Clark Foundation](#)—are partnering to deliver the PropelNext three-year program to local nonprofits serving economically disadvantaged youth in the San Francisco Bay Area and Southern California.

Each California PropelNext grantee receives a combination of unrestricted funding along with expert coaching, group learning sessions, and a peer learning community so that grantees are able to strengthen their ability to collect, use and apply data for ongoing improvement and learning. Each organization will receive up to \$400,000 in funding over 3 years from one of the four California-based funders (noted in parenthesis below). EMCF will invest an equal amount in tailored coaching and consulting, facilitated group learning sessions and an online learning community...

**Pew Charitable Trusts** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*Press Release*

[Pew Finds Complex Relationship Between Debt and Financial Security and Mobility](#)

*Report points to debt as a critical factor in family balance sheets*

July 29, 2015

*Financial Security and Mobility*

WASHINGTON—A report released today by The Pew Charitable Trusts finds that Americans' debt has increased over the past three decades, due particularly to home mortgages and student loans, with important implications for long-term economic mobility. A full 80 percent of Americans hold at least some form of debt, and nearly 7 in 10 say debt is a necessity in their lives, even though they would prefer not to have it.

The report, "[The Complex Story of American Debt](#)," shows that debt is a routine but also complicated aspect of U.S. households' overall financial health. At high levels, debt can hinder financial security, but sustainable debt, which allows families to invest in their futures without putting undue pressure on their budgets, can also help them take advantage of long-term opportunities, such as those that come from buying a home, getting a college degree, or starting a business...

**Rockefeller Foundation** [to 1 August 2015]

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

### Human activities are jeopardizing Earth's natural systems and health of future generations

[undated] NEW YORK—A new report released today by The Rockefeller Foundation-Lancet Commission on Planetary Health, calls for immediate, global action to protect the health of human civilization and the natural systems on which it depends. The report, Safeguarding Human Health in the Anthropocene Epoch, provides the first ever comprehensive examination of evidence showing how the health and well-being of future generations is being jeopardised by the unprecedented degradation of the planet's natural resources and ecological systems...

### **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** [to 1 August 2015]

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

### Landmark Study Reveals Connection Between Workforce Health and Community Health

*Research details how businesses benefit by investing in community health.*

July 28, 2015

New York, N.Y.—A study conducted by the Vitality Institute and supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) finds that the health of the workforce is linked to the overall health of the community in which it is located. Understanding this connection may help businesses improve workforce productivity and reduce health care costs. The study, presented in a report titled Beyond the Four Walls: Why Community is Critical to Workforce Health, is being released today.

Researchers analyzed health data such as obesity, smoking rates and deaths due to cardiovascular disease from more than 3,100 US counties, and compared these associations to workforce health data from across 21 major industries. The analysis revealed that industries with workers more likely to be in poor health are also more likely to be located in counties with poor health...

### **Wellcome Trust** [to 1 August 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

*[back to table of contents]*

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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**

Winter 2015, Volume 10, Number 1

<http://pnpcsw.pnpco.com/cadmus/testvol.asp?year=2015&journal=ajdm>

[Reviewed earlier]

**American Journal of Infection Control**

August 2015 Volume 43, Issue 8, p785-904, e39-e46

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

**The Ebola transmission paradox**

Michael Klompas, MD, MPH, Deborah S. Yokoe, MD, MPH

Published Online: June 11, 2015

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2015.05.006>

**Abstract**

Understanding Ebola's transmission dynamics is indispensable to arrest its spread and to protect health care workers and community members. The observed dynamic, however, is confusing. Some signals suggest the disease is highly transmissible, whereas others suggest it is not. The disease course of Thomas Duncan, the Liberian national admitted to Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas, Texas, exemplifies the paradox.

**Ebola virus disease: What clinicians in the United States need to know**

William A. Fischer II, MD, Timothy M. Uyeki, MD, MPH, MPP, Robert V. Tauxe, MD, MPH

Published Online: June 24, 2015

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2015.05.005>

**Abstract**

In March 2014 the World Health Organization was notified of an outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in the forest region of Guinea. As of May 2015, the outbreak had become the most devastating EVD epidemic in history with more than 27,000 cases and more than 11,000 deaths. The introduction of EVD into noncontiguous countries, including the United States, from infected travelers highlights the importance of preparedness of all health care providers. Early identification and rapid isolation of patients suspected with EVD is critical to limiting the spread of Ebola virus. Additionally, enhanced understanding of EVD case definitions, clinical presentation, treatment procedures, and infection control strategies will improve the ability of health care workers to provide safe care for patients with EVD.

**American Journal of Preventive Medicine**

August 2015 Volume 49, Issue 2, p161-334, e9-e12

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

***Theme: Reduce Cervical Cancer Incidence Using Evidence-Based Programs in Community Settings***

Guest Editors: Richard A. Crosby and Margaret L. McGladre

[Reviewed earlier]

**American Journal of Public Health**

Volume 105, Issue 8 (August 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

## **American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene**

July 2015; 93 (1)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

## **BMC Health Services Research**

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

(Accessed 1 August 2015)

*Research article*

### **Enhancing governance and health system accountability for people centered healthcare: an exploratory study of community scorecards in Afghanistan**

Anbrasi Edward, Kojo Osei-Bonsu, Casey Branchini, Temor Yarghal, Said Arwal, Ahmad Naeem  
BMC Health Services Research 2015, 15:299 (31 July 2015)

Abstract |

*Research article*

### **The integrated disease surveillance and response system in northern Ghana: challenges to the core and support functions**

Martin N Adokiya, John K Awoonor-Williams, Claudia Beiersmann, Olaf Müller BMC Health Services Research 2015, 15:288 (28 July 2015)

Abstract

## **BMC Infectious Diseases**

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

(Accessed 1 August 2015)

*Research article*

### **Why are people with dengue dying? A scoping review of determinants for dengue mortality**

Mabel Carabali, Libia Hernandez, Maria Arauz, Luis Villar, Valéry Ridde BMC Infectious Diseases 2015, 15:301 (30 July 2015)

Abstract

Background

Dengue is a viral disease whose clinical spectrum ranges from unapparent to severe forms and fatal outcomes. Although dengue death is 99 % avoidable, every year around 20,000 deaths are estimated to occur in more than 100 countries. We consider that, along with biological factors, social determinants of health (SDHs) are related to dengue deaths as well.

Methods

A scoping review was conducted to explore what has been written about the role of SDHs in dengue mortality. The inclusion criteria were that documents (grey or peer-reviewed) had to include information about dengue fatal cases in humans and be published between 1997 and 2013 and written in English, Spanish, Portuguese or French. The search was conducted using a set of key words related to dengue mortality in several electronic databases: PubMed, LILACS, COCHRANE, Scielo, Science Direct, WHOLIS, OpenGrey, OpenSingle and Google Scholar.

Information on SDHs was categorized under individual, social and environmental, and health systems dimensions. A summative content analysis using QDA Miner was conducted to assess the frequency of information on SDHs and its contextual meaning in the reviewed literature. The role of each SDH in dengue mortality was assessed using content analysis results.

### Results

From a total of 971 documents retrieved, 78 met the criteria. Those documents were published in the Americas region (50.0 %), Asia (38.4 %), Europe (9.0 %) and Africa (2.6 %). The described SDHs related to dengue deaths included, in the individual dimension: age, ethnicity, education, type of infection and immunological status; and in the social dimension: poverty and care-seeking behavior. The health systems dimension included access, opportunity, and quality of care, as well as health staff knowledge. Ethnicity was considered a determinant that depends on cultural and socioeconomic conditions.

### Conclusions

Along with biological factors, there are several SDHs related to dengue mortality. However, only a few of these have been systematically analyzed, suggesting the need for more studies on this subject to inform the design and implementation of sustainable interventions to decrease dengue mortality. These findings nevertheless provide a better understanding of the non-biological factors involved in dengue mortality.

## **BMC Medical Ethics**

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

(Accessed 1 August 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

## **BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth**

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

(Accessed 1 August 2015)

*Research article*

### **Contraceptive adoption in the extended postpartum period is low in Northwest Ethiopia**

Zelalem Mengesha, Abebaw Worku, Senafikish Feleke BMC Pregnancy & Childbirth 2015, 15:160 (1 August 2015)

Abstract

## **BMC Public Health**

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

(Accessed 1 August 2015)

*Research article*

### **Household antimicrobial self-medication: a systematic review and meta-analysis of the burden, risk factors and outcomes in developing countries**

Moses Ocan, Ekwaro Obuku, Freddie Bwanga, Dickens Akena, Sennono Richard, Jasper Ogwale-Okeng, Celestino Obua BMC Public Health 2015, 15:742 (1 August 2015)

*Research article*

## **Socio-economic determinants of disease progression among HIV infected adults in Kenya**

Nyawira Gitahi-Kamau, James Kiarie, Kenneth Mutai, Beatrice Gatumia, P. Gatongi, A. Lakati  
BMC Public Health 2015, 15:733 (31 July 2015)

*Research article*

### **A cost-utility analysis of cervical cancer screening and human papillomavirus vaccination in the Philippines**

Anna Melissa Guerrero<sup>1</sup>\*, Anne Julianne Genuino<sup>1</sup>, Melanie Santillan<sup>2</sup>, Naiyana Praditsithikorn<sup>3</sup>, Varit Chantarastapornchit<sup>3</sup>, Yot Teerawattananon<sup>3</sup>, Marissa Alejandria<sup>4</sup> and Jean Anne Toral<sup>5</sup>

#### Author Affiliations

BMC Public Health 2015, 15:730 doi:10.1186/s12889-015-2046-1

Published: 30 July 2015

#### Abstract

#### Background

Cervical cancer is the second leading cause of cancer cases and deaths among Filipino women because of inadequate access to screening and treatment services. This study aims to evaluate the health and economic benefits of HPV vaccination and its combination with different screening strategies to find the most optimal preventive strategy in the Philippines.

#### Methods

A cost-utility analysis was conducted using an existing semi-Markov model to evaluate different screening (i.e., Pap smear, visual inspection with acetic acid) and vaccination strategies against HPV infection implemented alone or as part of a combination strategy at different coverage scenarios. The model was run using country-specific epidemiologic, cost and clinical parameters from a health system perspective. Sensitivity analysis was performed for vaccine efficacy, duration of protection and costs of vaccination, screening and treatment.

#### Results

Across all coverage scenarios, VIA has been shown to be a dominant and cost-saving screening strategy with incremental cost-effectiveness ratio (ICER) ranging from dominant to Php 61,059 (1443 USD) per QALY gained. VIA can reduce cervical cancer cases and deaths by 25 %. Pap smear screening was found to be not cost-effective due to its high cost in the Philippines.

Adding HPV vaccination at a cost of 54 USD per vaccinated girl on top of VIA screening was found to be potentially cost-effective using a threshold of 1 GDP per capita (i.e., Php 120,000 or 2835 USD/ QALY) with the most favorable assumption of providing lifelong immunity against high-risk oncogenic HPV types 16/18. The highest incremental QALY gain was achieved with 80 % coverage of the combined strategy of VIA at 35 to 45 years old done every five years following vaccination at 11 years of age with an ICER of Php 33,126 (783 USD). This strategy may result in a two-thirds reduction in cervical cancer burden. HPV vaccination is not cost-effective when vaccine protection lasts for less than 20 years.

#### Conclusion

High VIA coverage targeting women aged 35–45 years old at five-year intervals is the most efficient and cost-saving strategy in reducing cervical cancer burden in the Philippines. Adding a vaccination program at high coverage among 11-year-old girls is potentially cost-effective in the Philippines assuming a life-long duration of vaccine efficacy.

*Research article*

## **Factors influencing full immunization coverage among 12–23 months of age children in Ethiopia: evidence from the national demographic and health survey in 2011**

Yihunie Lakew<sup>1</sup>, Alemayhu Bekele<sup>2</sup> and Sibhatu Biadgilign<sup>3\*</sup>

### **Author Affiliations**

BMC Public Health 2015, 15:728 doi:10.1186/s12889-015-2078-6

Published: 30 July 2015

### ***Abstract***

#### **Background**

Immunization remains one of the most important public health interventions to reduce child morbidity and mortality. The 2011 national demographic and health survey (DHS) indicated low full immunization coverage among children aged 12–23 months in Ethiopia. Factors contributing to the low coverage of immunization have been poorly understood. The aim of this study was to identify factors associated with full immunization coverage among children aged 12–23 months in Ethiopia.

#### **Methods**

This study used the 2011 Ethiopian demographic and health survey data. The survey was cross sectional by design and used a multistage cluster sampling procedure. A total of 1,927 mothers with children of 12–23 months of age were extracted from the children's dataset. Mothers' self-reported data and observations of vaccination cards were used to determine vaccine coverage. An adjusted odds ratio (AOR) with 95 % confidence intervals (CI) was used to outline the independent predictors.

#### **Results**

The prevalence of fully immunized children was 24.3 %. Specific vaccination coverage for three doses of DPT, three doses of polio, measles and BCG were 36.5 %, 44.3 %, 55.7 % and 66.3 %, respectively. The multivariable analysis showed that sources of information from vaccination card [AOR 95 % CI; 7.7 (5.95-10.06)], received postnatal check-up within two months after birth [AOR 95 % CI; 1.8 (1.28-2.56)], women's awareness of community conversation program [AOR 95 % CI; 1.9 (1.44-2.49)] and women in the rich wealth index [AOR 95 % CI; 1.4 (1.06-1.94)] were the predictors of full immunization coverage. Women from Afar [AOR 95 % CI; 0.07 (0.01-0.68)], Amhara [AOR 95 % CI; 0.33 (0.13-0.81)], Oromiya [AOR 95 % CI; 0.15 (0.06-0.37)], Somali [AOR 95 % CI; 0.15 (0.04-0.55)] and Southern Nation and Nationalities People administrative regions [AOR 95 % CI; 0.35 (0.14-0.87)] were less likely to fully vaccinate their children.

#### **Conclusion**

The overall full immunization coverage in Ethiopia was considerably low as compared to the national target set (66 %). Health service use and access to information on maternal and child health were found to predict full immunization coverage. Appropriate strategies should be devised to enhance health information and accessibility for full immunization coverage by addressing the variations among regions.

## **BMC Research Notes**

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

(Accessed 1 August 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

**British Medical Journal**

1 August 2015 (vol 351, issue 8010)

<http://www.bmjjournals.org/lookup/doi/10.1136/bmjjournals-2015-001111>

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

**Brown Journal of World Affairs**

Volume XXI Issue 1 Fall–Winter 2014

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Bulletin of the World Health Organization**

Volume 93, Number 8, August 2015, 513-588

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/93/8/en/>

*Research*

**Effectiveness of emergency water treatment practices in refugee camps in South Sudan**

Syed Imran Ali, Syed Saad Ali & Jean-Francois Fesselet

*Abstract*

**Objective**

To investigate the concentration of residual chlorine in drinking water supplies in refugee camps, South Sudan, March–April 2013.

**Methods**

For each of three refugee camps, we measured physical and chemical characteristics of water supplies at four points after distribution: (i) directly from tapstands; (ii) after collection; (iii) after transport to households; and (iv) after several hours of household storage. The following parameters were measured: free and total residual chlorine, temperature, turbidity, pH, electrical conductivity and oxidation reduction potential. We documented water handling practices with spot checks and respondent self-reports. We analysed factors affecting residual chlorine concentrations using mathematical and linear regression models.

**Findings**

For initial free residual chlorine concentrations in the 0.5–1.5 mg/L range, a decay rate of  $\sim 5 \times 10^{-3}$  L/mg/min was found across all camps. Regression models showed that the decay of residual chlorine was related to initial chlorine levels, electrical conductivity and air temperature. Covering water storage containers, but not other water handling practices, improved the residual chlorine levels.

**Conclusion**

The concentrations of residual chlorine that we measured in water supplies in refugee camps in South Sudan were too low. We tentatively recommend that the free residual chlorine guideline be increased to 1.0 mg/L in all situations, irrespective of diarrhoeal disease outbreaks and the pH or turbidity of water supplies. According to our findings, this would ensure a free residual chlorine level of 0.2 mg/L for at least 10 hours after distribution. However, it is unknown whether our findings are generalizable to other camps and further studies are therefore required.

*POLICY & PRACTICE*

**Climate change, cash transfers and health**

Frank Pega, Caroline Shaw, Kumanan Rasanathan, Jennifer Yablonski, Ichiro Kawachi & Simon Hales

The forecast consequences of climate change on human health are profound, especially in low- and middle-income countries and among the most disadvantaged populations. Innovative policy tools are needed to address the adverse health effects of climate change. Cash transfers are established policy tools for protecting population health before, during and after climate-related disasters. For example, the Ethiopian Productive Safety Net Programme provides cash transfers to reduce food insecurity resulting from droughts. We propose extending cash transfer interventions to more proactive measures to improve health in the context of climate change. We identify promising cash transfer schemes that could be used to prevent the adverse health consequences of climatic hazards. Cash transfers for using emission-free, active modes of transport – e.g. cash for cycling to work – could prevent future adverse health consequences by contributing to climate change mitigation and, at the same time, improving current population health. Another example is cash transfers provided to communities that decide to move to areas in which their lives and health are not threatened by climatic disasters. More research on such interventions is needed to ensure that they are effective, ethical, equitable and cost-effective.

#### *SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS*

#### **Emergency care in 59 low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review**

Ziad Obermeyer, Samer Abujaber, Maggie Makar, Samantha Stoll, Stephanie R Kayden, Lee A Wallis, Teri A Reynolds & on behalf of the Acute Care Development Consortium

#### *Abstract*

#### *Objective*

To conduct a systematic review of emergency care in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

#### *Methods*

We searched PubMed, CINAHL and World Health Organization (WHO) databases for reports describing facility-based emergency care and obtained unpublished data from a network of clinicians and researchers. We screened articles for inclusion based on their titles and abstracts in English or French. We extracted data on patient outcomes and demographics as well as facility and provider characteristics. Analyses were restricted to reports published from 1990 onwards.

#### *Findings*

We identified 195 reports concerning 192 facilities in 59 countries. Most were academically-affiliated hospitals in urban areas. The median mortality within emergency departments was 1.8% (interquartile range, IQR: 0.2–5.1%). Mortality was relatively high in paediatric facilities (median: 4.8%; IQR: 2.3–8.4%) and in sub-Saharan Africa (median: 3.4%; IQR: 0.5–6.3%). The median number of patients was 30 000 per year (IQR: 10 296–60 000), most of whom were young (median age: 35 years; IQR: 6.9–41.0) and male (median: 55.7%; IQR: 50.0–59.2%). Most facilities were staffed either by physicians-in-training or by physicians whose level of training was unspecified. Very few of these providers had specialist training in emergency care.

#### *Conclusion*

Available data on emergency care in LMICs indicate high patient loads and mortality, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, where a substantial proportion of all deaths may occur in emergency departments. The combination of high volume and the urgency of treatment make emergency care an important area of focus for interventions aimed at reducing mortality in these settings.

**Chronicle of Philanthropy**

July 6, 2015 Volume 27, Issue 11

<https://philanthropy.com/issue>

[Reviewed earlier]

**Complexity**

July/August 2015 Volume 20, Issue 6 Pages C1–C1, 1–97

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/cplx.v20.6/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

**Conflict and Health**

[Accessed 1 August 2015]

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

[No new relevant content identified]

**Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation**

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

(Accessed 1 August 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

**Developing World Bioethics**

August 2015 Volume 15, Issue 2 Pages ii–iii, 59–114

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/dewb.2015.15.issue-2/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

**Development in Practice**

Volume 25, Issue 5, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology**

Volume 10, Number 5 (September 2015)

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

**Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness**

Volume 9 - Issue 04 - August 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>

[Reviewed earlier]

**Emergency Medicine Journal**

August 2015, Volume 32, Issue 8

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Epidemics**

Volume 13, In Progress (December 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**End of Life Journal**

2015, Volume 5, Issue 1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Epidemiology and Infection**

Volume 143 - Issue 11 - August 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**The European Journal of Public Health**

Volume 25, Issue 4, 1 August 2015

<http://eurpub.oxfordjournals.org/content/25/4>

[Reviewed earlier]

**Food Policy**

Volume 54, In Progress (July 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Food Security**

Volume 7, Issue 4, August 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/12571/7/4/page/1>

## **A conceptual framework for understanding the impacts of agriculture and food system policies on nutrition and health**

Rebecca Kanter, Helen L. Walls, Mehroosh Tak, Francis Roberts, Jeff Waage

### *Abstract*

Agriculture and food systems are important determinants of nutrition and consequent public health. However, an understanding of the links among agriculture, food systems, nutrition, public health and the associated policy levers, is relatively under-developed. A framework conceptualizing these key relationships, relevant to a range of country contexts, would help inform policymakers as to how agriculture and food policy could improve nutrition and public health, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC). The objectives of this paper are: to present a conceptual framework, relevant to a range of country contexts and focused on the policymaker as the user, which depicts the key relationships among agriculture, the food system, nutrition and public health; and to describe how the framework can be used for understanding the impacts of agriculture and food system policies on nutrition outcomes. Existing conceptual frameworks, highlighting the relationships among agriculture, the food system, nutrition and public health (n = 37) were identified, reviewed and categorized, based on the key themes they address. Building on this analysis and synthesis a conceptual framework was developed that assists in identifying associated policy levers and their effects on elements of the framework. The end product is a conceptual framework that presents key domains linking agriculture and food systems to nutritional outcomes and public health. The framework is relevant to a range of contexts, for example low-, middle- and high-income settings; and to policymakers wishing to examine the potential direct and indirect impacts of agriculture and food system policies.

## **Environmental impacts and constraints associated with the production of major food crops in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia**

Travis W. Reynolds, Stephen R. Waddington, C. Leigh Anderson, Alexander Chew, Zoe True, Alison Cullen

### *Abstract*

Many environmental factors constrain the production of major food crops in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. At the same time, these food production systems themselves have a range of negative impacts on the environment. In this paper we review the published literature and assess the depth of recent research (since 2000) on crop x environment interactions for rice, maize, sorghum/millets, sweetpotato/yam and cassava in these two regions. We summarize current understandings of the environmental impacts of crop production systems prior to crop production, during production and post-production, and emphasize how those initial environmental impacts become new and more severe environmental constraints to crop yields. Pre-production environmental interactions relate to agricultural expansion or intensification, and include soil degradation and erosion, the loss of wild biodiversity, loss of food crop genetic diversity and climate change. Those during crop production include soil nutrient depletion, water depletion, soil and water contamination, and pest resistance/outbreaks and the emergence of new pests and diseases. Post-harvest environmental interactions relate to the effects of crop residue disposal, as well as crop storage and processing. We find the depth of recent publications on environmental impacts is very uneven across crops and regions. Most information is available for rice in South Asia and maize in Sub-Saharan Africa where these crops are widely grown and have large environmental impacts, often relating to soil nutrient and water management. Relatively few new studies have been reported for sorghum/millets, sweetpotato/yam or cassava, despite their importance for food security on large areas of

marginal farmland in Sub-Saharan Africa – however, there is mounting evidence that even these low-input crops, once thought to be environmentally benign, are contributing to cycles of environmental degradation that threaten current and future food production. A concluding overview of the emerging range of published good practices for smallholder farmers highlights many opportunities to better manage crop x environment interactions and reduce environmental impacts from these crops in developing countries.

### **Farmers' willingness to pay for a village poultry vaccine service in Ethiopia: prospect for enhancing rural livelihoods**

Z. G. Terfa, S. Garikipati, T. Dessie, S. Lynch, P. Wigley, J. M. Bettridge, R. M. Christley

#### *Abstract*

This research examines farmers' willingness to pay for village poultry vaccine programmes using data from 400 household heads from two districts in Ethiopia, Horro and Jarso. The study applied a contingent valuation method to elicit farmers' willingness to pay for village poultry vaccine services. Two hypothetical vaccine programmes were designed for Newcastle disease and Gumboro disease. Both parametric and non-parametric approaches were employed in data analysis. The results show that farmers recognise the benefits of the vaccine programme and that many would be willing to pay for it. Results from non-parametric estimates produced households' mean willingness to pay Ethiopian Birr (ETB) 80 up to ETB 87 per year based on vaccine programme type. This demonstrates the potential and prospect of reducing the impact of infectious poultry diseases and enhancing rural livelihoods through village poultry.

Exponential probit analysis revealed that farmers' willingness to pay for village poultry vaccine service is influenced by age, education level, and region of respondents. Younger and more-educated farmers were more likely to pay for village poultry vaccine services and farmers from Horro, a relatively food secure and educated area, were more likely to pay than those from the less food secure Jarso district.

### **Forum for Development Studies**

Volume 42, Issue 2, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Genocide Studies International**

Volume 9 No. 1, Spring 2015

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Global Health: Science and Practice (GHSP)**

June 2015 | Volume 3 | Issue 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Global Health Governance**

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

[Accessed 1 August 2015]

[No new relevant content]

## **Global Public Health**

Volume 10, Issue 7, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

## **Globalization and Health**

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

[Accessed 1 August 2015]

Research

### **[On est ensemble: social capital and maternal health care use in rural Cameroon](#)**

McTavish S and Moore S Globalization and Health 2015, 11:33 (1 August 2015)

*Abstract*

Background

Every day approximately 1500 women worldwide die due to pregnancy or childbirth related complications. Maternal health care use is critical in reducing maternal mortality worldwide. Cameroon has one of the highest maternal mortality rates worldwide, but there is little knowledge about maternal health care use in Cameroon, particularly in more remote areas. The purpose of this study was to examine the importance of social networks and social capital in maternal health care use in the Far-North province of Cameroon.

Methods

A sample of 110 Cameroonian women was recruited door-to-door in the urban town of Maroua and rural village of Moutourwa in the Far-North province in 2009. A maternal health questionnaire was administered to women between the ages of 18-45. The questionnaire assessed maternal health care history, social network, and social demographic characteristics. Social capital was measured in terms of the average educational level of women's networks. Bivariate and multivariable poisson regression analysis was used to assess the number of maternal health care visits as a function of social network characteristics, education, ethnicity, age, and urban and rural residence.

Results

Among the 110 participants, 13 percent reported not having visited a health care provider during the last pregnancy – 19 percent of the women sampled in Moutourwa and 6 percent in Maroua. Findings showed that women with higher social capital had a greater tendency to use maternal health care services (IRR: 1.13; 95 % CI: 1.02-1.26). Social network size and social participation were not significant in full models. Ethnic characteristics were also shown associated with MHCU in the Far-North province.

Conclusion

Although the size of women's health-related networks were not shown significant, the resources to which women might have access through their social networks were associated with women's maternal health care use in remote areas of Cameroon. Although pregnancy may not be widely discussed in public, women's social networks may provide key social resources, e.g., information or financial capital, that facilitate MHCU. Leveraging women's social capital may provide a means to improve maternal health care use among women in low-income countries.

**Health Affairs**

July 2015; Volume 34, Issue 7

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

***Focus: Medicaid's Evolving Delivery Systems***

[Reviewed earlier]

**Health and Human Rights**

Volume 17, Issue 1 June 2015

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

***Special Section on Bioethics and the Right to Health***

in collaboration with the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto

[Reviewed earlier]

**Health Economics, Policy and Law**

Volume 10 - Issue 03 - July 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Health Policy and Planning**

July 2015 30 (6)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Health Research Policy and Systems**

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

[Accessed 1 August 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](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/human_rights_quarterly/toc/hrq.37.2.html)

[Reviewed earlier]

**Human Service Organizations Management, Leadership & Governance**

Volume 39, Issue 3, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Humanitarian Exchange Magazine**

Issue 64 June 2015

<http://www.odihpn.org/humanitarian-exchange-magazine/issue-64>

[Reviewed earlier]

**IDRiM Journal**

Vol 5, No 1 (2015) June 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Infectious Diseases of Poverty**

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

[Accessed 1 August 2015]

[No new relevant content]

**International Health**

Volume 7 Issue 4 July 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**International Human Rights Law Review**

Volume 4, Issue 1, 2015

<http://booksandjournals.brillonline.com/content/journals/22131035/4/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

**International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction**

Volume 13, In Progress (September 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**International Journal of Infectious Diseases**

August 2015 Volume 37, p1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**International Journal of Mass Emergencies & Disasters**

March 2015 (VOL. 33, NO. 1)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology**

Volume 22, Issue 4, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**International Migration Review**

Summer 2015 Volume 49, Issue 2 Pages 271–552, e1–e16

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/imre.2015.49.issue-2/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

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

July 2015 - Volume 13 - Issue 2 pp: 104-198

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**JAMA**

July 28, 2015, Vol 314, No. 4

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

**JAMA Pediatrics**

July 2015, Vol 169, No. 7

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Asian Development**

Vol 1, No 1 (2015)

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Community Health**

Volume 40, Issue 4, August 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10900/40/4/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Development Economics**

Volume 115, Pages A1-A2, 1-232 (July 2015)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/03043878/115>

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health**

August 2015, Volume 69, Issue 8

<http://jech.bmjjournals.org/content/current>  
[Reviewed earlier]

### **Journal of Global Ethics**

Volume 11, Issue 2, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjge20/11/2>

#### **[Moral economy reconfigured: philanthropic engagement in post-tsunami Sri Lanka](#)**

DOI:10.1080/17449626.2015.1054562

Carolina Holgersson Ivarsson\*

pages 233-245

Published online: 29 Jul 2015

#### *Abstract*

This article focuses on the 'gift of aid' and its impact upon the local moral economy in a Sri Lankan village affected by the tsunami disaster in 2004. The importance of giving, receiving, and reciprocating for the shaping and consolidation of social relations has long been recognized. The act of giving reflects one of the most basic principles of morality and has constituted a classical anthropological field of inquiry. The impact that humanitarian aid had on the local moral economy of a community struck by disaster and the various ways the 'gift of aid' was understood and valued by donors, brokers, and recipients is explored. Also examined is how processes of change were set in motion, benefiting some people and relationships but marginalizing others. Local lifeworlds were shattered in multiple ways and became caught in tensions between competing moral discourses concerning modernity, the collective, and the global. Promoting material recovery disaster aid also generated disorder and fragmentation of local social and moral configurations.

#### **[Accounts along the aid chain: administering a moral economy](#)**

Open access

DOI:10.1080/17449626.2015.1054563

Katarina Friberga\*

pages 246-256

Published online: 29 Jul 2015

#### *Abstract*

The purpose of this article is threefold. First, it aims to delineate the flow of resources and the claims on those resources within the humanitarian aid system by locating task structures and functional units across the aid chain. Second, it draws on this account to highlight tensions in the system. Different stations in the organisational process are conditioned by the tasks assigned to them, how those tasks are anchored in a moral economy, and their historical interrelations. Third, it explores how aid organisations are perceived by experts in different parts of the aid chain. Four key agents were invited to recount their work experiences. We then consider how the outlook of the interviewees was shaped by their place in the aid chain. The interviews are an inventory of experiences, a preliminary corroboration of the organisational analysis that preceded them, and a source of future hypotheses.

### **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](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 2

<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/toc/jhlsbcm/5/2>

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health**

Volume 17, Issue 4, August 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10903/17/4/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies**

Volume 13, Issue 2, 2015

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

***Special Issue: Implementing Human Rights: Civil Society and Migration Policies***

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Infectious Diseases**

Volume 212 Issue 3 August 1, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of International Development**

July 2015 Volume 27, Issue 5 Pages 573–715

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jid.v27.5/issuetoc>

***Special Issue: The Political Economy of Africa's Emergent Middle Class July 2015***

[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**

August 2015, Volume 41, Issue 8

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

**Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (JPIDS)**

Volume 4 Issue 2 June 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Public Health Policy**

Volume 36, Issue 2 (May 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of the Royal Society – Interface**

06 May 2015; volume 12, issue 106

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Knowledge Management for Development Journal**

Vol 11, No 1 (2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**The Lancet**

Aug 01, 2015 Volume 386 Number 9992 p403-502

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

*Ebola vaccine trials article not identified.*

**The Lancet Global Health**

Jul 2015 Volume 3 Number 7 e341-e422

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**The Lancet Infectious Diseases**

Jul 2015 Volume 15 Number 7 p747-866

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Maternal and Child Health Journal**

Volume 19, Issue 8, August 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10995/19/8/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

**Medical Decision Making (MDM)**

July 2015; 35 (5)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**The Milbank Quarterly**

*A Multidisciplinary Journal of Population Health and Health Policy*

June 2015 Volume 93, Issue 2 Pages 223–445

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Nature**

Volume 523 Number 7562 pp501-632 30 July 2015

[http://www.nature.com/nature/current\\_issue.html](http://www.nature.com/nature/current_issue.html)

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

**Nature Medicine**

July 2015, Volume 21 No 7 pp655-827

<http://www.nature.com/nm/journal/v21/n7/index.html>

[Reviewed earlier]

**New England Journal of Medicine**

July 30, 2015 Vol. 373 No. 5

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

**Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly**

August 2015; 44 (4)

<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**

August 2015, VOLUME 136 / ISSUE 2

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

*Pediatrics Perspective*

### **Children and Armed Conflict**

Sherry Shenoda, MDa, Ayesha Kadir, MD, MSb, and Jeffrey Goldhagen, MD, MPHa

Author Affiliations

aDepartment of Pediatrics, University of Florida, Jacksonville, Florida; and

bLondon School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, United Kingdom

*[Initial text]*

*We are really tired of these wars... I'm speaking up for peace. Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and child rights activist*

Multiple armed conflicts throughout the world are profoundly impacting the physical and mental health of children. The conflict in Gaza, Syria's civil war, the targeting of children in Iraq, the kidnapping and murder of schoolchildren in Nigeria, the recruitment of child soldiers by ISIS, and the street violence in inner-city America are among the reasons UNICEF identified 2014 as the most dangerous year in recent history for children.<sup>1</sup> In past conflicts, children were collateral damage; now, they are targeted victims of war.

In the shadow of this carnage, it is incumbent upon pediatricians as child advocates to respond to these gross violations of children's rights. We know that we owe children our voices and protection, but it is not always clear how we can advocate for and protect them. This dilemma is especially true with regard to advocacy and support for children affected by wars and violent conflicts distant from the United States. To date, no American Academy of Pediatrics policy has been established regarding the impact of armed conflict on children.

In these circumstances, the principles, standards, and norms of child rights, equity, and social justice provide pediatricians with the capacity to advocate for affected children with the strength of a unified global voice and the power of legal precedent. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)<sup>2</sup> provides clear guidelines, through the explicit articulation of 40 substantive child rights, for the protection of children affected by humanitarian crises, as well as the promotion of their well-being and participation in decisions that are being made on their behalf. The CRC establishes the legal basis and precedent for these rights, in addition...

### **Identifying Priorities for Mental Health Interventions in War-Affected Youth: A Longitudinal Study**

Theresa S. Betancourt, Stephen E. Gilman, Robert T. Brennan, Ista Zahn, and Tyler J. VanderWeele

Pediatrics 2015; 136:e344-e350

## **Pharmacoconomics**

Volume 33, Issue 7, July 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/40273/33/7/page/1>

***Issue Theme: Economic Consequences of Obesity***

[Reviewed earlier]

**PLOS Currents: Disasters**

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

[Accessed 1 August 2015]

[No new content]

**PLoS Currents: Outbreaks**

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

(Accessed 1 August 2015)

[No new content]

**PLoS Medicine**

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

(Accessed 1 August 2015)

**Noncommunicable Diseases: A Globalization of Disparity?**

Peter J. Hotez, Larry Peiperl

Editorial | published 28 Jul 2015 | PLOS Medicine 10.1371/journal.pmed.1001859

*[Initial text]*

A year ago, the editors of *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases* and *PLOS Medicine* launched the PLOS Blue Marble Health Collection, subtitled “the mismatch between national wealth and population health” [1]. The term “blue marble health” (which recalls the appearance of the earth from space) was coined as a differentiator from prior conceptualizations of global health that divided the world’s population according to national economic indices [2]. The basic tenet of blue marble health is that impoverished populations living amidst wealth bear a disproportionate burden of neglected diseases, irrespective of the overall economic strength of their home country. Such an approach is increasingly relevant as differential disease burdens between wealthier countries and regions (including North America, Europe, and Japan) and lower-income countries (including many in Africa, Asia, and Central and South America), evolve through a pronounced, but uneven, economic rise across the planet that leaves pockets of intense poverty in its wake.

**The Individualised versus the Public Health Approach to Treating Ebola**

Tom H. Boyles

Perspective | published 28 Jul 2015 | PLOS Medicine 10.1371/journal.pmed.1001858

**Ebola Virus Disease: Experience and Decision Making for the First Patients outside of Africa**

David S. Stephens, Bruce S. Ribner, Bryce D. Gartland, Nancye R. Feistritzer, Monica M. Farley, Christian P. Larsen, John T. Fox

Essay | published 28 Jul 2015 | PLOS Medicine 10.1371/journal.pmed.1001857

**PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases**

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

(Accessed 1 August 2015)

## **Blue Marble Health Redux: Neglected Tropical Diseases and Human Development in the Group of 20 (G20) Nations and Nigeria**

Peter J. Hotez

Editorial | published 28 Jul 2015 | PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases

10.1371/journal.pntd.0003672

## **PLoS One**

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

[Accessed 1 August 2015]

## **Investigation of a Measles Outbreak in China to Identify Gaps in Vaccination Coverage, Routes of Transmission, and Interventions**

Xiang Zheng, Ningjing Zhang, Xiaoshu Zhang, Lixin Hao, Qiru Su, Haijun Wang, Kongyan Meng,

Binglin Zhang, Jianfeng Liu, Huaqing Wang, Huiming Luo, Li Li, Hui Li, Chao Ma

Research Article | published 24 Jul 2015 | PLOS ONE 10.1371/journal.pone.0133983

### *Research Article*

## **A Scoping Review of Empirical Research Relating to Quality and Effectiveness of Research Ethics Review**

Stuart G. Nicholls, Tavis P. Hayes, Jamie C. Brehaut, Michael McDonald, Charles Weijer, Raphael Saginur, Dean Fergusson

Published: July 30, 2015

DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0133639

### *Abstract*

#### *Background*

To date there is no established consensus of assessment criteria for evaluating research ethics review.

#### *Methods*

We conducted a scoping review of empirical research assessing ethics review processes in order to identify common elements assessed, research foci, and research gaps to aid in the development of assessment criteria. Electronic searches of Ovid Medline, PsychInfo, and the Cochrane DSR, ACP Journal Club, DARE, CCTR, CMR, HTA, and NHSEED, were conducted. After de-duplication, 4234 titles and abstracts were reviewed. Altogether 4036 articles were excluded following screening of titles, abstracts and full text. A total of 198 articles included for final data extraction.

#### *Results*

Few studies originated from outside North America and Europe. No study reported using an underlying theory or framework of quality/effectiveness to guide study design or analyses. We did not identify any studies that had involved a controlled trial - randomised or otherwise – of ethics review procedures or processes. Studies varied substantially with respect to outcomes assessed, although tended to focus on structure and timeliness of ethics review.

#### *Discussion*

Our findings indicate a lack of consensus on appropriate assessment criteria, exemplified by the varied study outcomes identified, but also a fragmented body of research. To date research has been largely quantitative, with little attention given to stakeholder experiences, and is largely cross sectional. A lack of longitudinal research to date precludes analyses of change or assessment of quality improvement in ethics review

**PLoS Pathogens**

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

(Accessed 1 August 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

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

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

(Accessed 1 August 2015)

**Systematic review of current efforts to quantify the impacts of climate change on undernutrition**

Revati K. Phalkeya,<sup>b,1</sup> Clara Aranda-Jana,<sup>c</sup> Sabrina Marx<sup>d</sup>, Bernhard Höfled, and Rainer Sauerborn<sup>a</sup>

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Edited by Kristie L. Ebi, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, and accepted by the Editorial Board June 21, 2015 (received for review May 27, 2014)

***Significance***

The World Health Organization and the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change propose undernutrition as the most significant impact of climate change on child health. The question then arises: Where does the empirical evidence to back this claim come from? Current evidence for the impacts of climate on childhood undernutrition draws on a limited number of heterogeneous studies with methodological limitations and is based predominantly on secondary data. Establishing and validating causal pathways among complex confounding factors remain the main challenge in quantifying the climate-attributable fraction of undernutrition. Systematically generating evidence from long-term, high-quality primary data on a range of factors (agricultural, environmental, socioeconomic, and health) at the household level is critical for designing adaptation strategies, particularly for subsistence farmers.

***Abstract***

Malnutrition is a challenge to the health and productivity of populations and is viewed as one of the five largest adverse health impacts of climate change. Nonetheless, systematic evidence quantifying these impacts is currently limited. Our aim was to assess the scientific evidence base for the impact of climate change on childhood undernutrition (particularly stunting) in subsistence farmers in low- and middle-income countries. A systematic review was conducted to identify peer-reviewed and gray full-text documents in English with no limits for year of publication or study design. Fifteen manuscripts were reviewed. Few studies use primary data to investigate the proportion of stunting that can be attributed to climate/weather variability. Although scattered and limited, current evidence suggests a significant but variable link between weather variables, e.g., rainfall, extreme weather events (floods/droughts), seasonality, and temperature, and childhood stunting at the household level (12 of 15 studies, 80%). In addition, we note that agricultural, socioeconomic, and demographic factors at the household and individual levels also play substantial roles in mediating the nutritional impacts. Comparable interdisciplinary studies based on primary data at a household level are urgently required to guide effective adaptation, particularly for rural subsistence farmers. Systemization of data collection at the global level is indispensable and urgent. We need to assimilate data from long-term, high-quality agricultural, environmental, socioeconomic, health, and demographic surveillance systems and develop robust statistical methods to establish and

validate causal links, quantify impacts, and make reliable predictions that can guide evidence-based health interventions in the future.

**Prehospital & Disaster Medicine**

Volume 30 - Issue 03 - June 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Public Health Ethics**

Volume 8 Issue 2 July 2015

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

***Special Symposium: Migrant Health***

[Reviewed earlier]

**Qualitative Health Research**

August 2015; 25 (8)

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

***Special Issue: Grounded Theories***

[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**

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

[Accessed 1 August 2015]

[Reviewed earlier]

**Resilience: International Policies, Practices and Discourses**

Volume 3, Issue 2, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/resi20/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

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

June 2015 Vol. 37, No. 6

<http://www.paho.org/journal/>

[Reviewed earlier]

## **Risk Analysis**

July 2015 Volume 35, Issue 7 Pages 1187–1387

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/risa.2015.35.issue-7/issuetoc>

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

## **Science**

24 July 2015 vol 349, issue 6246, pag.es 341-448

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

*Website not available at review*

## **Social Science & Medicine**

Volume 138, In Progress (August 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

## **Stability: International Journal of Security & Development**

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

[accessed 1 August 2015]

[No new relevant content identified]

## **Sustainability**

Volume 7, Issue 7 (July 2015), Pages 8051-9752

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

Article: [\*\*Effects of Large-Scale Acquisition on Food Insecurity in Sierra Leone\*\*](#)

by Genesis Tambang Yengoh and Frederick Ato Armah

Sustainability 2015, 7(7), 9505-9539; doi:[10.3390/su7079505](https://doi.org/10.3390/su7079505)

Published: 17 July 2015

### *Abstract:*

The recent phenomenon of large-scale acquisition of land for a variety of investment purposes has raised deep concerns over the food security, livelihood and socio-economic development of communities in many regions of the developing world. This study set out to investigate the food security outcomes of land acquisitions in northern Sierra Leone. Using a mixture of quantitative and qualitative research methods, the study measures the severity of food insecurity and hunger, compares the situation of food security before and after the onset of operations of a land investing company, analyzes the food security implications of producing own food versus depending on wage labour for household food needs, and evaluates initiatives put in place by the land investing company to mitigate its food insecurity footprint. Results show an increase in the severity of food insecurity and hunger. Household income from agricultural production has fallen. Employment by the land investing company is limited in terms of the number of people it employs relative to the population of communities in which it operates. Also, wages from employment by the company cannot meet the staple food needs of its employees. The programme that has been put in place by the company to mitigate its food insecurity footprint is failing because of a host of reasons that relate to organization and power relations. In

conclusion, rural people are better off producing their own food than depending on the corporate structure of land investment companies. Governments should provide an enabling framework to accommodate this food security need, both in land investment operations that are ongoing and in those that are yet to operate.

**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](https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/tmh/43/0/_contents)

[Reviewed earlier]

**Tropical Medicine & International Health**

July 2015 Volume 20, Issue 7 Pages 821–966

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**UN Chronicle**

Vol. LI No. 4 2014 April 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies**

*An International Interdisciplinary Journal for Research, Policy and Care*

Volume 10, Issue 3, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rvch20/current#.Uzg2bFcWNdc>

[Reviewed earlier]

**World Heritage Review**

n°77 - June 2015

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/review/77>

***Special Issue on Iraq***

[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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