

The Sentinel

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

Period ending 22 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:

David R. Curry

Editor &

Founding Director

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

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

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

Editor's Note:

The Sentinel resumes publication today following annual leave for the editor. This edition covers highlights for the interim period since 2 August 2015.

Contents [click on link below to move to associated content]

:: [Week in Review](#)

:: [Key Agency/IGO/Governments Watch](#) - Selected Updates from 30+ entities

:: [INGO/Consortia/Joint Initiatives Watch](#) - Media Releases, Major Initiatives, Research

:: [Foundation/Major Donor Watch](#) - Selected Updates

:: [Journal Watch](#) - Key articles and abstracts from 100+ peer-reviewed journals

:: Week in Review

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



World Humanitarian Day – 19 August 2015

A number of organizations released statements recognizing World Humanitarian Day which are presented along with other announcements.

'Each of Us Has the Power, Responsibility to Create a More Humane World', Secretary-General Says at Event Marking World Humanitarian Day

Press Release 18 August 2015

SG/SM/17018-IHA/1373-OBV/1506

Following are UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's remarks at the event marking World Humanitarian Day, in New York today:

...Each year, on World Humanitarian Day, we honour the selfless dedication and sacrifice of those who devote themselves — often at great personal risk — to assisting the world's most vulnerable people.

The General Assembly designated World Humanitarian Day to mark the anniversary of the bomb attack in Baghdad that took the lives of 22 people, including our colleague, the great humanitarian, Sergio Vieira de Mello.

Today we remember Sergio and all the humanitarian aid workers who have given their lives helping others. These workers and volunteers from around the world remind us of our common humanity — and our duty to support those who need us most.

Today more than 100 million women and men, children and adolescents require life-saving humanitarian assistance. Each has a unique and heart-rending story. Each hopes for a better future. Some are victims of natural disasters. Others are fleeing violence and persecution.

Not since the Second World War have so many people been displaced by conflict.

The families and communities struggling to survive in today's emergencies do so with resilience and dignity. They need and deserve our solidarity.

Each one of us can make a difference. Each of us has the power — and the responsibility — to help create a more humane world.

On this World Humanitarian Day, I urge everyone to show solidarity as global citizens by signing up to the ShareHumanity campaign.

Help us to share moving stories of hope and resilience from around the world. Help us to inspire new heights of humanitarian awareness and action...

...As we celebrate tonight, I also ask you to look ahead to the first ever World Humanitarian Summit, next May, in Istanbul, Turkey.

The Summit will focus world attention on how we can better reduce risk, build resilience and meet the needs of millions of people affected by conflict, disaster and crisis.

I expect Heads of State and Government, and leaders from civil society and private sector, crisis-affected communities and multilateral organizations to announce bold new ideas to help set the course of humanitarian action for years and decades to come.

The Summit will also reinforce the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and our global commitment to end poverty and leave no one behind. I count on the support of all sectors of society to make the World Humanitarian Summit a great success.

I know you are all as pained as I am by the suffering in so many places across the world. We see systemic brutality against women and girls, indiscriminate bomb attacks on civilians, migrants facing exploitation and mortal danger as they undertake desperate journeys in search of a better life. And all the while, repressive governance continues in too many places.

Indifference among those with the power to make a difference leaves too many people without hope.

World Humanitarian Day is a day on which we express our determination not just to empathize but to engage.

In this year, in which we mark the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, let us reaffirm our commitment to unite our strength to fulfil our shared humanitarian imperative.

Let us work to make this a better [world] for all. I thank you for your commitment and engagement...

Humanitarian System Urgently Needs Reform to Save More Lives

Fairfield, Conn. (August 19, 2015) — On World Humanitarian Day, Save the Children issued a stark warning that the current humanitarian system is not fit for purpose, putting the lives of vulnerable children and families at risk.

The children's aid agency claims that as the frequency and severity of natural and man-made disasters continues to rise, major overhauls in the aid sector are needed to ensure adequate funding for, and improved efficiencies of, delivering support to those affected.

Save the Children CEO Carolyn Miles said: "Disasters like earthquakes and cyclones blighted the lives of 107 million people in 2014. At the same time, 60 million people have been forced from their homes because of conflict. This is the greatest movement of humanity since the Second World War. Yet the humanitarian system meant to help them is not fit for purpose and urgently needs reform."

The aid agency says the humanitarian system needs four fundamental changes:

A greater proportion of funding ought to go to agencies directly involved in delivering aid, rather than UN agencies who sub-contract to operational partners. This reduces double-handling of humanitarian funds, and ultimately means greater efficiency on the ground. More inventiveness in acquiring humanitarian funding by tapping the tens of billions from the corporate sector and from very wealthy individuals

Increased emphasis on what is known in the aid sector as Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) so aid agencies can prepare for and mitigate the impact of extreme weather events before they occur. For a relatively modest investment in DRR, billions of dollars and thousands of lives worldwide could be saved.

The aid sector needs to become better innovators, pioneering new ways of solving humanitarian problems and reaching the most vulnerable people. For example, using mobile phone call data to chart the likely spread of a disease by tracking population flows, then deploying resources accordingly. While this has been successfully used in the past, it was not used following the outbreak of Ebola due to privacy concerns and other red tape.

"Our cause is not helped by the all-too familiar trend of slashing aid budgets. Globally, the gap between funds needed and funds provided continues to widen, meaning that aid agencies like Save the Children are asked to do a lot more with a lot less," Miles said.

"The humanitarian system is stretched beyond capacity. There is a perfect storm brewing resulting from a system that is not fit for purpose, a lack of funding and a huge increase in man-made and so-called natural disasters," Miles said.

World Humanitarian Day takes place on August 19, coinciding with the anniversary of the 2003 bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq. The day was designated by the United Nations General Assembly as a time to recognise those who face danger and adversity in order to help others. It is also an opportunity to celebrate the spirit that inspires humanitarian work around the globe.

.....

Global Evaluation Report: Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Emergencies Remains Fatal Omission

04 Aug 2015 *IRC Press Release*

:: While the majority of preventable deaths in women and girls occur in crisis-affected countries, these same countries receive less than half of the amount of funding as compared to non-conflict countries.

:: Lack of access to reproductive health care is the leading cause of death and illness among women of reproductive age in the developing world. Consequences are particularly dangerous in areas affected by crisis, which are responsible for a staggering 60 percent of preventable maternal deaths.

:: Evaluation released today by the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) on Reproductive Health in Crises shows that reproductive health in crisis settings remains chronically underfunded.

August 5th 2015 - Reproductive health remains drastically underfunded in humanitarian settings according to a global evaluation released today by the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) on Reproductive Health in Crises. The largest gaps— including the provision of comprehensive family planning, emergency contraception and abortion care — have only marginally improved since the last global evaluation in 2002.

David Miliband, CEO of the International Rescue Committee, a steering committee member of the group, said: "Women in conflict are being short-changed by international efforts to address their reproductive health needs. Millions of women lack access to life-saving health services, despite extreme needs for family planning and obstetric care, and heightened risk of experiencing sexual violence. As the scale of humanitarian crises reaches historic proportions, we cannot betray our commitment to these paramount needs."

Evaluation Highlights

The global evaluation finds that conflict-affected countries receive 57 percent less funding for reproductive health than those countries not experiencing conflict. While funding for reproductive health has increased since 2004, it amounts to only 43 percent of the total need. "The international community cannot claim to prioritize saving the lives of women and children while neglecting some of the most life-saving and cost-effective interventions in health," said Sandra Krause, Director of Reproductive Health at the Women's Refugee Commission, another steering committee member.

Highlights of the global evaluation include:

- :: Obstetric and newborn care: While obstetric and newborn care receives the largest share of the funding, money primarily supports less expensive, rather than life-saving, interventions.
- :: Comprehensive family planning: Only 14 percent of funding appeals for reproductive health included family planning. Long-acting or permanent methods of contraception were rarely mentioned.
- :: Abortion care: Less than 1 percent of proposals mentioned abortion, which included post-abortion care.
- :: Emergency contraception beyond post-rape care: Emergency contraception was provided at less than half of facilities evaluated.
- :: Clinical care for rape survivors: Providers could identify less than half of the 11 essential services that should be provided to rape victims in a clinical setting.

The evaluation's recommendations call for:

- :: Sustained, dedicated, predictable funding for reproductive health
- :: Commodity management and security, including long-acting family planning methods; obstetric and newborn care, and comprehensive clinical and psychosocial care for rape survivors
- :: Support for regional actors, Ministries of Health and Disaster Management, national and community-based organizations, health workers and communities themselves to lead and manage humanitarian reproductive health response

"We must seize upon this sobering evaluation and the growing momentum of worldwide efforts to expand access to reproductive health needs for women and girls around the world," said Barbara Jackson, Global Humanitarian Director of CARE International, another steering committee member. "We look forward to working with all of our humanitarian and development colleagues to ensure that this gap is closed as quickly as possible."



Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change

[Introductory language from symposium website]

This year, 2015, is a watershed year for the climate movement. In December governments will converge in Paris where they are expected to forge a new, international climate agreement that is robust, ambitious and commensurate with the scientific imperatives outlined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. We believe that their ambition has to be driven by a bigger, broader and stronger citizens' movement.

Faith communities increasingly recognise that the climate crisis is also a moral crisis. The adverse impacts of climate change that we have witnessed so far, present a clear case for people of faith to examine the underlying moral causes of this phenomenon. It prompts faith communities to take action to halt the desecration of nature that leads to destruction of creation, human and otherwise. Furthermore this is an opportunity for faith communities to provide a vision, inspire others and lead the way in building a fairer, safer, cleaner world built on renewable energy – leading the way on a journey to an economic system that meets development goals and is also spiritually fulfilling. The Islamic faith community represents a significant section of the global population and certainly, can be influential in the discourse on climate change.

A group of top academics has been engaged in drafting an "Islamic Declaration on Climate Change" and the initial draft has been circulated widely for consultation.

[Excerpt from Declaration below; Full text at: <http://islamicclimatedeclaration.org/islamic-declaration-on-global-climate-change/>]

3.1 We call upon the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Kyoto Protocol taking place in Paris this December, 2015 to bring their discussions to an equitable and binding conclusion, bearing in mind –

- :: The scientific consensus on climate change, which is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate systems;
- :: The need to set clear targets and monitoring systems;
- :: The dire consequences to planet earth if we do not do so;
- :: The enormous responsibility the COP shoulders on behalf of the rest of humanity, including leading the rest of us to a new way of relating to God's Earth.

3.2 We particularly call on the well-off nations and oil-producing states to –

- :: Lead the way in phasing out their greenhouse gas emissions as early as possible and no later than the middle of the century;
- :: Provide generous financial and technical support to the less well-off to achieve a phase-out of greenhouse gases as early as possible;
- :: Recognize the moral obligation to reduce consumption so that the poor may benefit from what is left of the earth's non-renewable resources;
- :: Stay within the '2 degree' limit, or, preferably, within the '1.5 degree' limit, bearing in mind that two-thirds of the earth's proven fossil fuel reserves remain in the ground;

- :: Re-focus their concerns from unethical profit from the environment, to that of preserving it and elevating the condition of the world's poor.
- :: Invest in the creation of a green economy.

3.3 We call on the people of all nations and their leaders to –

- :: Aim to phase out greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible in order to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere;
- :: Commit themselves to 100 % renewable energy and/or a zero emissions strategy as early as possible, to mitigate the environmental impact of their activities;
- :: Invest in decentralized renewable energy, which is the best way to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development;
- :: Realize that to chase after unlimited economic growth in a planet that is finite and already overloaded is not viable. Growth must be pursued wisely and in moderation; placing a priority on increasing the resilience of all, and especially the most vulnerable, to the climate change impacts already underway and expected to continue for many years to come.
- :: Set in motion a fresh model of wellbeing, based on an alternative to the current financial model which depletes resources, degrades the environment, and deepens inequality.
- :: Prioritise adaptation efforts with appropriate support to the vulnerable countries with the least capacity to adapt. And to vulnerable groups, including indigenous peoples, women and children.

3.4 We call upon corporations, finance, and the business sector to –

- :: Shoulder the consequences of their profit-making activities, and take a visibly more active role in reducing their carbon footprint and other forms of impact upon the natural environment;
- :: In order to mitigate the environmental impact of their activities, commit themselves to 100 % renewable energy and/or a zero emissions strategy as early as possible and shift investments into renewable energy;
- :: Change from the current business model which is based on an unsustainable escalating economy, and to adopt a circular economy that is wholly sustainable;
- :: Pay more heed to social and ecological responsibilities, particularly to the extent that they extract and utilize scarce resources;
- :: Assist in the divestment from the fossil fuel driven economy and the scaling up of renewable energy and other ecological alternatives.

3.5 We call on all groups to join us in collaboration, co-operation and friendly competition in this endeavour and we welcome the significant contributions taken by other faiths, as we can all be winners in this race...

.....

World Bank Board Committee Authorizes Release of Revised Draft Environmental and Social Framework

August 4, 2015 Press Release

Third phase of consultations begins immediately

WASHINGTON, August 4, 2015 -- The World Bank is in the process of reviewing, updating and strengthening its environmental and social policies that serve to protect vulnerable people and the environment in World Bank investment projects. On July 1, 2015, the Committee on Development Effectiveness (CODE) of the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors authorized

a third phase of consultations on a revised (second) draft of the proposed Environmental and Social Framework and requested the preparation of an accompanying document to outline certain issues that require further attention. The text of the entire revised framework, as well as the issue summary, was made publicly available today. Consultations will begin immediately.

"This revised draft is the result of a robust – in fact, an unprecedented – consultation with World Bank shareholders and stakeholders," said Hartwig Schafer, World Bank Vice President for Operational Policy and Country Services. "The level of engagement and the caliber of feedback has been excellent, which shows in the revised draft. The proposed Environmental and Social Framework would substantially expand the scope of coverage from our current policy, and would help to ensure that project risk is managed more consistently and effectively."

The proposed framework presents a risk- and impact-based approach to protecting the environment and people, and features a strong emphasis on risk management and achieving sustainable development outcomes over the life of projects; broadened social assessment and management of environmental and social risks; greater clarity of the roles and responsibilities of the World Bank and Borrower; increased harmonization with development partners and recognized good international practices; and renewed and strengthened partnerships with borrowers.

The proposal broadens the range of biodiversity concerns and adds provisions for the sustainable use of living natural resources (e.g., fisheries and forests). Climate change considerations have been added, including requirements to estimate and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Bank-supported projects and to promote climate resilience. Assessments of social and environmental risk will be strengthened, ensuring resources are especially targeted to high risk projects. Finally, the draft framework includes Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) for Indigenous Peoples, and requires increased and ongoing stakeholder engagement...

...At the request of Executive Directors, the third review phase will focus on implementing the framework in borrowing countries and on issues that require further discussion. Consultations details will be forthcoming on the World Bank's consultation web site:
<http://consultations.worldbank.org/consultation/review-and-update-world-bank-safeguard-policies>.

Dangerous rollback by World Bank in environmental and social protections

5 August 2015 *OXFAM Press Release*

The World Bank has released new draft safeguard policies that will vastly weaken protections for affected communities and the environment at the same time as the bank intends to finance more high-risk projects, say 19 organizations. The proposed new Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework pointedly contradicts World Bank President Jim Yong Kim's commitment to ensure that the bank's new rules will not weaken or "dilute" existing mandatory environmental and social protection measures and calls into question the extent to which the bank has responded to public input.

In addition, the proposed new framework will not cover substantial sections of the World Bank's portfolio, including rapidly disbursing policy-based lending for environmentally and socially sensitive sectors. Despite repeated requests, the bank has also failed to make public a detailed budget for the implementation of its proposed plan.

The independent environmental and human rights groups are: 11.11.11. (Belgium), Alyansa Tigil Mina (Philippines), Bank Information Center (USA), Both ENDS (Netherlands), Bretton Woods Project (United Kingdom), Center for International Environmental Law (USA), Derecho Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (Peru), Forest Peoples' Program (UK), Earthlife Africa (South Africa), NGO Forum on ADB (Philippines/Regional), Gender Action (USA), Human Rights Watch (International), Inclusive Development International (USA), International Accountability Project (USA). International Trade Union Confederation, Oxfam International, Re:Common (Italy), 'Ulu Foundation (USA), Urgewald, (Germany).

"Clear and mandatory requirements, incentives, accountability structures and a detailed budget are lacking in the proposed new framework" said Korinna Horta of Urgewald in Germany, "yet this is what we urgently need if we are serious about addressing the interconnected problems of poverty, climate change, deforestation and biodiversity loss."...

.....

Seventieth Anniversary of the London Charter

Press Statement

John Kerry, Secretary of State

Washington, DC

August 7, 2015

Seventy years ago tomorrow, the United States and its Allies reached a historic agreement in London that set in motion the trials of the century – the prosecution at Nuremberg of the top officials of the Third Reich.

Surveying the wreckage of Europe and the human toll of the Holocaust, the Allies recognized that the survival of humanity would depend on making it clear that the kind of crimes committed by the Nazi regime simply could not go unpunished, and that holding an official position or acting under orders did not diminish one's responsibility for such crimes.

But the Allies also recognized that even after the worst atrocities in human history, we needed to pursue justice rather than vengeance, and that our common ability to live together in the future depended on assigning guilt to the individuals most responsible, rather than collectively to whole communities.

These principles are reflected in the London Charter and the International Military Tribunal it created, and they have been a foundation for the international community's work toward justice in the decades that followed.

Working with allies old and new, the United States continues to play a leading role in seeking accountability for atrocities in our own time, just as Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson and other Americans so capably helped lead the successful and historic prosecutions at Nuremberg.

From sexual violence in eastern Congo to the brutal torture in the Assad regime's prisons in Syria, we will continue to seek accountability for the world's worst crimes. Such accountability is a stabilizing force in international affairs, and it is what our values – and the memory of the victims – demand.



State of the World's Indigenous Peoples – 2nd Volume: Indigenous People's Access To Health

UN DESA

August 2015 :: 198 pages

Advance Copy pdf: www.undesadspd.org/Portals/0/SOWIP_final.pdf

[Excerpt from Foreward]

...The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states that indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining their health programmes; the right to their traditional medicines, maintain their health practices, and the equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. Unfortunately, indigenous peoples suffer higher rates of ill health and have dramatically shorter life expectancy than other groups living in the same countries. This inequity results in indigenous peoples suffering unacceptable health problems and they are more likely to experience disabilities and dying at a younger age than their non-indigenous counterparts. Indigenous peoples' health status is severely affected by their living conditions, income levels, employment rates, access to safe water, sanitation, health services and food availability. Indigenous peoples are facing destruction to their lands, territories and resources, which are essential to their very survival. Other threats include climate change and environmental contamination (heavy metals, industrial gases and effluent wastes).

Indigenous peoples also experience major structural barriers in accessing health care. These include geographical isolation and poverty which results in not having the means to pay the high cost for transport or treatment. This is further compounded by discrimination, racism and a lack of cultural understanding and sensitivity. Many health systems do not reflect the social and cultural practices and beliefs of indigenous peoples.

[Excerpt from Introduction]

...The State of the World's Indigenous Peoples will remain a recurrent "flagship" publication produced by the United Nations. It is intended that such publications, such as this, will deal with a broad spectrum of indigenous peoples' issues. It is hoped that such a publication, given its function of supporting the United Nations Permanent Forum will also promote awareness of indigenous peoples' issues within the United Nations system, with States, academia and the broader public.

The current situation of indigenous peoples remains a concern within the United Nations. It has been estimated that the world's 370 million indigenous peoples reside in approximately 90 countries of the world.³ They are among the world's most marginalized peoples, and are often isolated politically and socially within the countries where they reside by the geographical location of their communities, their separate histories, cultures, languages and traditions. They are often among the poorest peoples and the poverty gap between indigenous and non-indigenous groups is increasing in many countries around the world. This influences indigenous peoples' quality of life and their right to health.

Indigenous peoples' access to adequate health care remains one of the most challenging and complex areas that require an urgent focus on the main health issues as well as examining

alternative health care frameworks. As previously stated, health is one of the six mandated areas of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and is one of the focuses of the World Health Organization which recognizes the right to health as a fundamental human right in its constitution. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples includes articles (21, 23, 24, and 29) that refer specifically to the right to health including indigenous peoples' right to improving their economic and social conditions in the area of health and that particular attention to the needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities. Further, indigenous peoples have the right to determine their health programmes and to administer these programmes through their own institutions as well as maintaining their traditional health practices. Also, that States take effective measures to ensure that programmes for monitoring, maintaining and restoring the health of indigenous peoples, as developed and implemented by the peoples affected by such materials, are duly implemented.

Indigenous peoples face a myriad of obstacles when accessing public health systems such as the lack of health facilities in indigenous communities, cultural differences with the health care providers such as differences in languages, illiteracy and lack of understanding of indigenous culture and traditional health care systems. There is also an absence of adequate health insurance or lack of economic capacity to pay for services. As a result, indigenous peoples often cannot afford health services even if it is available. Marginalization also means that indigenous peoples are reluctant or have difficulties in participating in non-indigenous processes or systems at the community, municipal, state and national levels...

.....

EBOLA/EVD [to 22 August 2015]

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

Editor's Note:

On 13 August 2015, the UN Security Council received a briefing on Ebola/EVD provided by Margaret Chan, briefing the Council via video link from Hong Kong, was joined by David Nabarro, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Ebola; Tété António, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations; Per Thöresson (Sweden), on behalf of Olof Skoog, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission; and Mosoka Fallah, Director of the Community-Based Initiative.

Chance Ebola Can Be Defeated by End of 2015, World Health Organization Chief Tells Security Council, Urging Sustained Focus to Prevent Future Outbreaks

13 August 2015

Security Council SC/12006

Ebola could be "soundly defeated" by the end of the year if the intensity of case detection and contact tracing was sustained, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) told the Security Council today, outlining reforms to improve the organization's performance and crediting unwavering leadership, especially in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, for a "night-and-day" difference in the situation from less than a year ago.

Ebola Situation Report - 19 August 2015

[Excerpts]

SUMMARY

:: There were 3 confirmed cases of Ebola virus disease (EVD) reported in the week to 16 August, all of which were reported from Guinea. For the first time since the beginning of the outbreak in Sierra Leone, a full epidemiological week has passed with no confirmed cases reported from the country. Overall case incidence has held at 3 confirmed cases per week for 3 consecutive weeks. In addition, the number of contacts under observation has halved from over 1600 on 9 August to approximately 800 throughout 3 Guinean prefectures and 3 districts in Sierra Leone on 16 August. Almost 600 contacts in Tonkolili, Sierra Leone, completed the 21-day follow-up period on 14 August, accounting for most of the decline in the number of contacts under follow-up. However, there is still a significant risk of further transmission. In addition to the large number of contacts who remain under observation in Guinea and Sierra Leone, 45 contacts have been lost to follow-up in the Guinean capital Conakry over the past 6 weeks. Several high-risk contacts have also been lost to follow-up in the Sierra Leonean capital, Freetown. Rapid-response teams remain alert and ready to respond to further cases.

COUNTRIES WITH WIDESPREAD AND INTENSE TRANSMISSION

:: There have been a total of 27,952 reported confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone (figure 1, table 1) up to 16 August, with 11,284 reported deaths (this total includes reported deaths among probable and suspected cases, although outcomes for many cases are unknown). Three new confirmed cases were reported in Guinea in the week to 16 August...

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

*

*

*

*

:: 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 22 August 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases/Meetings Coverage

19 August 2015

SC/12016

[Relief Coordinator Warns Security Council of 'Needless' Suffering in Yemen, Urges Collective Action to Fund Humanitarian Appeal](#)

If the international community did not take immediate measures to end the fighting in Yemen, the top United Nations humanitarian official in the region cautioned the Security Council today, there would be nothing left to fight for.

19 August 2015

SC/12014

[Goal of Resolving Israeli-Palestinian Question Clear, but 20 Years of Failed Talks Led to 'Slow and Painful Withering of Hope', Security Council Told in Briefing](#)

The recurrent violent incidents and radicalization in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza, threatened to further destabilize an already tense environment for Israel and Palestine, a United Nations senior political affairs official told the Security Council today, urging both sides to work together to reduce tensions and prevent extremist attacks.

19 August 2015

SG/SM/17019-IHA/1374-OBV/1507

[In Video Message for World Humanitarian Day, Secretary-General Urges Greater Sense of Global Citizenship to End Suffering](#)

18 August 2015

SG/SM/17018-IHA/1373-OBV/1506

['Each of Us Has the Power, Responsibility to Create a More Humane World', Secretary-General Says at Event Marking World Humanitarian Day](#)

13 August 2015

SG/A/1585-BIO/4747

[Secretary-General Appoints Elia Armstrong of Canada Director of Ethics Office](#)

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today announced the appointment of Elia Armstrong of Canada as Director of the Ethics Office. She succeeds Joan Elise Dubinsky of the United States, to whom the Secretary-General is grateful for her dedicated service to the Organization.

13 August 2015

SC/12006

[Chance Ebola Can Be Defeated by End of 2015, World Health Organization Chief Tells Security Council, Urging Sustained Focus to Prevent Future Outbreaks](#)

Ebola could be "soundly defeated" by the end of the year if the intensity of case detection and contact tracing was sustained, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) told the Security Council today, outlining reforms to improve the organization's performance and crediting unwavering leadership, especially in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, for a "night-and-day" difference in the situation from less than a year ago.

10 August 2015

SG/SM/17005-HR/5266-OBV/1502

[Indigenous Peoples Must Not Be Left Behind upon Launch of Sustainable Development Agenda in September, Says Secretary-General at International Day Commemoration](#)

7 August 2015

SG/SM/16995-SC/12002

[Welcoming Security Council Adoption of Resolution 2235 \(2015\), Secretary-General Issues Call to Hold Parties Accountable for Chemical Weapons Attacks in Syria](#)

7 August 2015

SC/12001

[Security Council Unanimously Adopts Resolution 2235 \(2015\), Establishing Mechanism to Identify Perpetrators Using Chemical Weapons in Syria](#)

The Security Council today decided to establish for one year a Joint Investigative Mechanism of the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which would identify "to the greatest extent feasible" individuals, entities, groups or Governments perpetrating, organizing, sponsoring or otherwise involved in the use of chemicals as weapons in Syria.

UN OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 22 August 2015]

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

[UN report reveals "endemic impunity" in Darfur](#)

GENEVA (21 August 2015) – Serious human rights violations and abuses that occurred in Darfur in 2014, including killings and sexual violence, have largely gone uninvestigated and unpunished, according to a new report by the UN Human Rights Office.

The report, based on information provided by the African Union-UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), details cases of human rights violations and reveals widespread impunity. Of the 411 cases documented by UNAMID of alleged violations and abuses of the right to physical integrity, by all parties to the conflict, very few were investigated or resulted in arrests. Of these, 127 involved the use of sexual violence. These 411 cases are illustrative of a much broader pattern of violence, the report states.

"The report paints a very grim picture of the systemic failure, or outright refusal, by the authorities to take human rights violations seriously. Most victims have not received justice or any remedies for the wrongs that they suffered," UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said...

[Video statement by Francois Crepeau, Special Rapporteur on human rights and migrants, at the 15th session of the Advisory Committee, on unaccompanied migrant children](#) 11 August 2015

Committee on the Rights of the Child [to 22 August 2015]

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

[UN child rights committee and UN Special Representative on Violence against Children condemn Shafqat Hussein execution](#)

GENEVA/NEW YORK (5 August 2015) – The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children have condemned the execution in Pakistan of Shafqat Hussein, who was reportedly 14 years old when he was convicted of murder.

"The execution of Shafqat Hussein is regrettable and in flagrant contravention of Pakistan's national and international obligations," said Committee Chair Benyam Dawit Mezmur...

Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography [to 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

SRSB/CAAC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict [to 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

SRSB/SVC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict [to 22 August 2015]

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

07 Aug 15 [ICGLR Regional Training Facility \(RTF\) to hold military training on conflict-related sexual violence](#)

03 Aug 15 [Statement by UN Special Representative on the first anniversary of the Sinjar tragedy](#)

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [to 22 August 2015]

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

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

[UNHCR hails Belize's accession to 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness](#)

21 August 2015

[UNHCR Voices Concern about Developments at Border of FYR Macedonia and Greece](#)

21 August 2015

[UNHCR welcomes the joint Franco-British declaration to address the situation in Calais](#)

21 August 2015

[UNHCR concern about return of Nigerians, shrinking humanitarian space](#)

21 August 2015

[UNHCR warns of deepening refugee crisis in Greece and calls for urgent and bold action](#)

21 August 2015

UN OCHA [to 22 August 2015]

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

[incomplete capture; website pages covering early August not loading at review]

20 Aug 2015

[World: The Secretary General's remarks at event to commemorate World Humanitarian Day - New York, 18 August 2015 \[EN/AR\]](#)

19 Aug 2015

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

UNICEF [to 22 August 2015]

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

Selected press release and news notes

[Statement by Anthony Lake, UNICEF Executive Director on attack on teachers' office in Yemen](#)

NEW YORK, 19 August 2015 - Last night, 13 educators and four of their children paid a most terrible price in the continuing conflict in Yemen – killed in an airstrike on a teachers' office in Amran, just north of Sana'a. Twenty people, including one child, were injured.

[Yemen Conflict: Over a thousand child casualties so far – UNICEF](#)

SANAA, Yemen, 19 August 2015 – An average of eight children are being killed or maimed every day in Yemen as a direct result of the conflict gripping the country, according to a report released by UNICEF.

[Reported rape of a young girl in the Central African Republic](#)

NEW YORK, 15 August 2015 - Our UNICEF colleagues in the Central African Republic met with the young girl reportedly raped by a UN police officer. While respecting the integrity of the investigation into the incident, it is clear that this child has endured a most brutal ordeal.

[Hygiene practices have helped keep Ebola out of the classroom](#)

CONAKRY/FREETOWN/MONROVIA, 12 August 2015 – As students in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone begin their summer vacations, measures put in place to protect them from the Ebola virus are being credited with having helped keep classrooms free from any infections.

[Reports of sexual abuse of children in Kasur, Pakistan](#)

KATHMANDU, Nepal 11 August 2015 – "Recent reports of children being sexually abused over a period of several years in the Kasur district of Pakistan are appalling. UNICEF is in contact with the Government authorities to understand the full dimension of this crime. Our sympathies are with the children who have been victims to this abuse. It is vital that the children and families affected are immediately offered the necessary care and protection that will prevent further victimization and allow the difficult process of healing to begin.

[UNICEF calls for \\$9.2 million USD for children affected by Myanmar floods, as supplies arrive](#)

YANGON, Myanmar, 7 August 2015 – UNICEF has called for \$9.2 million USD to fund urgent humanitarian assistance for children affected by the Myanmar floods. So far, the floods have killed at least 88 people and affected over 330,000, including over 112,000 children.

[Children in Myanmar face a 'double catastrophe' as floods hit the most vulnerable, UNICEF says](#)

YANGON, Myanmar, 3 August 2015 – Vulnerable children in Myanmar face a 'double catastrophe' as floods add to the hardship faced by children living in poverty and those recovering from violence and conflict, UNICEF has warned. Myanmar has suffered from severe weather for weeks, with winds and rains from Cyclone Komen that made landfall in Bangladesh on 30 July, adding to the damage in recent days.

IOM / International Organization for Migration [to 22 August 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[Migrant Arrivals on Greece's Lesbos Island Approach 10,000 This Week](#)

08/21/15

Greece - IOM this week reported that on the Greek island of Lesbos, newly arrived migrants between Friday, August 14 and the night of Wednesday, August 19 reached 9,464.

[IOM Distributes Hygiene Kits to Displaced Somali Families](#)

08/21/15

Somalia - IOM and its partners in Somalia's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) cluster, have distributed hygiene kits to 1,696 households in Doolow, Somalia.

[IOM Aids Unaccompanied Migrant Children in Guatemala](#)

08/21/15

Guatemala - Unaccompanied child migrants returned by bus to Guatemala from Mexico now have access to better care, thanks to a new shelter and reception facility renovated by IOM and inaugurated this week.

[IOM, Partners Work with the Americas to Protect Migrant Children](#)

08/21/15

El Salvador - IOM, UNHCR and ICRC yesterday concluded the 3rd meeting of the Ad Hoc Group on Migrant Children and Adolescents of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) in El Salvador.

[Mediterranean Migrants Died from Poisonous Fumes: IOM](#)

08/18/15

Italy - IOM teams who met survivors of another Mediterranean tragedy this past weekend learned grisly details of an asphyxiation that claimed dozens of migrants' lives.

[IOM Supports Launch of Afghan Migration Management Database](#)

08/18/15

Afghanistan - Afghanistan's Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation, with the support of IOM, has launched a comprehensive Afghan migration management database.

[EU Backs IOM Community Stabilization in Central African Republic](#)

08/18/15

Central African Republic - The European Union (EU) has said that it will provide another EUR 10 million to expand IOM's community stabilization project.

[UNICEF, IOM Improve Typhoon Evacuation Centre Network in Philippines](#)

08/18/15

Philippines - IOM and UNICEF have formed a new partnership to improve evacuation facilities in some of the most cyclone-prone regions of the Philippines.

[IOM Supports Nigerian Displacement Tracking Technology](#)

08/18/15

Nigeria - IOM this week donated information technology equipment to Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) as part of its project: "Strengthening Humanitarian

Response Capacity in North East Nigeria through Displacement Tracking, Monitoring and Information Dissemination” – also known as the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM).

[IOM Launches Report on Investing in Somali Youth](#)

08/18/15

Somalia - IOM, with funding from the Government of Japan, has launched its first report looking at the relationship between youth, employment and migration in Puntland and Somaliland, entitled “Investing in Somali Youth”.

[Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Approach 250,000](#)

08/14/15

Italy - The number of migrants and asylum seekers who have arrived in Europe by sea so far in 2015 is now approaching a quarter of a million, according to IOM analysis.

[IOM: Over 3.1 Million Iraqis Now Displaced](#)

08/14/15

Iraq - The IOM Iraq Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) identified 3,171,606 internally displaced Iraqis (528,601 families) from January 2014 through 30 July 2015.

[Hungary Struggles to Cope with New Migrant Arrivals](#)

08/14/15

Hungary - Over 110,000 asylum applications have been registered in Hungary this year, representing a fifty-fold increase from 2012, and a five-fold increase from last year.

[IOM Launches Myanmar Flood Relief Appeal](#)

08/14/15

Myanmar - IOM has launched an appeal for USD 8 million to help communities affected by massive flooding across large swathes of Myanmar.

[IOM Evacuates Ethiopians by Sea from Yemen](#)

08/14/15

Yemen - IOM, in close collaboration with the Yemeni and Djibouti authorities, has organized the emergency evacuation by sea from the port of Hodeidah of 252 Ethiopian migrants stranded by the conflict in Yemen.

[Nigerian Diaspora Contributes to Special Needs Education](#)

08/14/15

Nigeria - The Nigerian government, in collaboration with IOM, this week partnered with members of the Nigerian diaspora to organize a workshop on special needs education.

[US, EU, Switzerland Back IOM Aid to Displaced in Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)

08/14/15

Democratic Republic of the the Congo - IOM this week launched three new projects in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)’s North Kivu province to help internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees.

[Aid Agencies Race to Respond to Influx of Displaced People in Malakal, South Sudan](#)

08/11/15

South Sudan - IOM is responding to the influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) at the UN protection of civilians (PoC) site in Malakal, Upper Nile State, South Sudan.

[Liberia Expands Cross Border Screening to Combat Spread of Ebola](#)

08/11/15

Liberia - IOM is expanding its work to reinforce Liberia's cross-border screening of travellers and its surveillance capacity.

[IOM Monitors Migrant Flows on Haiti - Dominican Republic Border](#)

08/11/15

Haiti - IOM is continuing to monitor migrant flows on the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

[IOM Mobilizes Rapid Response Teams, Funding to Aid Flood-Hit Communities in Myanmar](#)

08/07/15

Myanmar - Heavy monsoon rains, combined with Cyclone Komen, have triggered flash floods and landslides affecting over 330,000 people.

[IOM Urges Kathmandu Residents to Preserve Humanitarian Open Spaces](#)

08/07/15

Nepal - IOM is urging Kathmandu residents to take part in actively preserving 83 open spaces designated for humanitarian purposes in the event of natural disasters.

[Deadly Milestone as Mediterranean Migrant Deaths Pass 2,000](#)

08/04/15

Italy - Over 2,000 migrants have died so far this year trying to cross the Mediterranean to reach Europe.

UN Women [to 22 August 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[UN Women welcomes CEDAW General Recommendation on women's access to justice](#)

Date : August 19, 2015

UN Women welcomes the recently published General recommendation no. 33 on women's access to justice by the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted in late July.

[Statement by UN Women on World Humanitarian Day, 19 August 2015](#)

Date : August 18, 2015

In a statement on World Humanitarian Day, 19 August 2015, UN Women pays tribute to those who have dedicated their lives to end the suffering of others, and who bring hope where it is most needed. Their humanitarian spirit and actions inspire us every day.

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues [to 22 August 2015]

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

[International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples](#), 9 of August

Special event at the ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York.
Monday, 10 August 2015, 3pm
Programme; This event was webcast

WHO & Regionals [to 22 August 2015]

WHO: [Health workers are heroes in humanitarian action](#)

19 August 2015 -- The heroes are the doctors, nurses, paramedics and other health workers who selflessly serve their communities, often with little access to resources and sometimes at great risk to their own lives. World Humanitarian Day, 19 August, is a time to recognize those who face danger and adversity in order to help others. WHO is launching a campaign focusing on health workers. Join us as we send messages of thanks to health heroes around the world. Find out more about World Humanitarian Day

WHO: [Vaccine hesitancy: A growing challenge for immunization programmes](#)

News release

18 August 2015 | Geneva - People who delay or refuse vaccines for themselves or their children are presenting a growing challenge for countries seeking to close the immunization gap. Globally, 1 in 5 children still do not receive routine life-saving immunizations, and an estimated 1.5 million children still die each year of diseases that could be prevented by vaccines that already exist, according to WHO.

In a special issue of the journal *Vaccine*, guest-edited by WHO and published today, experts review the role of vaccine hesitancy in limiting vaccine coverage and explore strategies to address it. Vaccine hesitancy refers to delay in acceptance or refusal of safe vaccines despite availability of vaccination services.

The issue is complex and context specific, varying across time, place and vaccines. It is influenced by factors such as misinformation, complacency, convenience and confidence. "Vaccines can only improve health and prevent deaths if they are used, and immunization programmes must be able to achieve and sustain high vaccine uptake rates. Vaccine hesitancy is an increasingly important issue for country immunization programmes," says Dr Philippe Duclos, Senior Health Adviser for WHO's Immunization, Vaccines and Biological Department and guest editor of the special issue, entitled WHO recommendations regarding vaccine hesitancy. The authors of the editorial of the journal note, "As the recent Ebola crisis tragically brought to light, engaging with communities and persuading individuals to change their habits and behaviours is a lynchpin of public health success. Addressing vaccine hesitancy is no different." The recommendations proposed by WHO aim to increase the understanding of vaccine hesitancy, its determinants and challenges. They also suggest ways organizations can increase acceptance of vaccines, share effective practices, and develop new tools to assess and address hesitancy.

Factors contributing to vaccine hesitancy

Concerns about vaccine safety can be linked to vaccine hesitancy, but safety concerns are only one of many factors that may drive hesitancy. Vaccine hesitancy can be caused by other factors such as: negative beliefs based on myths, e.g. that vaccination of women leads to infertility;

misinformation; mistrust in the health care professional or health care system; the role of influential leaders; costs; geographic barriers and concerns about vaccine safety.

But the authors note there is no “magic bullet,” or single intervention strategy that works for all instances of vaccine hesitancy. The magnitude and setting of the problem varies and must be diagnosed for each instance to develop tailored strategies to improve vaccine acceptance. Effective communication is key to dispelling fears, addressing concerns and promoting acceptance of vaccination.

Vaccine hesitancy is not only an issue in high income countries, but is a complex, rapidly changing global problem that varies widely. Interviews with immunization managers from WHO regions revealed that while in some cases particular rural ethnic minorities and remote communities were affected; in other areas wealthy urban residents expressed concerns regarding vaccine safety. In some areas concerns are related to subgroups of religious or philosophical objectors.

Determinants of vaccine hesitancy can act both as barriers and promoters: For example, a higher level of education does not necessarily predict vaccine acceptance, the experts note. In fact, a number of studies identify higher education as a potential barrier to vaccine acceptance in some settings, while other studies identify education as a promoter of vaccine acceptance in different areas. Even fear of needles can be a factor for vaccine refusal and WHO will issue, in September 2015, a position paper on pain mitigation.

:: WHO Regional Offices

WHO African Region AFRO

:: [Courtesy call of German Ambassador to WHO Regional Office for Africa](#)

Brazzaville, 18 August 2015 – The German Ambassador to the Republic of Congo, His Excellency Thomas Strieder paid a courtesy call on the World Health Organization Regional Office in Djoué, Brazzaville where he was received by Dr Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO Regional Director for Africa. During the visit, they discussed a range of issues including polio eradication and ongoing efforts to ensure that investments made to eradicate polio contribute to future health goals. They also discussed how Federal Republic of Germany and WHO can work together to support the Republic of Congo in its health development efforts.

:: [Asbestos use continues in Africa despite severe health warnings - 17 August 2015](#)

:: [Africa advances toward a polio-free continent - 12 August 2015](#)

WHO Region of the Americas PAHO

No new digest content identified.

WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO

No new digest content identified.

WHO European Region EURO

:: [On World Humanitarian Day: Interview with a Syrian doctor](#) 19-08-2015

:: [First case of chikungunya diagnosed in Spain](#) 13-08-2015

:: [WHO European Region has lowest global breastfeeding rates](#) 05-08-2015

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO

:: [Regional Director's statement on the occasion of World Humanitarian Day 2015](#)

19 August, 2015, Cairo, Egypt -- Every year, World Humanitarian Day provides us with the opportunity to recognize and honour the people who help other people – the humanitarian aid workers who dedicate their lives to serving those in need. It is thanks to these health workers and hundreds of others throughout the Region, who are willing to put the well-being of others above all else, that WHO is able to fulfil its mission to save lives.

Read the full statement

:: [WHO continues support to immunization activities in Yemen](#)

14 August 2015

WHO Western Pacific Region

:: [More than 200 000 children in Papua New Guinea to benefit from polio, measles-rubella vaccine](#)

PORT MORESBY, 12 August 2015 – More than 200 000 children stand to benefit from life-saving polio and measles-rubella vaccines as Papua New Guinea introduced the injectable inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) and measles-rubella (MR) vaccine into the country's routine immunization programme.

Read the news release

UNAIDS [to 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund [to 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNDP United Nations Development Programme [to 22 August 2015]

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

[Colombia's Credifamilia to extend US\\$240m in mortgage loans to low-income homebuyers: New Business Call to Action member's loans will build 20,000 homes by 2020](#)

Aug 21, 2015

Colombia's Credifamilia has joined the Business Call to Action (BCtA) with a commitment to expand its successful low-income loan portfolio by extending US\$240 million in home mortgages to at least 20,000 households in six urban areas which will house 78,000 people by 2020.

[UNDP, Red Cross to help reintegrate Ebola volunteers](#)

Aug 14, 2015

UNDP and IFRC kick-start a project to reintegrate and train volunteer workers who have been on the front line fighting the Ebola epidemic in Sierra Leone.

[International Youth Day to focus on civic engagement](#)

Aug 12, 2015

An online campaign spreads the voices of young people from around the world in the build up to International youth Day on August 12.

[US\\$ 41 million to strengthen HIV and TB response in Sudan](#)

Aug 11, 2015

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Federal Ministry of Health in Sudan and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) have announced two new partnership agreements totaling US\$ 41 million for Sudan, to give a major boost to the country's response to HIV and Tuberculosis.

[US\\$ 17 million to fight HIV,TB and malaria in the Pacific Region](#)

Aug 4, 2015

Two new agreements reached in the Pacific by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) are set to provide a major boost in the fight against the three diseases in the Pacific region.

[UNDP and Japan Join Hands to Boost Stabilization and Recovery in Iraq](#)

Aug 3, 2015

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Japan yesterday signed a USD 1 million emergency grant agreement to stimulate stabilization and recovery initiatives in newly liberated areas in Iraq.

[UNDP kicks off support for victims of the conflict in Northeast Nigeria](#)

Aug 3, 2015

UNDP has begun to implement a programme of early recovery in the northeast of Nigeria that will create hundreds of jobs while promoting peace and social cohesion among conflict-affected communities.

UN Division for Sustainable Development [to 22 August 2015]

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

[Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (PDF)

[Letter from the Co-Facilitators of the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda](#) (dated 11 August 2015)

UN Statistical Commission :: UN Statistics Division [to 22 August 2015]

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

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

<http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/>

[Open Consultation with Civil Society, Academia and Private Sector](#)

SDG Indicator Framework - IAEG-SDG

11 AUG - 07 SEP 2015

Background

The Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) is launching an online consultation open to civil society, academia and the private sector to seek their inputs on the development of an indicator framework for the Sustainable Development

Goals. This online open consultation follows a consultation initiated in March 2015 that requested inputs from stakeholders on a preliminary proposed list of indicators.

:: To view a summary of the previous consultation [click here](#).

:: To view a complete compilation of comments from the previous consultation [click here](#).

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme [to 22 August 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[Homegrown Experts to Tap into Africa's 20,000 MW Geothermal Energy Thanks to New Excellence Centre](#)

With an estimated potential of 20,000 MW, geothermal energy could provide an answer to the continent's energy shortage.

13/08/2015

[Egyptian Experimental Farm Reveals Possible Market for 'Sewage Farming' Agricultural Products](#)

13/08/2015

UNISDR UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 22 August 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[Preparedness Key to Avoiding Worst Consequences of Disasters](#)

On World Humanitarian Day UNEP provides guidance to help communities cope with technological hazards and environmental emergencies

19/08/2015

UN DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 22 August 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[On Youth Day, UN officials urge Member States to make young people 'drivers of change'](#)

12 August 2015, New York

Marking International Day of Youth, United Nations [Secretary-General](#) Ban Ki-moon stressed that no one knows better than young people the issues at stake in today's rapidly changing world or the best way to respond, and declared: "That is why I am calling on young people to speak out – and I am urging leaders to listen.

[Sustainable development through geospatial information](#)

10 August 2015, New York

The Fifth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), which took place from 3-7 August at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, showcased the role of collecting geospatial information in the realization of sustainable development.

[UN chief urges greater efforts to improve health and well-being of indigenous peoples](#)

9 August 2015, New York

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on the international community to commit to do more to improve the health and well-being of indigenous peoples, who face a wide range of challenges from inadequate sanitation and housing to high rates of diabetes, drug and alcohol abuse.

UNESCO [to 22 August 2015]

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

[International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, 23 August 2015](#)

22 August 2015

[Empowering African girls to be the next generation of STEM leaders](#)

17 August 2015

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 22 August 2015]

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

18/08/2015

[2014 Bolivia Survey reports decline in coca cultivation for fourth year in a row](#)

UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme [to 22 August 2015]

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

[Creative Lab on urban basic services infrastructure held in Kigali](#)

Kigali, 21 August 2015 – UN-Habitat has held an international summer school in the Rwandan capital under the motto “Interacting Infrastructures”. The Creative Lab brought together international students from Cameroon, Columbia, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Nigeria and...
Posted August 21, 2015

[Slum residents contribute to participatory design of community hall](#)

Nairobi, 21 August 2015 – In a landmark project initiated by UN-Habitat and coordinated by the Global Network for Sustainable Housing, the University of Cambridge has engaged a team of researchers to design a community centre in...
Posted August 21, 2015

[UN-Habitat goes live with global French website](#)

Nairobi, 20 August 2015: As part of its advocacy, outreach and communications strategy started in 2012, UN-Habitat launched its global website in French today, alongside two new social media channels Twitter and Facebook reporting globally on UN-Habitat’s...
Posted August 20, 2015

[Swiss support in Cuba to benefit one million people](#)

Havana, 11 August 2015 – Citizens of thirteen municipalities of Cuba will benefit from an agreement signed between representatives of the Swiss Development Cooperation and UN-Habitat to improve housing infrastructure and living conditions. In addition, the cooperation...
Posted August 12, 2015

[UNI portal to provide new outlook for partnerships with academia](#)

Nairobi, 10 August 2015 – A new portal launched by UN-Habitat promotes universities becoming closer partners of cities, actively engaged in problem solving, thus closing the gap between academia and practice and encouraging collaborative learning. The portal,...
Posted August 10, 2015

[UN-Habitat releases International Guidelines on Urban Territorial Planning](#)

Nairobi, 10 August 2015– UN-Habitat has released guidelines to provide national governments, local authorities, civil society organizations and planning professionals with a global reference framework that promotes more compact, socially inclusive, better integrated and connected cities and territories...
Posted August 10, 201

FAO Food & Agriculture Organization [to 22 August 2015]

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

[Soils are the foundation for vegetation](#)

Healthy soils are crucial for ensuring the continued growth of natural and managed vegetation, providing feed, fibre, fuel, medicinal products and other ecosystem services such as climate regulation and oxygen production. Soils and vegetation have a reciprocal relationship.
20-08-2015

[Plastic pellets everywhere, and diving robot sensors](#)

The R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen, a research vessel operated by Norway's Institute of Marine Research with advice from FAO, is in the middle of the southern Indian Ocean, assessing the incidence of microplastics and the Gyre...An estimated 5 trillion pieces of plastic currently float in the world's oceans, up from none in 1950 and posing a question about their potential impact on a food supply chain that stretches from plankton - which have been filmed eating plastic pellets - up through shellfish, salmon, tuna and eventually humans, not to mention whales....
11-08-2015

[FAO Food Price Index hits lowest level in almost six years](#)

The FAO Food Price Index averaged 164.6 points in July, down 1.0 per cent from June, and 19.4 percent from a year earlier. The trade-weighted index tracks prices on international markets of five major food commodity groups: cereals, meat, dairy products, vegetable oils and sugar.
6-08-2015

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 22 August 2015]

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

11 August: Honduras: El FIDA promueve las exportaciones de los pequeños agricultores centroamericanos [Spanish](#)

7 August: Guatemala: Donación del FIDA permitirá replicar exitoso modelo de gestión de cooperativa de mujeres indígenas [Spanish](#)

ILO International Labour Organization [to 22 August 2015]

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

Migration crisis

[ILO Director-General calls for durable solution to migrant and refugee crisis](#)

07 August 2015

"Stopgap measures to halt the flows of migrants only scratch the surface of the problem. We need to go deeper into the root causes that force people to put their lives in danger in order to find work and security in foreign lands," said ILO Director-General Guy Ryder.

Sustainable Development Goals

[2030 development agenda: Major breakthrough for world of work](#)

04 August 2015

"The unanimous endorsement from UN member States gives the international community the impetus we need to work together to tackle the formidable challenges confronting humanity and our planet, particularly those we face in the world of work," says ILO Director-General following the agreement of a new development agenda.

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization [to 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

IMO International Maritime Organization [to 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

WMO World Meteorological Organization [to 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 22 August 2015]

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

[Experts from Viet Nam and Peru study Swiss energy and resource efficient technology in agricultural production](#)

Saturday, 01 August 2015

LANGENBRUCK, Switzerland, 1 August 2015 – The application of pyrolysis technology in agricultural production, a method that uses thermochemical decomposition of organic material at elevated temperatures in the absence of oxygen...

UNWTO World Tourism Organization [to 22 August 2015]

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

[Brand Africa – partnerships key to build brand equity for Africa](#)

The UNWTO Regional Conference on Enhancing Brand Africa – Fostering Tourism Development concluded with a call for stronger regional cooperation and increased partnerships as means to build a stronger brand value for Africa (Accra, Ghana 17-19 August 2015).

20 August 2015

[UNWTO welcomes China's decision to make tourism a tool to fight poverty](#)

UNWTO welcomes the recent decision of the China National Tourism Administration (CNTA) and the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development of China to promote rural tourism as an effective means to fight poverty.

4 August 2015

ITU International Telecommunications Union [to 22 August 2015]

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

18.08.2015

[International relief effort underway in aftermath of widespread floods](#)

Geneva, 18 August 2015 – ITU has deployed emergency telecommunication equipment in Myanmar following severe floods which have claimed many lives and submerged more than 200,000 acres of farmland, damaging essential infrastructure and thousands of homes.

The emergency equipment deployed by ITU includes Iridium satellite phones, Inmarsat satellite terminals (Broadband Global Area Networks), accessories and laptops to support rescue and relief coordination efforts.

"ITU has deployed emergency telecommunication equipment this year in Malawi, Vanuatu, The Federated States of Micronesia, Mozambique, Nepal, and now Myanmar," said ITU Secretary-General Houlin Zhao. "I would like to express my deepest condolences to the people and Government of Myanmar following loss of life and widespread devastation caused by recent floods across the country."...

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization [to 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity [to 22 August 2015]

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

[Message of the CBD Executive Secretary, Braulio F. de Souza Dias, on the occasion of International Youth Day, 12 August 2015](#)

2015-08-11

[Message of the CBD Executive Secretary, Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, on the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, 9 August 2015](#)

2015-08-05

.....

US Department of State

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2015/index.htm>

08/19/15 [World Humanitarian Day](#); Secretary of State John Kerry; Washington, DC

08/14/15 [Dominican Republic: Start of Deportations](#); Deputy Department Spokesperson Mark C. Toner; Washington, DC

08/07/15 [Seventieth Anniversary of the London Charter](#); Secretary of State John Kerry; Washington, DC

08/02/15 [Conclusion of Negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#); Secretary of State John Kerry; Washington, DC

USAID [to 22 August 2015]

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

[USAID Announces New Effort to Tackle Property Rights Issues in the Philippines](#)

August 21, 2015

Today, USAID Assistant Administrator for Asia Jonathan Stivers announced the launch of a new development effort in the Philippines - with property rights as a focal point - that aims to spark inclusive economic growth outside the national capital region and aid poverty alleviation efforts. The five-year mechanism will support up to \$48 million in programming, subject to the availability of funds, with up to \$10.6 million dedicated during the first year, and includes a focus on tackling insecure property rights - which have been recognized as a key constraint to inclusive economic growth in the Philippines, where one in five people live in extreme poverty.

[USAID Announces Humanitarian Assistance for Flood-Affected People in Burma](#)

August 6, 2015

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced \$600,000 in humanitarian assistance to support flood relief efforts in Burma. This funding will help provide safe drinking water, improved sanitation facilities, hygiene materials, emergency relief supplies, and other critical interventions to the people affected by the flooding caused by Cyclone Komen and monsoon rains.

[Secretary Kerry Announces USAID's Oceans and Fisheries Partnership to Promote Sustainable Fisheries](#)

August 6, 2015

Today, Secretary of State John Kerry announced the U.S. Agency for International Development's Oceans and Fisheries Partnership (USAID Oceans) project with an initial commitment of \$4.3 million that will combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and seafood fraud in the Asia-Pacific region.

DFID [to 22 August 2015]

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

[Funding for development research](#)

Updated 19 August 2015 Detailed guide DFID

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

Updated 11 August 2015 Policy paper DFID

[Violence against women and girls guidance notes](#)

Updated 11 August 2015 Collection DFID

[New crime unit to investigate corruption affecting developing countries](#)

Published 9 August 2015 Press release DFID

[UK boosts global efforts against illegal wildlife trade](#)

Published 5 August 2015 News story Defra, DFID and FCO

ECHO [to 22 August 2015]

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

[EU provides humanitarian funding to help Serbia cope with migratory pressures](#)

20/08/2015

The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) is providing €150 000 in humanitarian funding to help cope with migratory pressures in Serbia.

[Statement on the bombings in Yemen of port facilities in Hodeida](#)

20/08/2015

Following the bombings in Yemen of port facilities in Hodeida, the Spokespersons of the High Representative /Vice-President Federica Mogherini and Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides made the following statement...

[World Humanitarian Day 2015: Let's Honour Humanitarian Heroes](#)

19/08/2015

Every day, brave men and women risk their lives in humanitarian service to assist victims of wars and natural disasters worldwide. On the occasion of today's World Humanitarian Day, the European Union pays tribute to their work and dedication..

[Joint declaration by High Representative Mogherini and Commissioner Stylianides on the latest indiscriminate attacks against the Syrian people](#)

18/08/2015

Following further indiscriminate attacks against civilians in Syria, High Representative and Vice President, Federica Mogherini, and EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides, issued the following declaration:

[EU gives €12 million in new humanitarian aid for the crisis in Yemen and its impact in the Horn of Africa](#)

05/08/2015

The European Commission is increasing its humanitarian aid by €12 million for people affected by the crisis in Yemen. The support will help address the most pressing needs of the suffering population.

[Increased EU humanitarian aid for Libya](#)

03/08/2015

The EU has increased its humanitarian funding for Libya by €6 million as the conflict endures and needs continue to rise. The funding is addressed to people who have been displaced by the conflict, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

.....

African Union [to 22 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]

Aug.21.2015 [AUC-ICAO strengthening cooperation in civil aviation in Africa](#)

Aug.17.2015 [African Humanitarian Week, 17-21 August 2015 in commemoration of World Humanitarian Day 19th August 2015](#)

Aug.02.2015 - Aug.05.2015 [INAUGURAL MEETING OF AFRICAN GOVERNANCE ARCHITECTURE CLUSTERS ON CONSTITUTIONALISM AND RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE](#)

Aug.02.2015 [The Republic of Zimbabwe Launches AU Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa](#)

The African Development Bank Group [to 22 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]

[Meles Zenawi Foundation holds inaugural symposium on the African Democratic Developmental State](#)

20/08/2015 - The Meles Zenawi Foundation in partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Government of Rwanda is holding its inaugural symposium on August 21, in Kigali, Rwanda, under the theme "The African Democratic Developmental State."

[Parliamentarians Endorse the African Parliamentarians' Network on Development Evaluation](#)

04/08/2015 - Fifty parliamentarians from 14 African countries met July 23 and 24, 2015 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, for the inaugural Annual General Meeting of the African Parliamentarians' Network on Development Evaluation (APNODE), established in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in March 2014.

ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations [to 22 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 Community Vision 2025](#)

Thursday, 13 August 2015.

The ASEAN Community Vision 2025 Process

1. What is the ASEAN Community Vision 2025? What is the background and purpose of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025?

:: ASEAN Leaders took the decision at the 23rd ASEAN Summit in November 2013 to develop a Post-2015 Vision to realise a politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible, and a truly people-oriented, people-centred and rules-based ASEAN.

:: The Vision will be a bold, visionary, progressive and forward-looking document to reflect the aspirations of the next generation of ASEAN nationals. It aims to sustain the momentum of regional integration and further contribute to strengthening the ASEAN community-building efforts.

:: ASEAN community-building is a continuous and evolving process. It is therefore important to chart the future direction of the ASEAN Community into the next decade. This vision, when realised, will further consolidate and deepen the ASEAN community-building and regional integration process.

:: Through the consolidation and integration process, it is envisaged ASEAN will be able to respond proactively and effectively to the emerging threats and challenges presented by the rapidly changing regional and global landscape...

European Union [to 22 August 2015]

<http://europa.eu/rapid/search-result.htm?query=18&locale=en&page=1>

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

[Migrant integration – education indicators in 2014 - Proportion of early school leavers in the EU notably higher for non-EU citizens than for nationals](#)

Statistics | 21/08/2015 11:00 | Eurostat - Statistical Office

[Joint statement by First Vice-President Timmermans and Commissioner Avramopoulos on Calais and European migration priorities](#)

Justice and citizens rights | 20/08/2015 16:33 | European Commission

[Statement on World Humanitarian Day 2015 by European Commissioner Christos Stylianides](#) fr

Date: 19/08/2015

European Commission - Statement Brussels, 19 August 2015 The European Union is committed to protecting humanitarian workers and supports World Humanitarian Day every year on 19 August. Today marks the day in 2003 when 22 humanitarian workers lost their lives in the bombing of the UN Headquarters in Baghdad,...

["A European Response to Migration: Showing solidarity and sharing responsibility"](#)

Date: 14/08/2015

European Commission - Speech - [Check Against Delivery] Brussels, 14 August 2015 Dimitris Avramopoulos Migration and Home Affairs Commissioner

[Managing migration and financing a safer and more secure Europe: €2.4 billion to support Member States](#)

Date: 10/08/2015

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 10 August 2015 The European Commission has this month approved 23 multiannual national programmes under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the Internal Security Fund (ISF). The total funding for the agreed programmes is approximately €2.4 billion, for the period 2014-2020.

OECD [to 22 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]

[Increasing tax revenues is crucial to development in emerging Asian economies](#)

Increasing tax revenues and ensuring sustainable domestic resource mobilisation will be critical as emerging Asian economies seek to boost the provision of public goods and services and improve economic growth and living standards.

19-August-2015

[The Global Forum releases new compliance ratings on tax transparency](#)

The Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes published new peer review reports today for 12 countries or jurisdictions, moving further ahead with its goal to implement global standards on transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes.

3-August-2015

Organization of American States (OAS) [to 22 August 2015]

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

E-218

August 10, 2015

[OAS Mission in Haiti: Elections Marked a Step Forward](#)

E-217

August 9, 2015

[Message of the Secretary General on International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples](#)

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) [to 22 August 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[OIC Calls for Ceasefire and Commitment to Peace Accord in Northern Mali](#)

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has expressed its deep concern over the degeneration of the security situation in northern Mali and condemned vigorously the aggravation of tension and the escalation of violence between the main signatory groups of the Accord for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali...

20/08/2015

[OIC Secretary General Calls for Support to Victims of Flooding in Southeast Asia](#)

The OIC is following with deep concern the consequences of torrential monsoon rains brought by tropical cyclone Komen and other severe weather conditions across Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Myanmar and parts of Southeast Asia. Heavy flooding in the region has caused the loss of hundreds of human lives, the displacement of millions of people and wide-spread destruction of properties...

17/08/2015

[OIC Highly Commends Saudi Arabia's Support for UNRWA, Stresses the Need for the International Community's Commitment towards the Agency](#)

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has highly commended the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its announcement of a 35 million US dollar contribution for the benefit of the United Nations' Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in reaction to the latter's critical budgetary crisis that has reached 101 million dollars, which threatens to necessitate postponing the start of the new school year and causing a decline in the basic and humanitarian services extended by the Agency to over five million Palestinian refugees....

13/08/2015

[OIC Institutions Agree to Intensify Joint Collaboration in Countering Extreme Violence, Sectarianism and Islamophobia](#)

OIC institutions agreed to increase joint collaboration and formulate a plan to counter extreme violence, sectarianism and Islamophobia at a high level meeting held at the General Secretariat in Jeddah on Tuesday, August 11, 2015....

12/08/2015

Group of 77 [to 22 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]

[Statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by Ambassador Kingsley Mamabolo, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations, at the intergovernmental negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda \(New York, 2 August 2015\)](#)

UNCTAD [to 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

World Trade Organisation [to 22 August 2015]

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

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

20 August 2015

WTO PUBLIC FORUM

[Ninety sessions to be held at 2015 Public Forum](#)

A total of 90 sessions will be held at the 2015 WTO Public Forum from 30 September to 2 October at the WTO's headquarters in Geneva. Entitled "Trade Works", the Forum will focus on how and why trade works, and for whom. The sessions will be organized by a wide range of participants, including WTO members, businesses, non-governmental organizations, academia, law firms and international organizations...

IMF [to 22 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]

[IMF and USAID Strengthen Cooperation on Capacity Development](#)

Press Release No. 15/385

August 20, 2015

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that enables the two organizations to enhance their close cooperation in capacity development. IMF Deputy Managing Director Carla Grasso and Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for USAID's Bureau for Economic Growth, Education, and Environment, Charles North, signed the agreement today in Washington DC

[IMF Executive Board Reforms the Fund's Policy on Poverty Reduction Strategies in Fund Engagement with Low-Income Countries](#)

Press Release No. 15/371

August 6, 2015

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), on June 22, 2015, discussed and adopted the proposed reform set out in a Board paper on "[Reform of the Fund's Policy on Poverty Reduction Strategies in Fund Engagement with Low-Income Countries—Proposals.](#)"

World Bank [to 22 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]

[Solutions for Youth Employment Sets Ambitious Goal](#)

The global coalition aims to provide catalytic support to employment and productive work for 150 million youth by 2030

Date: August 12, 2015

[Investors Welcome Newly Released World Bank Green Bond Impact Report](#)

Over the past seven years, the World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, IBRD) has been engaging with investors to drive growth and innovation in the green bond market.

Date: August 11, 2015

[In Latin America, a Concerted Effort to Green the Landscape](#)

August 7, 2015

Innovative approach helps developed and developing countries find ways to preserve forests and slow the pace and impact of climate change.

Latin American countries, such as Chile, El Salvador and Mexico, are taking a variety of steps to reduce carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

Restoring forests. Monitoring the loss of individual trees. Using biological fertilizers. Working with communities. What do all of these have in common?

They are all part of a menu of solutions that countries in Latin America are adopting to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+). REDD+ is a global initiative to help create a financial value for the carbon stored in forests; it offers developing

countries incentives to reduce emissions from forest land, while developed countries pay for the carbon that is not released into the atmosphere as a result of forest conservation...

[In Africa, Progress in Country-Led Government Reforms](#)

WASHINGTON, August 5, 2015 —The overall quality of government policies and institutions designed to spur development and reduce poverty in African countries remained steady in 2014, with the greatest progress...

Date: August 5, 2015

[Annual Assessment of Policies and Institutions in Africa Shows Slippage in some Policy Areas, Gains in Others](#)

WASHINGTON, August 5, 2015— The latest World Bank review of government policies and institutions in Africa shows that 26% of countries made broad progress in supporting development and poverty reduction in 2014.

The review is the annual World Bank Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) Africa analysis, which rates the performance and challenges of poor countries. Since 1980, CPIA ratings have been used to determine the allocation of zero-interest financing and grants for countries that are eligible for support from the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank Group's fund for the world's poorest countries.

CPIA scores are based on a scale of 1–6, with 6 the highest, and are measured using 16 indicators in four areas: economic management, structural policies, policies for social inclusion and equity, and public sector management and institutions. The overall CPIA score reflects the average of the four areas of the CPIA.

The average CPIA score for these African countries was 3.2 in 2014.

Report pdf: [Country Policy and Institutional Assessment \(CPIA\) Africa : assessing Africa's policies and institutions \(includes Djibouti and Yemen\)](#)

[World Bank Board Committee Authorizes Release of Revised Draft Environmental and Social Framework](#)

Third phase of consultations begins immediately WASHINGTON, August 4, 2015 -- The World Bank is in the process of reviewing, updating and strengthening its environmental and social policies that serve...

Date: August 4, 2015

IPU Inter-Parliamentary Union [to 22 August 2015]

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

[More parliaments back Common Principles](#)

21 AUGUST 2015

Two more parliaments – Italy and Burkina Faso -have formally endorsed the internationally-agreed guidelines on parliamentary support adopted by IPU Members last October. The [Common Principles for Support to Parliament](#) have now received more than 67 [endorsements](#) from national parliaments, as well as five from parliamentary assemblies and 14 from partner organizations. IPU is encouraging other parliaments to add their endorsement through a simple letter to the IPU Secretariat in the lead-up to the [World Conference of Speakers of Parliament](#) in New York (31 August-2 September).

[Myanmar parliament prepares for new MPs](#)

21 AUGUST 2015

Parliamentary staff in Myanmar are pressing ahead with preparations for the arrival of a new wave of MPs due to take up their role in 2016 following the general election later this year. IPU is working alongside the Myanmar Parliament on key areas, including producing new handbooks which will help the newly elected MPs participate effectively in proceedings as soon as possible. The handbooks will provide information on procedures, services and allowances in a single place for the first time. An IPU team visited Myanmar in the past few months to support the staff and finalize preparations. The IPU team will also support the parliamentary staff as they find ways of committing procedures and practices to writing during the ongoing development of the parliament. ICT (Information and Computer Technology) activities are meanwhile continuing, with a full-time project officer supporting the parliament's infrastructure, training and development, and a mission to offer support with the development of an intranet and with setting other priorities.

[New guidelines offer key information on parliamentary research](#)

21 AUGUST 2015

New guidelines produced by IPU and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) have been published, offering parliaments information on how to strengthen their research services. Library and research services play a pivotal role in the development of democracy by promoting better access to information and increasing comprehension of the impact of legislation and proposed public policies. The new guidelines provide a wealth of practical information, including how to create or expand research services, how they can be funded, how to ensure impartiality, what services should be offered and how the services can be staffed and run. There is also guidance on useful partnerships and feedback on lessons learnt by other parliaments. The [guidelines](#) are available for download in English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

[Democracy Day to focus on public participation](#)

21 AUGUST 2015

IPU and its Members will this year mark International Day of Democracy on 15 September with a call for "Public participation for democracy". The theme has been chosen to reflect the critical importance of public engagement in democracy to help ensure better political decision-making and politicians' accountability to the people. The focus will not only be on the rights and responsibilities of individual citizens to engage in democracy, but also why it is important for civil society to actively participate. The theme will encompass both formal and informal ways to engage in democracy, such as voting and petitioning, and the dynamic use of social media for political conversations. IPU is urging parliaments to seize the opportunity to engage with citizens and civil society groups to explore key questions, including how to widen existing opportunities for interaction and how to draw in groups currently less engaged – such as women, young people and minorities.

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

*

*

*

*

:: 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 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Aravind Eye Care System [to 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

BRAC [to 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

CARE International [to 22 August 2015]

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

[Civilians Need Peace Urgently as Talks Delay](#)

SOUTH SUDAN

18 AUGUST 2015

Delaying peace may have serious consequences for South Sudanese civilians who are enduring their 20th month of a brutal civil war, aid agencies Oxfam, CARE and IRC warned today.

[CARE Calls for Concerted Efforts to Re-establish Humanitarian Legitimacy](#)

GLOBAL

18 AUGUST 2015

On August 19, the international humanitarian community celebrates World Humanitarian Day to honor aid workers dedicated to providing life-saving assistance and to remember those who have tragically lost their lives fulfilling this humanitarian imperative.

[Joint Position Calling for a Pledge to Empower Women at the World Humanitarian Summit](#)

GLOBAL

17 AUGUST 2015

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) aims at major global reforms to better protect and assist people affected by crisis. The undersigned organisations call on the WHS to put women's leadership, gender equality and gender-based violence (GBV) at the heart of these reforms.

[CARE Warns of Looming Food Shortage in Flood-Hit Myanmar](#)

MYANMAR

4 AUGUST 2015

CARE is scaling up its response to widespread flooding in Myanmar amid fears the inundation may cause major food shortages. Over one million people have been affected by the flooding.

[CARE to Deliver Aid to Flood-Affected Areas of Myanmar and Bangladesh](#)

MYANMAR

3 AUGUST 2015

CARE is preparing to distribute emergency relief supplies to areas worst affected by flooding and landslides in Myanmar and Bangladesh. In Myanmar, at least 39 people have been killed, with more than 200,000 people affected across the country.

Danish Refugee Council [to 22 August 2015]

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

[Danish integration minister visits DRC's Community Center in Jordan](#) (16.08.15)

Danish Minister for Integration Inger Stoejberg heard the needs of Syrian refugees living in Jordan during her first visit to the Middle East region on Saturday August 15

Casa Alianza [to 22 August 2015]

Covenant House [to 22 August 2015]

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

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

[Casa Alianza Nicaragua- Reducing gender violence through awareness campaigns & capacity building](#)

21st Aug 2015

Casa Alianza UK is proud to support Casa Alianza Nicaragua's project "Reducing gender violence through awareness campaigns and capacity building". On 24th July 2015 – 10 girls, residents (within Casa Alianza Nicaragua and selected for support under the above project) received micro financing and equipment to start-up their micro projects. The girls had been selected after a multistep process of evaluation, planning and training to become entrepreneurs...

[Should Prostitution Be Decriminalized?](#)

Monday, August 10, 2015

Covenant House President says no. Read why in his latest Huffington Post column.

ECPAT [to 22 August 2015]

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

[World Humanitarian Day 2015](#)

Posted on 08/19/2015, 17:27

Today, 19 August 2015, is World Humanitarian Day which draws attention to the 100 million people affected by natural disasters, conflict, hunger and disease who are struggling to survive in today's emergencies and reminds the international community that 'each one of us can make a difference' and 'create a more humane world.' It is also a day to recognise those who face danger and adversity in order to help others, and to celebrate the spirit that inspires humanitarian work around the globe.

[International Youth Day](#)

Posted on 08/11/2015, 16:14

12 August 2015 is International Youth Day and this year's theme is 'Youth Civic Engagement'. The engagement and participation of youth is essential to achieve sustainable development, yet often the opportunities for youth to engage politically, economically and socially are low or non-existent.

[World Day against Trafficking in Persons](#)

Posted on 08/03/2015, 10:15

30 July 2015 marked the United Nations World Day against Trafficking in Persons.

Fountain House [to 22 August 2015]

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

[Job Hunting With Schizophrenia](#)

Most Americans with the condition can and want to work. What's standing in their way?

The Atlantic - August 2015

By Maria Hengeveld

Handicap International [to 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Heifer International [to 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

HelpAge International [to 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

IRC International Rescue Committee [to 22 August 2015]

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

18 Aug 2015

[South Sudan: Civilians Need Peace Urgently as Talks Face Further Delay](#)

18 Aug 2015

[Lesbos risks reaching 'breaking point' with spike in refugee numbers and ferry restrictions](#)

13 Aug 2015

[Burundi: Women, Children Face Danger on Trek to Refuge](#)

13 Aug 2015

[Limiting the humanitarian response is not discouraging refugees from making the dangerous journey to Greek islands and only increasing tensions, warns aid group](#)

05 Aug 2015

[International Rescue Committee Open Sources First Of Its Kind Humanitarian Digital Tool](#)

04 Aug 2015

[Global Evaluation Report: Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Emergencies Remains Fatal Omission](#)

ICRC [to 22 August 2015]

<https://www.icrc.org/en/whats-new>

[India: Red drops - an inspiration to serve humanity](#)

The Indian Red Cross Society and the ICRC New Delhi delegation present RED DROPS, a film celebrating the spirit of blood donation. We hope that the stories of blood donors will inspire others to contribute.

19-08-2015 | Article

[World Humanitarian Day 2015](#)

Every year on 19 August, the international community marks World Humanitarian Day in recognition of aid workers who have lost their lives in the course of their duty.

19-08-2015 | Article

[Mexico and Central America: Practical advice for migrants](#)

The ICRC and Red Cross Societies in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador are encouraging migrants to take measures to look after their health and well-being.

18-08-2015 | Article

[Yemen: The dead must be collected and treated with respect](#)

The ICRC is extremely concerned about the number of dead bodies accumulating in the areas where fighting has been most intense in Yemen.

18-08-2015 | Article

[Syria: Support for dialysis saves lives](#)

Every month, the dialysis centre in Homs receives nearly 100 patients with kidney problems. Amidst ongoing conflict in Syria, the daily health problems of thousands of Syrians have dropped off the radar.

18-08-2015 | Video

[Cameroon: Food for displaced people and host families](#)

Violence affecting Africa's Lake Chad region has forced thousands of people to flee their homes.

17-08-2015 | Article

[ICRC mobile surgical teams: Bringing emergency medical care across South Sudan](#)

In June and July this year the ICRC Mobile Surgical Teams (MST) performed more than 600 emergency surgeries in South Sudan and over 6,000 since the beginning of the crisis in December 2013.

14-08-2015 | Article

[Djibouti: Supporting humanitarian work in Yemen](#)

The ICRC has been present in Djibouti for the last 24 years. Djibouti, which is covered by the ICRC regional delegation in Nairobi, has been working to put families separated by armed conflict back in touch.

14-08-2015 | Article

[Migrants in South-East Europe: The tragic toll](#)

According to the information collected by the Red Cross Societies, between November 2014 and mid-2015, 28 migrants died in train accidents in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, four froze to death in Bulgaria, three died in traffic and train

14-08-2015 | Article

[Azerbaijan: Trees protect front-line communities against bullets](#)

Almost two decades after the signing of the 1994 cease-fire agreement regarding the Nagorny Karabakh conflict, the humanitarian situation remains difficult for communities on both sides of the international border between Armenia and Azerbaijan and o

13-08-2015 | Article

[What does the ICRC do in Northern Ireland?](#)

From its office in Belfast, the ICRC tackles humanitarian problems in Northern Ireland arising from violence and the legacy of conflict.

13-08-2015 | Article

[Somalia: Helping people in previously inaccessible regions](#)

The ICRC has extended its reach in Somalia to regions that were previously inaccessible, mainly rural areas, after regaining the confidence of the communities and authorities.

13-08-2015 | Video

IRCT [to 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Islamic Relief [to 22 August 2015]

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

[Islamic Climate Change Declaration](#)

August 12, 2015

Islamic Relief is to co-host an international Symposium in Istanbul next week, in which an 'Islamic Declaration on Climate Change' will be launched ahead of a pivotal conference later this year.

The Symposium on 17-18 August is seen as a vital platform in ensuring that the Islamic perspective on climate change is heard ahead of the UN Climate Change conference, which has been marked as potentially the "last chance" to save humanity from global warming. Islamic Relief Worldwide will be co-hosting the Islamic Climate Change Symposium in Istanbul with Islamic Foundation for Ecology & Environmental Sciences (IFEES) and GreenFaith. The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Islamic Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation will also be joint collaborators in this major international Symposium. Senior international development policy makers, leaders of faith groups, academics, religious leaders, activists, civil society representatives and other renowned experts from around the world will come together to launch the Islamic Declaration on Climate Change...

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières [to 22 August 2015]

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

Syria: Airstrikes Hit Nine Hospitals Over Four Days in Idlib Province

August 14, 2015

Recent airstrikes on hospitals in Syria's Idlib province reveal a devastating trend of increased targeting of health facilities in the Syrian war, the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) warned today, denouncing the attacks and calling on parties to the conflict to respect hospital grounds and civilians.

Press release

Latest Tragedy at Sea Highlights Urgent Need for Increased Rescue Capacity in the Mediterranean

August 05, 2015

Barcelona, August 5, 2015—Today's tragedy in the Mediterranean Sea, in which hundreds of people drowned after a boat carrying approximately 600 people capsized, underscores the severe lack of adequate search and rescue operations in the area, said the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Wednesday.

MSF Treats People Wounded by Macedonian Border Troops

August 21, 2015

A Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) mobile medical team operating in the Idomeni area on the border between the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Greece today received ten people with wounds from stun grenades fired by Macedonian border troops. The area is currently in a state of chaos, with 3,000 migrants and refugees being violently prevented from crossing the border by Macedonian troops. Tear gas has been used to disperse crowds, and there is widespread fear, panic, and frustration among the refugees.

Field news

Mediterranean: "They Would Rather Drown Seeking Safety Than Stay in Their Homelands"

August 20, 2015

Over the past 100 days, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has contributed significant resources to saving lives on the Mediterranean Sea, rescuing 11,482 people at risk of drowning through its search and rescue operations onboard the ships Bourbon

Argos, Dignity I and MY Phoenix (the latter operated in partnership with the Migrant Offshore Aid Station [MOAS]).

Field news

[Heat Wave Adds to the Woes of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley](#)

August 20, 2015

Field news

[A Growing Humanitarian Crisis in the Lake Chad Region](#)

August 20, 2015

Since May 2013, a violent insurgency by Boko Haram has led to widespread displacement and an escalating humanitarian crisis in the Lake Chad region. According to UNHCR, nearly 1.4 million people have been internally displaced in northeast Nigeria alone, and approximately 170,000 people have fled to neighboring Cameroon (56,000), Chad (14,000), and Niger (100,000). At least 1,300 people have died due to the violence so far this year.

Field news

[Myanmar: MSF Expands Flood Response Amid Dengue Concerns](#)

August 17, 2015

Two weeks after severe flooding affected an estimated one million people across Myanmar, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is expanding its support to the government's response in both Rakhine State and the Sagaing Region.

This will both help meet the immediate needs of those directly affected by flooding and also mitigate the elevated risk facing communities from water- and mosquito-borne infectious diseases, including malaria, diarrhea, and dengue fever.

Field news

[Another Exceptionally Harsh Malaria Season Looms in South Sudan](#)

August 13, 2015

Large spikes in [malaria](#) across [South Sudan](#) are raising the possibility of a second consecutive season marked by exceptionally high numbers of cases and preventable deaths unless urgent action is taken to reinforce access to treatment in the most high-risk areas.

Field news

[Greece: Inaction Amounts to Abuse of Refugees](#)

August 12, 2015

In July, more than 7,000 refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants fleeing war and privation in their home countries arrived to the Greek island of Kos, a two-fold increase compared to June. In the absence of proper reception facilities, most have had no choice but to put up tents in public parks and squares in town; or sleep outside, near the police station, without any access to latrines or showers. Food has not been provided to migrants and refugees since April. Though plenty of land is available, no facilities have been opened to shelter them.

Field news

[Greece: Authorities Abuse Refugees on Kos](#)

August 11, 2015

Police are evicting migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers from public areas on the Greek island of Kos and directing them into an ill-equipped stadium, exacerbating conditions for

thousands of people fleeing war zones, the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said today.

Field news

[MSF Assists Thousands In Myanmar After Worst Flooding in Decades](#)

August 04, 2015

After days of severe rains across Myanmar, MSF is providing aid to thousands of people affected by flooding.

Mercy Corps [to 22 August 2015]

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

[Mercy Corps: Engaging Syrian Youth is Crucial to Stability of Region](#)

Syria, August 10, 2015

Global organization launches new initiative to reach vulnerable youth trapped in years-long war

Portland, Ore. — Syrian teenagers are depressed, hopeless and vulnerable to dangerous influences, according to a [new report](#) by the global organization [Mercy Corps](#) evaluating the ramifications of Syria's ongoing civil war on the country's adolescent population. Findings show that teens are deeply affected by the lack of safety, disruption to education and economic instability. Extreme isolation and lack of support by parents compound the issues.

"Syrian adolescents express extreme hopelessness and a fear that they have no future," says Jane Macphail, Mercy Corps' Youth Director who oversaw the pioneering research. "They are very aware of the fact that they've lost their childhoods and have been forced to be adults too early in life."...

Operation Smile [to 22 August 2015]

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

:: [Download Operation Smile Fiscal Year 14](#)

:: [Vision & Impact Report](#)

:: [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 22 August 2015]

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

[South Sudan's civilians urgently need peace but talks face further delay](#)

18 August 2015

Delaying peace may have serious consequences for South Sudanese civilians who are enduring their twentieth month of a brutal civil war, aid agencies Oxfam, CARE and IRC warn today.

[Dangerous rollback by World Bank in environmental and social protections](#)

5 August 2015

The World Bank has released new [draft safeguard policies](#) that will vastly weaken protections for affected communities and the environment at the same time as the bank intends to finance more high-risk projects, say 19 organizations. The proposed new Environmental and Social

Safeguards Framework pointedly contradicts World Bank President Jim Yong Kim's commitment to ensure that the bank's new rules will not weaken or "dilute" existing mandatory environmental and social protection measures and calls into question the extent to which the bank has responded to public input.

In addition, the proposed new framework will not cover substantial sections of the World Bank's portfolio, including rapidly disbursing policy-based lending for environmentally and socially sensitive sectors. Despite repeated requests, the bank has also failed to make public a detailed budget for the implementation of its proposed plan.

The independent environmental and human rights groups are: 11.11.11. (Belgium), Alyansa Tigil Mina (Philippines), Bank Information Center (USA), Both ENDS (Netherlands), Bretton Woods Project (United Kingdom), Center for International Environmental Law (USA), Derecho Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (Peru), Forest Peoples' Program (UK), Earthlife Africa (South Africa), NGO Forum on ADB (Philippines/Regional), Gender Action (USA), Human Rights Watch (International), Inclusive Development International (USA), International Accountability Project (USA). International Trade Union Confederation, Oxfam International, Re:Common (Italy), 'Ulu Foundation (USA), Urgewald, (Germany).

"Clear and mandatory requirements, incentives, accountability structures and a detailed budget are lacking in the proposed new framework" said Korinna Horta of Urgewald in Germany, "yet this is what we urgently need if we are serious about addressing the interconnected problems of poverty, climate change, deforestation and biodiversity loss."...

Norwegian Refugee Council [to 22 August 2015]

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

[World Humanitarian Day](#)

19 August 2015

This World Humanitarian Day, NRC is joining a global campaign aiming to share the human stories behind the headlines. The campaign calls attention to NRC engineer Basira Azimi as one of the humanitarians making a true difference in people's lives.

[Calling for schooling for Yazan \(8\)](#)

18. august 2015

While other children in Zaatari refugee camp attend school, eight year old Yazan is playing in the dirt. He one of many Syrian children that are deprived of schooling.

Partners In Health [to 22 August 2015]

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

Aug 18, 2015

[A Plan, 14 Hens, and a Rooster in Chiapas](#)

Chronic malnutrition affects 44 percent of children in rural Chiapas--a rate that's six times the national average in Mexico. Compañeros En Salud (CES), Partners In Health's sister organization in Mexico, and Heifer International are collaborating on a two-year pilot program that gives 15 chickens to families who have a chronically malnourished child under five. The chickens produce eggs that inject necessary protein into these children's diet. Whatever the families don't eat, they sell for extra cash to buy other nutritious foods they couldn't otherwise afford. One year in, CES and Heifer are seeing positive results.

Aug 07, 2015

[Daily Rounds in Navajo Nation](#)

Senior Community Health Worker Betty J. John checks on her high-risk patients near Shonto, Arizona.

Aug 06, 2015

[Safe Water, Access to Sanitation, Hygiene Key to Kicking Cholera](#)

Zanmi Lasante, Partners In Health's sister organization in Haiti, created its own water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) program to promote behavioral change and support the construction and rehabilitation of water and sanitation infrastructure at ZL and government-supported clinics, hospitals, and schools. WASH is part of a nationwide effort to eliminate cholera, which has sickened 745,500 people and caused nearly 9,000 deaths since October 2010.

PATH [to 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Plan International [to 22 August 2015]

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

[Solutions for Youth Employment \(S4YE\) sets an ambitious goal](#)

12 August 2015: To mark International Youth Day, Solutions for Youth Employment (S4YE) is launching an ambitious 5-year strategy that will tackle major challenges of youth employment worldwide.

S4YE is a global coalition of civil society actors, government officials, foundations, private sector entities, international organisations, and young people that seeks to fill the gap in youth employment. The initiative was launched in October 2014.

The strategy – first of 3 to be developed during the 15-year initiative – has a bold target: to support 150 million youth across the world by 2030.

S4YE will enable innovative solutions at scale through practical research and active engagement with public and private stakeholders. The coalition combines a pragmatic approach to identifying solutions for youth employment with an evidence-based advocacy platform to increase access to productive work for young people....

[Myanmar floods: Humanitarian aid getting through to hardest hit areas](#)

10/08/2015

Life-saving supplies are getting through to communities in Rakhine State after heavy monsoon rains and Cyclone Kormen cause large-scale flooding in Myanmar.

[Pakistan floods leave thousands of children vulnerable](#)

05/08/2015

Plan International is responding after thousands of children have been left vulnerable by the devastating floods in Pakistan.

Save The Children [to 22 August 2015]

<http://www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGIpI4E/b.6150563/k.D0E9/Newsroom.htm>
[Humanitarian System Urgently Needs Reform to Save More Lives](#)

August 19, 2015

[Lives of 14 Million Yemeni Civilians at Risk as Ongoing Airstrikes On Hodeida Port Cut Off Aid Access](#)

August 18, 2015

[Tens of Thousands of Vulnerable Children Fleeing Chaos of South Sudan War Alone - Save the Children Urges Parties to Reach an Immediate Peace Deal](#)

August 17, 2015

[More than 100,000 Children with Little Access to Food and Clean Water in Flood-Affected Myanmar](#)

August 6, 2015

[South Sudanese Children 'Want to Learn – Even During War,' New Report Finds](#)

August 4, 2015

[Save the Children Ready to Respond to Affected Population in Myanmar Floods](#)

Aug 2, 2015

SOS-Kinderdorf International [to 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Tostan [to 22 August 2015]

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

August 2015 - Newsletter

[Breakthrough Generation: Abandoning Harmful Practices](#)

Women for Women International [to 22 August 2015]

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

[South Salem Resident Returns to Bosnia](#)

July 31, 2015 | Lewisboro Ledger

Women for Women International longtime supporter Tracy Craighead shares her experience participating in the 75-mile Bosnia Peace March to mark the 20th anniversary of Srebrenica and meeting women's associations started by WfWI graduates who are supporting their families and raising their voices in their communities.

:::::

ChildFund Alliance [to 22 August 2015]

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

[Floods in Eastern India Impact Millions](#)

Author Child Fund Alliance

[undated]

Flooding from the recent Cyclone Komen has claimed 180 lives and displaced about 1.2 million people in West Bengal, India, including communities where ChildFund India works.

But there is some positive news: The rain has stopped and the floodwaters are receding, according to reports from our national office in India.

There has been no loss of life among enrolled and sponsored children or their family members in West Bengal, a state in eastern India between the Himalayan Mountains and the Bay of Bengal.

However, flooding has affected more than 10,000 people where ChildFund works, and local government officials have set up shelters where 3,000 people are staying until it is safe for them to return home. At least 20 ChildFund-enrolled children's homes have suffered severe damage. After the water recedes further over the next few days, ChildFund India and the local government will assess the damage and help these and other families rebuild their homes and livelihoods.

Right now, the largest concern is providing enough food, water and proper sanitation facilities to people affected by the flooding. ChildFund is working with the local government and its local partner organization to help provide food, tarps, bleaching powder, antibiotics and halogen tablets. Our office also is helping distribute medicine for fevers, colds, coughs and skin problems, which are affecting families in the region.

CONCORD [to 22 August 2015]

European NGO confederation for relief and development

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

No new digest content identified.

Disasters Emergency Committee [to 22 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]

[DEC Member Agencies face funding shortfall in South Sudan](#)

17/08/2015

Major UK NGOs and their international partners have only half the money they need to tackle the increasingly desperate humanitarian crisis afflicting South Sudan, the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) said...

The Elders [to 22 August 2015]

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

News 13 August 2015

["Religion can empower women and raise their dignity"](#)

Ela Bhatt argues that through religion women can often speak and act as one, empowering themselves in the process.

Guest blog Eric B. Lorber 4 August 2015

[Iran: the complicated and uncertain prospect of economic sanctions relief explained](#)

Legal specialist on international trade and compliance Eric Lorber analyses the obstacles to successfully lifting, and if needs be, re-imposing sanctions against Iran, and sets out the timeline of sanctions relief following the nuclear agreement.

END Fund [to 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Gavi [to 22 August 2015]

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

20 August 2015

[More than four million children per year in Pakistan to benefit from new injectable polio vaccine](#)

Polio-endemic country takes another step towards a polio-free future as it introduces IPV into its routine immunisation programme, as part of largest globally coordinated vaccine introduction in history (joint press release Pakistan MoH, UNICEF, GPEI, WHO, Gavi).

18 August 2015

[People in Cameroon to be protected against cholera with Gavi-supported vaccine](#)

More than 110,000 doses of oral cholera vaccine will protect people in the northern region.

12 August 2015

[More than 200,000 Papua New Guinea children to be protected with the new polio and measles-rubella vaccines](#)

In a landmark step to help accelerate the global eradication of polio and protect its children against measles and rubella, Papua New Guinea introduces the inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) into its routine immunisation programme and launches a nationwide measles-rubella vaccine (MR) campaign.

Global Fund [to 22 August 2015]

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

[Ghana Takes Big Step in Health with New Global Fund Grants](#)

18 August 2015

ACCRA, Ghana – In a ceremony hosted by the president of Ghana, the Government of Ghana and the Global Fund today strengthened their partnership by signing new grants for US\$ 248 million to substantially increase the number of people receiving prevention, treatment and care for HIV, tuberculosis and malaria.

The financial resources provided through the Global Fund come from many sources and partners, represented today at a signing event held at the presidential palace by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief, the UK Department for International Development, France, Germany, Japan, the European Union, Canada, the Netherlands, Denmark, Korea, UNICEF, UNAIDS and WHO, among others.

The seven new grants will build resilient and sustainable systems for health, fund HIV treatment for an additional 56,736 people, increase malaria treatment coverage for children under five and significantly expand diagnosis and treatment for TB.

[Life-saving HIV treatment for adults and children arrives in Ukraine](#)

17 August 2015

[Standard Bank partners with the Global Fund on CSI initiatives in Africa](#)

17 August 2015

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa - An expanded partnership between Standard Bank and the Global Fund aims to provide better financial tools and skills to organizations implementing programs to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Africa.

This is an extension of the pro-bono agreement signed in 2008 between the two organizations. The partnership, which was signed on 15 April 2015, extends the relationship between the two organizations for an additional three years.

The Global Fund mobilizes and invests US\$4 billion a year to combat the AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria epidemics. It supports programs run by local experts in countries and communities most in need. More than 50 percent of that funding is directed to countries in Africa.

The partnership between Standard Bank and the Global Fund focuses on improving the financial skills and management expertise of Global Fund implementers. These include government health ministries, faith-based organizations, non-government organizations and private sector foundations...

Hilton Prize Laureates [to 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

InterAction [to 22 August 2015]

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

[Trapped in Conflict: Evaluating Scenarios to Assist At-Risk Civilians](#)

Aug 10, 2015

New International Committee of the Red Cross and InterAction Report Examines the Challenges of Establishing Civilian Safe ZonesReleased: July 31, 2015From Afghanistan to Yemen, there are over 40 armed conflicts currently in progress around the globe.

[2014 Annual Report](#)

On August 6 InterAction launched its [2014 Annual Report](#). The report highlights interesting challenges InterAction and its members are working on. How does the aid community become more transparent? How can we help strengthen the safety of people living in conflicts and disasters? How can we make partnerships work? View the report to learn how the largest coalition of international organizations and partners in the United States is working toward a sustainable world where all people live in freedom, prosperity, dignity, and peace.

Start Network [to 22 August 2015]

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

[Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies]

No new digest content identified.

Muslim Charities Forum [to 22 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.

.....

Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) [to 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

CHS International Alliance [to 22 August 2015]

<http://chsalliance.org/news-events/news>

20/08/2015

[Japan's first Quality and Accountability Network launched](#)

Japan's first network working specifically focused on quality and accountability was launched in July 2015. At the launch of network, there was a renewed commitment to better serve people and communities affected by crisis through the assimilation and practice of the core quality and accountability concepts.

17/08/2015

[Training on the Core Humanitarian Standard in Madrid, Spain](#)

The workshop explored the potential uses of the CHS, verification against the Standard, and its relevance to quality humanitarian action with a focus on accountability to beneficiaries.

12/08/2015

[Youth Civic Engagement: International Youth Day 2015](#)

Today marks the UN's International Youth Day and this year's theme is Youth Civic Engagement. Although engaging youth and children is key to achieving sustainable development, young people are not always given opportunities to participate. To mark International Youth Day, we have gathered together some key examples of work done by the members of the CHS Alliance, in order to inspire a greater focus on participation with young people.

04/08/2015

[Three new people management case studies now available](#)

The resources offer useful tips and guidance for organisations implementing or reviewing female safety and security training programmes, staff induction and orientation programmes, and programme exits.

EHLRA/R2HC [to 22 August 2015]

<http://www.elrha.org/resource-hub/news/>
[Early-stage Innovation Grants Open All Year Round](#)

20.08.2015

After a successful and informative webinar with attendees from across the globe the HIF's Early-stage Innovation Grants for Recognition and Invention are now open.

Since 2011, the Humanitarian Innovation Fund has supported over 70 projects to bring innovations to life and benefit people affected by natural disasters and conflicts across the globe. In order to support more ideas from a range of humanitarian actors, we've re-vamped our Recognition and Invention grants, which is where early-stage innovations begin.

At the HIF we accept that not all innovations will succeed but we want to support exceptional ideas that have the potential to impact the humanitarian sector.

What do we mean by Recognition and Invention?

:: Recognition grants are about identifying a problem in the way humanitarian aid is delivered and exploring and understanding why. It is essential to understand the needs, challenges and views of affected communities and potential users of any new innovations that might develop.

:: Invention grants move beyond insights and start bringing an idea to life. You will need to prioritise what is important about your innovation and develop a coherent solution that can be tested and refined as you move forwards...

Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) [to 22 August 2015]

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

[Flooding in Burkina Faso](#)

Report Synopsis

Date: 2015/08/19

On 18 August 2015 we responded to a funding alert for severe flooding in the Kadiogo and Houet provinces in Burkina Faso. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)'s Financial Tracking Service (FTS) and the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO)'s European Emergency Disaster Response Information System (EDRIS), no funding to Burkina Faso has been reported since severe flooding began in the country at the end of July.

Donors have committed/contributed US\$36.3 million of international humanitarian assistance to Burkina Faso so far in 2015 – a decline of one third from the same point in 2014. The UN-coordinated [Burkina Faso Strategic Response Plan \(SRP\) 2015](#) requests US\$98.8 million to meet the identified needs of 900,000 people. It is currently 26% funded at US\$26.4 million. The [Sahel Regional Appeal 2015](#), which covers Burkina Faso, requests an additional US\$10.3 million in funding for the Sahel region and is 15% funded. Burkina Faso has received no Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocations in 2015 thus far. However, the country received US\$4.9 million of CERF funding under the rapid response window following major flooding in 2009 that led to the launch of an UN-consolidated flash appeal.

[Read our full analysis of the current funding situation.](#)

ODI [to 22 August 2015]

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

[Evaluation of Norway's support to women's rights and gender equality in development cooperation](#)

Research reports and studies | August 2015 | Nicola Jones, Inge Tvedten, Angélica Arbulú, Paola Perezniето, Johanna Lindström and Mari Norbakk

This report evaluates Norway's support to strengthening women and girls' rights and gender equality through its development cooperation during the period 2007-2013. It assesses the extent to which results have been achieved and whether they are in line with the Action...

[Evaluation of Norway's support to women's rights and gender equality in development cooperation: Ethiopia case study report](#)

Research reports and studies | August 2015 | Nicola Jones, Taveeshi Gupta and Bekele Tefera

In 2014-15, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation commissioned an evaluation of the impact of Norwegian aid on enhancing gender equality and women's rights in Southern partner countries. This report presents the Ethiopian case study, assessing Norway's...

[A mixed bag: Norway's support for women and girls' rights and gender equality in international development](#)

Research reports and studies | August 2015 | Nicola Jones

In 2014-15, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation commissioned an evaluation of the impact of Norwegian aid on enhancing gender equality and women's rights in Southern partner countries. This policy brief outlines policy and programming recommendations based...

[Resilience in the SDGs: developing an indicator for Target 1.5 that is fit for purpose](#)

Briefing papers | August 2015 | Aditya Bahadur, Emma Lovell, Emily Wilkinson, Thomas Tanner

An appropriate indicator for target 1.5 is needed. This paper provides one proposal as a first step to stimulate further debate.

[Agricultural dynamics and food security trends in Uganda](#)

Working and discussion papers | August 2015 | André Leliveld, Ton Dietz, Dick Foeken & Wijnand Klaver

This, the second case study of four from the Development Regimes in Africa (DRA) project exploring African agricultural breakthroughs, turns to look at the progress made by Uganda in its agricultural sector between 1961 - 2011.

[ODI Annual Report 2014-2015: global reach, global presence](#)

Research reports and studies | August 2015

2015 is a watershed year for international development and for ODI. This report outlines our 2014-2015 impact, building on a combination of research, convening and communication.

[Does adaptation finance invest in disaster risk reduction?](#)

Working and discussion papers | August 2015 | Alice Caravani

Adaptation finance is playing an important role in supporting disaster risk reduction (DRR). Programmes supported by the Green Climate Fund have potential to support DRR activities as part of efforts to shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development.

[Mental health and psychosocial support service provision for adolescent girls in post-conflict settings, a culturally sensitive response](#)

Research reports and studies | August 2015 | Kusala Wettasinghe, Sarala Emmanuel, Fiona Samuels and Ananda Galappatti

The research reported on in this report is the second stage of a study conducted by the Overseas Development Institute (UK) and The Good Practice Group (Sri Lanka) with the support from the ReBUILD Consortium, a research partnership funded by the UK Department for...

The Sphere Project [to 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP) [to 22 August 2015]

<https://phap.org/>

No new digest content identified.

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

* * * *

:: 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 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Clinton Foundation [to 22 August 2015]

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

Statement

[President Clinton on the 50th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act: The Voting Rights Umbrella](#)
August 6, 2015

Ford Foundation [to 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation [to 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation [to 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

IKEA Foundation [to 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

HHMI - Howard Hughes Medical Institute [to 22 August 2015]

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

Research

[Source of Liver Stem Cells Identified](#)

HHMI researchers solve a longstanding mystery about the origin of new cells in the liver.
Institute

[August 5, 2015]

[HHMI President Robert Tjian to Step Down](#)

HHMI President Robert Tjian will step down in late 2016.

[August 4, 2015]

Kellogg Foundation [to 22 August 2015]

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

[Poll: Nine out of 10 Americans want to keep school meals healthy](#)

Aug. 18, 2015

BATTLE CREEK, MICH. – A new national survey commissioned by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) shows that people in the United States overwhelmingly support current efforts to keep school meals healthy. Among the key findings:

:: 86 percent support today's school nutrition standards, which are helping more than 31 million kids get their daily nutrition through healthy school meals;

:: 88 percent support government-funded farm to school programs, which help supply school cafeterias with local, fresh produce.

"Our survey found that people in the U.S. overwhelmingly support strong nutrition standards and believe school meals are healthier and on the right track because of these standards," said La June Montgomery Tabron, president and CEO of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation...

MacArthur Foundation [to 22 August 2015]

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

Press release

[New Climate Commitment Aimed at Reducing Emission, Encouraging International Leadership and Cooperation](#)

Published August 18, 2015

MacArthur today announced \$50 million in grants, a down payment on a major new commitment to help curb global climate disruption by significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

MacArthur's initial focus is on building and sustaining sufficient U.S. leadership to ensure that the nation meets its own responsibilities in addressing climate change. In the future, the Foundation will also explore ways to use grants and impact investments, and other means, to be a constructive partner to other countries, such as India and China, and others, whose leadership and action are also critical to addressing a more sustainable future.

"Climate change, and its global disruption, threatens to undermine virtually everything we care about as human beings, from quality of life to the economy, from poverty to peace and security," said MacArthur Foundation President Julia Stasch. "Global climate disruption will have a profoundly negative impact on how humans live and work. That's why we need effective international leadership and cooperation that bring about sufficient and measurable results."...

Open Society Foundation [to 22 August 2015]

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

[Political Attacks on CICIG Demonstrate its Achievements](#)

August 4, 2015 News

The UN-backed commission fighting corruption and organized crime in Guatemala is facing growing political pressure in the run up to presidential elections on September 6.

[Español](#)

David and Lucile Packard Foundation [to 22 August 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Pew Charitable Trusts [to 22 August 2015]

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

Press Release

[National Survey Finds Significant Training Needs for School Nutrition Staff](#)

August 18, 2015

Sixty-eight percent of school food service directors say their staffs need training on development or modification of menus to meet national school meal nutrition standards, according to a new report from the Kids' Safe and Healthful Foods Project, a collaboration between The Pew Charitable Trusts and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Most directors (66 percent) believed that their staffs' training needs exceeded what would be covered with their own budgets. The report, [Serving Healthy School Meals: Staff development and training needs](#), recommends that local, state, and federal policymakers make funds available and collaborate to help school nutrition personnel expand their skills...

Rockefeller Foundation [to 22 August 2015]

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

[Workshift Campaign Launches to Amplify the Voices of American Workers in Defining a Good Job in America](#)

Workshift will engage American workers across the country to highlight their stories, collectively identify what makes a good job in America, and create a pathway to good jobs for all
[undated]

..."Businesses have the power to create good jobs for workers today and in the future, but we have been missing a definition of what makes a good job in America that's driven by working Americans themselves," said Judith Rodin, president of The Rockefeller Foundation. "A good job in America should be beneficial for businesses and employees alike, and Workshift is creating an opportunity to start the conversation that will make this goal a reality."

Workshift is organized by Purpose and supported by The Rockefeller Foundation, whose work seeks to advance inclusive economies that expand opportunities for more broadly shared prosperity, especially for those facing the greatest barriers to advancing their well-being.

[Remarks by Dr. Judith Rodin at the Cities for Tomorrow Conference](#)
[undated]

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [to 22 August 2015]
<http://www.rwjf.org/en/about-rwjf/newsroom/news-releases.html>
[Unhealthy Food Advertising Targets Black and Hispanic Youth](#)
August 11, 2015

Report finds that food companies disproportionately target their TV advertising for fast food, candy, sugary drink and snack brands to black and Hispanic

Wellcome Trust [to 22 August 2015]
<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/News/2015/index.htm>
[Draft Concordat on Open Research Data opens for consultation](#)
Research Councils UK (RCUK) has published a draft version of a new Concordat on Open Research Data for consultation... RCUK is requesting any views and comments on the draft Concordat by 28 September 2015. To read the draft Concordat and take part in the consultation please visit the [RCUK website](#). 19th August 2015

[Two new Humanities and Social Science Collaborative Awards](#)
The Wellcome Trust has awarded two ambitious, five-year research projects as the first of its Humanities and Social Science Collaborative Awards. 'Hearing the Voice' and 'Living with Feeling' will explore crucial areas of health and experience, aided by the unique insights of the humanities and social sciences. 18 August 2015

[Wellcome Trust comment on 2015 A level results](#)
Today students across England, Wales and Northern Ireland have received their A level examination results. For the first time in over five years, overall science A level entry numbers have decreased. 13 August 2015

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

* * * *

:: 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>

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Preventive Medicine

September 2015 Volume 49, Issue 3, Supplement 2, S125-S218

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

Theme: Evidence-Based Behavioral Counseling Interventions as Clinical Preventive Services: Perspectives of Researchers, Funders, and Guideline Developers

Edited by Robert J. McNellis, Susan J. Curry

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

American Journal of Public Health

Volume 105, Issue 9 (September 2015)

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

Unintended Consequences of Screening for Ebola

Laura Johnson Faherty, Chyke A. Doubeni

American Journal of Public Health: September 2015, Vol. 105, No. 9: 1738–1739.

Public Health Intelligence: Learning From the Ebola Crisis

Timothy Jay Carney, David Jay Weber

American Journal of Public Health: September 2015, Vol. 105, No. 9: 1740–1744.

American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

August 2015; 93 (2)

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

Editorial

Striding Toward Malaria Elimination in China

Michelle S. Hsiang and

Roly D. Gosling

Am J Trop Med Hyg 2015 93:203-204; Published online June 15, 2015, doi:10.4269/ajtmh.15-0391

OPEN ACCESS ARTICLE

Perspective Piece

When Potentially Lifesaving Drugs are Both Experimental and in Very Short Supply: A Clinician's Story from the Front Lines of the Battle Against Ebola

Linda M. Mobula

Am J Trop Med Hyg 2015 93:210-211; Published online June 1, 2015, doi:10.4269/ajtmh.15-0302

BMC Health Services Research

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

(Accessed 22 August 2015)

Research article

Mental health service use by recent immigrants from different world regions and by non-immigrants in Ontario, Canada: a cross-sectional study

Anna Durbin, Rahim Moineddin, Elizabeth Lin, Leah Steele, Richard Glazier BMC Health Services Research 2015, 15:336 (20 August 2015)

[Abstract](#)

Research article

Why do women choose private over public facilities for family planning services? A qualitative study of post-partum women in an informal urban settlement in Kenya

Sirina Keesara, Pamela Juma, Cynthia Harper BMC Health Services Research 2015, 15:335 (20 August 2015)

[Abstract](#)

Research article

Can she make it? Transportation barriers to accessing maternal and child health care services in rural Ghana

Kilian Atuoye, Jenna Dixon, Andrea Rishworth, Sylvester Galaa, Sheila Boamah, Isaac Luginaah BMC Health Services Research 2015, 15:333 (20 August 2015)

[Abstract](#)

Research article

The rising burden of chronic conditions among urban poor: a three-year follow-up survey in Bengaluru, India

Mrunalini J Gowda, Upendra Bhojani, Narayanan Devadasan, Thriveni S Beerenahally BMC Health Services Research 2015, 15:330 (15 August 2015)

[Abstract](#)

Research article

Outcome of a reproductive health advocacy mentoring intervention for staff of selected non- governmental organisations in Nigeria

Gloria. Momoh, Mojisola Oluwasanu, Olufemi Oduola, Grace Delano, Oladapo Ladipo BMC Health Services Research 2015, 15:314 (11 August 2015)
[Abstract](#) |

Research article

[The elimination of healthcare user fees for children under five substantially alleviates the burden on household expenses in Burkina Faso](#)

Mahaman Abdou Illou, Slim Haddad, Isabelle Agier, Valéry Ridde BMC Health Services Research 2015, 15:313 (8 August 2015)
[Abstract](#)

BMC Infectious Diseases

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

(Accessed 22 August 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Medical Ethics

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

(Accessed 22 August 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

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

(Accessed 22 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 (22 August 2015)

[Abstract](#)

Study protocol

[Effectiveness of a normative nutrition intervention \(diet, physical activity and breastfeeding\) on maternal nutrition and offspring growth: the Chilean maternal and infant nutrition cohort study \(CHiMINCs\)](#)

Maria Garmendia, Camila Corvalan, Marcela Araya, Paola Casanello, Juan Kusanovic, Ricardo Uauy BMC Pregnancy & Childbirth 2015, 15:175 (18 August 2015)

[Abstract](#)

Research article

[How intra-familial decision-making affects women's access to, and use of maternal healthcare services in Ghana: a qualitative study](#)

John Ganle, Bernard Obeng, Alexander Segbefia, Vitalis Mwinyuri, Joseph Yeboah, Leonard Baatiema BMC Pregnancy & Childbirth 2015, 15:173 (15 August 2015)

[Abstract](#) |

Research article

How do Malawian women rate the quality of maternal and newborn care? Experiences and perceptions of women in the central and southern regions

Christabel Kambala, Julia Lohmann, Jacob Mazalale, Stephan Brenner, Manuela De Allegri, Adamson Muula, Malabika Sarker BMC Pregnancy & Childbirth 2015, 15:169 (15 August 2015)

Abstract

Research article

Birth location preferences of mothers and fathers in rural Ghana: Implications for pregnancy, labor and birth outcomes

Leslie Cofie, Clare Barrington, Kavita Singh, Sodzi Sodzi-Tettey, Akalpa Akaligaung BMC Pregnancy & Childbirth 2015, 15:165 (12 August 2015)

Abstract

BMC Public Health

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

(Accessed 22 August 2015)

Research article

Understanding the socio-economic and sexual behavioural correlates of male circumcision across eleven voluntary medical male circumcision priority countries in southeastern Africa

Fiona Lau, Sylvia Jayakumar, Sema Sgaier BMC Public Health 2015, 15:813 (22 August 2015)

Abstract |

Research article

Country characteristics and acute diarrhea in children from developing nations: a multilevel study

Ángela Pinzón-Rondón, Carol Zárate-Ardila, Alfonso Hoyos-Martínez, Ángela Ruiz-Sternberg, Alberto Vélez-van-Meerbeke

BMC Public Health 2015, 15:811 (21 August 2015)

Abstract

Research article

Improved coverage and timing of childhood vaccinations in two post-Soviet countries, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan

A. Schweitzer, G. Krause, F. Pessler, M. Akmatov

B. BMC Public Health 2015, 15:798 (19 August 2015)

Research article

Improving child survival through a district management strengthening and community empowerment intervention: early implementation experiences from Uganda

Anne Katahoire, Dorcus Henriksson, Eric Ssegujja, Peter Waiswa, Florence Ayebare, Danstan Bagenda, Anthony Mbonye, Stefan Peterson

BMC Public Health 2015, 15:797 (19 August 2015)

Abstract

Research article

Harmful practices in the management of childhood diarrhea in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review

Emily Carter, Jennifer Bryce, Jamie Perin, Holly Newby
BMC Public Health 2015, 15:788 (18 August 2015)

Abstract

Research article

Multimorbidity and the inequalities of global ageing: a cross-sectional study of 28 countries using the World Health Surveys

Sara Afshar, Paul Roderick, Paul Kowal, Borislav Dimitrov, Allan Hill
BMC Public Health 2015, 15:776 (13 August 2015)

Abstract

BMC Research Notes

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

(Accessed 22 August 2015)

Research article

Risk factors and practices contributing to newborn sepsis in a rural district of Eastern Uganda, August 2013: a cross sectional study

Bua John, Mukanga David, Lwanga Mathias, Nabiwemba Elizabeth BMC Research Notes 2015, 8:339 (9 August 2015)

Abstract

BMJ Open

2015, Volume 5, Issue 8

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

Health services research

Human trafficking and health: a cross-sectional survey of NHS professionals' contact with victims of human trafficking

Claire Ross, Stoyanka Dimitrova, Louise M Howard, Michael Dewey, Cathy Zimmerman, Siân Oram

BMJ Open 2015;5:e008682 doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2015-008682

Abstract

Objectives

(1) To estimate the proportion of National Health Service (NHS) professionals who have come into contact with trafficked people and (2) to measure NHS professionals' knowledge and confidence to respond to human trafficking.

Design

A cross-sectional survey.

Setting

Face-to-face mandatory child protection and/or vulnerable adults training sessions at 10 secondary healthcare provider organisations in England, and meetings of the UK College of Emergency Medicine.

Participants

782/892 (84.4%) NHS professionals participated, including from emergency medicine, maternity, mental health, paediatrics and other clinical disciplines.

Measures

Self-completed questionnaire developed by an expert panel. Questionnaire asks about prior training and contact with potential victims of trafficking, perceived and actual human trafficking knowledge, confidence in responding to human trafficking, and interest in future human trafficking training.

Results

13% participants reported previous contact with a patient they knew or suspected of having been trafficked; among maternity services professionals this was 20.4%. However, 86.8% (n=679) reported lacking knowledge of what questions to ask to identify potential victims and 78.3% (n=613) reported that they had insufficient training to assist trafficked people. 71% (n=556), 67.5% (n=528) and 53.4% (n=418) lacked confidence in making appropriate referrals for men, women and children, respectively, who had been trafficked. 95.3% (n=746) of respondents were unaware of the scale of human trafficking in the UK, and 76.5% (n=598) were unaware that calling the police could put patients in more danger. Psychometric analysis showed that subscales measuring perceived knowledge, actual knowledge and confidence to respond to human trafficking demonstrated good internal consistency (Cronbach's α s 0.93, 0.63 and 0.64, respectively) and internal correlations.

Conclusions

NHS professionals working in secondary care are in contact with potential victims of human trafficking, but lack knowledge and confidence in how to respond appropriately. Training is needed, particularly for maternity staff, on how to identify and respond to victims' needs, including through making safe referrals.

British Medical Journal

22 August 2015 (vol 351, issue 8022)

<http://www.bmj.com/content/351/8022>

[No relevant content identified]

15 August 2015 (vol 351, issue 8021)

<http://www.bmj.com/content/351/8021>

[No relevant content identified]

8 August 2015 (vol 351, issue 8020)

<http://www.bmj.com/content/351/8020>

[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/>
[Reviewed earlier]

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

<http://www.conflictandhealth.com/>
[Accessed 22 August 2015]

Research

[A pilot study of a portable hand washing station for recently displaced refugees during an acute emergency in Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State, Ethiopia](#)

Husain F, Hardy C, Zekele L, Clatworthy D, Blanton C and Handzel T Conflict and Health 2015, 9:26 (22 August 2015)

Review

[Impact of service provision platforms on maternal and newborn health in conflict areas and their acceptability in Pakistan: a systematic review](#)

Lassi ZS, Aftab W, Ariff S, Kumar R, Hussain I, Musavi NB, Memon Z, Soofi SB et al. Conflict and Health 2015, 9:25 (22 August 2015)

Research

[Perceptions, attitude and use of family planning services in post conflict Gulu district, northern Uganda](#)

Orach CG, Otim G, Aporomon JF, Amone R, Okello SA, Odongkara B and Komakech H Conflict and Health 2015, 9:24 (11 August 2015)

Case study

[Ebola in the context of conflict affected states and health systems: case studies of Northern Uganda and Sierra Leone](#)

McPake B, Witter S, Ssali S, Wurie H, Namakula J and Ssengooba F Conflict and Health 2015, 9:23 (8 August 2015)

Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation

<http://www.resource-allocation.com/>
(Accessed 22 August 2015)

Research

Cost-effectiveness analysis of routine immunization and supplementary immunization activity for measles in a health district of Benin

Kaucley L and Levy P Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation 2015, 13:14 (20 August 2015)

Abstract

Background

This study was carried out at district level to describe the cost structure and measure the effectiveness of delivering supplementary immunization activity (SIA) and routine immunization (RI) for measles in Benin, a country heavily affected by this disease.

Methods

This cost-effectiveness study was cross sectional and considered 1-year time horizon. RI consists to vaccinate an annual cohort of children aged 0–1 year old and SIA consists to provide a second dose of measles vaccine to children aged 0–5 years old in order to reach both those who did not seroconvert and who were not vaccinated through RI. Ingredients approach to costing was used. Effectiveness indicators included measles vaccine doses used, vaccinated children, measles cases averted and disability adjusted life years averted. Data were collected from all the 18 health care centers of the health district of Natitingou for the year 2011. In the analysis, the coverage was 89 % for RI and 104 % for SIA.

Results

SIA total cost was higher than RI total cost (15,796,560 FCFA versus 9,851,938 FCFA). Personnel and vaccines were the most important cost components for the two strategies. Fuel for cold chain took a non-negligible part of RI total cost (4.03 %) because 83 % of refrigerators were working with kerosene. Cost structures were disproportionate as social mobilization and trainings were not financed during RI contrarily to SIA. In comparison with no intervention, the two strategies combined permitted to avoid 12,671 measles cases or 19,023 DALYs. The benefit of SIA was 5601 measles cases averted and 6955 additional DALYs averted. Cost per vaccinated child for SIA (442 FCFA) was lower than for RI (1242 FCFA), in line with previous data from the literature. Cost per DALY averted was 2271 FCFA (4.73 USD) for SIA and 769 FCFA (1.60 USD) for RI. Analysis showed that low vaccine efficacy decreased the cost-effectiveness ratios for the two strategies. SIA was more cost-effective when the proportion of previously unvaccinated children was higher. For the two strategies, costs per DALY were more likely to vary with measles case fatality ratio.

Conclusions

SIA is costlier than RI. Both SIA and RI for measles are cost-effective interventions to improve health in Benin compared to no vaccination. Policy makers could make RI more efficient if sufficient funds were allocated to communications activities and to staff motivation (trainings, salaries).

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.bmj.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.bmj.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, 22 August 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Food Policy

Volume 56, *In Progress* (October 2015)

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

Household food waste behaviour in EU-27 countries: A multilevel analysis

Original Research Article

Pages 25-40

Luca Secondi, Ludovica Principato, Tiziana Laureti

Highlights

- :: Food waste at consumer level is a fairly new research topic.
- :: We explore EU-27 individuals' food waste behaviour by means of multilevel models.
- :: Modelling country heterogeneity allows for setting of intervention priorities.
- :: Degree of urbanization should be considered for policies at sub-national level.
- :: Waste sorting practices are positively associated with food waste reduction.

Farmer seed networks make a limited contribution to agriculture? Four common misconceptions

Original Research Article

Pages 41-50

Oliver T. Coomes, Shawn J. McGuire, Eric Garine, Sophie Caillon, Doyle McKey, Elise Demeulenaere, Devra Jarvis, Guntra Aistara, Adeline Barnaud, Pascal Clouvel, Laure Emperaire, Sélim Louafi, Pierre Martin, François Massol, Marco Pautasso, Chloé Violon, Jean Wencélius

Highlights

- :: Food and agricultural policy undervalues farmer seed networks.
- :: These networks are important globally in circulating planting material among farmers.
- :: We challenge four common misconceptions in policy and practice about seed networks.
- :: Farmer seed networks are efficient and open but also selective in seed provisioning.
- :: Commercialization and regulation are unlikely to eradicate farmer seed networks.

Food Security

Volume 7, Issue 4, August 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Forum for Development Studies

Volume 42, Issue 2, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Genocide Studies International

Volume 9 No. 1, Spring 2015

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Global Health: Science and Practice (GHSP)

June 2015 | Volume 3 | Issue 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Global Health Governance

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

[Accessed 22 August 2015]

[No new relevant content]

Global Public Health

Volume 10, Issue 8, 2015

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

[Legal and policy foundations for global generic competition: Promoting affordable drug pricing in developing societies](#)

[Pablo Zapatero Miguel](#)

pages 901-916

DOI:10.1080/17441692.2015.1014824

Published online: 04 Mar 2015

Abstract

The so-called 'TRIPS flexibilities' restated in 2001 by the World Trade Organization's Doha Declaration on TRIPS and Public Health offer a variety of policy avenues for promoting global price-based competition for essential medicines, and thus for improving access to affordable medicines in the developing world. In recent years, developing countries and international organisations alike have begun to explore the potentialities of global generic markets and competition generally, and also of using compulsory licensing to remedy anti-competitive practices (e.g. excessive pricing) through TRIPS-compatible antitrust enforcement. These and other 'pro-competitive' TRIPS flexibilities currently available provide the critical leverage and policy space necessary to improve access to affordable medicines in the developing world.

Globalization and Health

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

[Accessed 22 August 2015]

Research

[Attitudes and behaviours of maternal health care providers in interactions with clients: a systematic review](#)

Mannava P, Durrant K, Fisher J, Chersich M and Luchters S Globalization and Health 2015, 11:36 (15 August 2015)

Research

[Does Pharmaceutical Pricing Transparency Matter? Examining Brazil's Public Procurement System](#)

Kohler JC, Mitsakakis N, Saadat F, Byng D and Martinez MG Globalization and Health 2015, 11:34 (4 August 2015)

Health Affairs

August 2015; Volume 34, Issue 8

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

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

Volume 30 Issue 7 September 2015

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

Editor's Choice: Can the health system deliver? Determinants of rural Liberians' confidence in health care

Theodore Svoronos, Rose Jallah Macauley, and Margaret E Kruk

Health Policy Plan. (2015) 30 (7): 823-829 doi:10.1093/heapol/czu065

Abstract

African stakeholders' views of research options to improve nutritional status in sub-Saharan Africa

Michelle Holdsworth, Annamarie Kruger, Eunice Nago, Carl Lachat, Peter Mamiro, Karlien Smit, Chris Garimoi-Orach, Yves Kameli, Dominique Roberfroid, and Patrick Kolsteren

Health Policy Plan. (2015) 30 (7): 863-874 doi:10.1093/heapol/czu087

Abstract

The value of building health promotion capacities within communities: evidence from a maternal health intervention in Guinea

Ellen Brazier, Renée Fiorentino, Mamadou Saidou Barry, and Moustapha Diallo

Health Policy Plan. (2015) 30 (7): 885-894 doi:10.1093/heapol/czu089

Abstract

[Increased use of recommended maternal health care as a determinant of immunization and appropriate care for fever and diarrhoea in Ghana: an analysis pooling three demographic and health surveys](#)

Natalie McGlynn, Piotr Wilk, Isaac Luginaah, Bridget L Ryan, and Amardeep Thind
Health Policy Plan. (2015) 30 (7): 895-905 doi:10.1093/heapol/czu090

Abstract

Review

[The effectiveness of community-based loan funds for transport during obstetric emergencies in developing countries: a systematic review](#)

Chidiebere Hope Nwolise, Julia Hussein, Lovney Kanguru, Jacqueline Bell, and Purvi Patel
Health Policy Plan. (2015) 30 (7): 946-955 doi:10.1093/heapol/czu084

Abstract

Health Research Policy and Systems

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

[Accessed 22 August 2015]

[No new relevant content]

Human Rights Quarterly

Volume 37, Number 3, August 2015

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/human_rights_quarterly/toc/hrq.37.3.html

[Ratification, Reporting, and Rights: Quality of Participation in the Convention against Torture](#)

Cosette D. Creamer, Beth A. Simmons

Human Rights Quarterly

Volume 37, Number 3, August 2015

pp. 579-608 | 10.1353/hrq.2015.0041

Abstract

The core international human rights treaty bodies play an important role in monitoring implementation of human rights standards through consideration of states parties' reports. Yet very little research explores how seriously governments take their reporting obligations. This article examines the reporting record of parties to the Convention against Torture, finding that report submission is heavily conditioned by the practices of neighboring countries and by a government's human rights commitment and institutional capacity. This article also introduces original data on the quality and responsiveness of reports, finding that more democratic—and particularly newly democratic—governments tend to render higher quality reports.

[Human Rights and Development: Putting Power and Politics at the Center](#)

pp. 662-690

Gordon Crawford, Bård A. Andreassen

[The Privatization of Water Services: The Quest for Enhanced Human Rights Accountability](#)

pp. 691-727

Khulekani Moyo, Sandra Liebenberg

Overcoming Barriers to Justice in the Age of Human Rights Accountability

pp. 728-754

Leigh A. Payne, Francesca Lessa, Gabriel Pereira

Beyond Strategic Rape and Between the Public and Private: Violence Against Women in Armed Conflict

pp. 755-786

Aisling Swaine

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.idpjournals.com/content>

[Accessed 22 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

August 18, 2015, Vol 314, No. 7
<http://jama.jamanetwork.com/issue.aspx>
[New issue; No relevant content identified]

August 11, 2015, Vol 314, No. 6
<http://jama.jamanetwork.com/issue.aspx?journalid=67&issueid=934298&direction=P>
[No relevant content identified]

August 4, 2015, Vol 314, No. 5
<http://jama.jamanetwork.com/issue.aspx?journalid=67&issueid=934282&direction=P>
Viewpoint

The State of the World's Refugees: The Importance of Work, Cash Assistance, and Health Insurance

Paul B. Spiegel, MD, MPH

Psychological Treatments for Orphans and Vulnerable Children Affected by Traumatic Events and Chronic Adversity in Sub-Saharan Africa

Peter Ventevogel, MD; Paul Spiegel, MD, MPH

Abstract

Importance

Orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) are at high risk for experiencing trauma and related psychosocial problems. Despite this, no randomized clinical trials have studied evidence-based treatments for OVC in low-resource settings.

Objective

To evaluate the effectiveness of lay counselor–provided trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy (TF-CBT) to address trauma and stress-related symptoms among OVC in Lusaka, Zambia.

Design, Setting, and Participants

This randomized clinical trial compared TF-CBT and treatment as usual (TAU) (varying by site) for children recruited from August 1, 2012, through July 31, 2013, and treated until December 31, 2013, for trauma-related symptoms from 5 community sites within Lusaka, Zambia. Children were aged 5 through 18 years and had experienced at least one traumatic event and reported significant trauma-related symptoms. Analysis was with intent to treat.

Interventions The intervention group received 10 to 16 sessions of TF-CBT (n = 131). The TAU group (n = 126) received usual community services offered to OVC.

Main Outcomes and Measures

The primary outcome was mean item change in trauma and stress-related symptoms using a locally validated version of the UCLA Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Reaction Index (range, 0-4) and functional impairment using a locally developed measure (range, 0-4). Outcomes were measured at baseline and within 1 month after treatment completion or after a waiting period of approximately 4.5 months after baseline for TAU.

Results

At follow-up, the mean item change in trauma symptom score was −1.54 (95% CI, −1.81 to −1.27), a reduction of 81.9%, for the TF-CBT group and −0.37 (95% CI, −0.57 to −0.17), a reduction of 21.1%, for the TAU group. The mean item change for functioning was −0.76 (95% CI, −0.98 to −0.54), a reduction of 89.4%, and −0.54 (95% CI, −0.80 to −0.29), a reduction of 68.3%, for the TF-CBT and TAU groups, respectively. The difference in change between groups was statistically significant for both outcomes (P < .001). The effect size (Cohen d) was 2.39 for trauma symptoms and 0.34 for functioning. Lay counselors participated in supervision and assessed whether the intervention was provided with fidelity in all 5 community settings.

Conclusions and Relevance

The TF-CBT adapted for Zambia substantially decreased trauma and stress-related symptoms and produced a smaller improvement in functional impairment among OVC having experienced high levels of trauma.

JAMA Pediatrics

August 2015, Vol 169, No. 8

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

Effectiveness of Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Among Trauma-Affected Children in Lusaka, Zambia: A Randomized Clinical Trial

Laura K. Murray, PhD; Stephanie Skavenski, MSW, MPH; Jeremy C. Kane, PhD; John Mayeya, MSc; Shannon Dorsey, PhD; Judy A. Cohen, MD; Lynn T. M. Michalopoulos, PhD; Mwiya Imasiku, PhD; Paul A. Bolton, MBBS

Abstract

Importance

Orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) are at high risk for experiencing trauma and related psychosocial problems. Despite this, no randomized clinical trials have studied evidence-based treatments for OVC in low-resource settings.

Objective

To evaluate the effectiveness of lay counselor–provided trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy (TF-CBT) to address trauma and stress-related symptoms among OVC in Lusaka, Zambia.

Design, Setting, and Participants

This randomized clinical trial compared TF-CBT and treatment as usual (TAU) (varying by site) for children recruited from August 1, 2012, through July 31, 2013, and treated until December 31, 2013, for trauma-related symptoms from 5 community sites within Lusaka, Zambia. Children were aged 5 through 18 years and had experienced at least one traumatic event and reported significant trauma-related symptoms. Analysis was with intent to treat.

Interventions

The intervention group received 10 to 16 sessions of TF-CBT (n = 131). The TAU group (n = 126) received usual community services offered to OVC.

Main Outcomes and Measures

The primary outcome was mean item change in trauma and stress-related symptoms using a locally validated version of the UCLA Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Reaction Index (range, 0-4) and functional impairment using a locally developed measure (range, 0-4). Outcomes were measured at baseline and within 1 month after treatment completion or after a waiting period of approximately 4.5 months after baseline for TAU.

Results

At follow-up, the mean item change in trauma symptom score was –1.54 (95% CI, –1.81 to –1.27), a reduction of 81.9%, for the TF-CBT group and –0.37 (95% CI, –0.57 to –0.17), a reduction of 21.1%, for the TAU group. The mean item change for functioning was –0.76 (95% CI, –0.98 to –0.54), a reduction of 89.4%, and –0.54 (95% CI, –0.80 to –0.29), a reduction of 68.3%, for the TF-CBT and TAU groups, respectively. The difference in change between groups was statistically significant for both outcomes (P < .001). The effect size (Cohen d) was 2.39 for trauma symptoms and 0.34 for functioning. Lay counselors participated in supervision and assessed whether the intervention was provided with fidelity in all 5 community settings.

Conclusions and Relevance

The TF-CBT adapted for Zambia substantially decreased trauma and stress-related symptoms and produced a smaller improvement in functional impairment among OVC having experienced high levels of trauma.

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.bmj.com/content/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Global Ethics

Volume 11, Issue 2, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Global Infectious Diseases (JGID)

July-September 2015 Volume 7 | Issue 3 Page Nos. 95-124

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

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

Volume 26, Number 2, May 2015 Supplement

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Management

Volume 5 Issue 2

<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/toc/jhlscm/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

Summer 2015 Volume 43, Issue 2 Pages 174–430

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

Special Issue: SYMPOSIUM: Intersections in Reproduction: Perspectives on Abortion and Assisted Reproductive Technologies

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Journal of Medical Ethics

August 2015, Volume 41, Issue 8

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (JPIDS)

Volume 4 Issue 3 September 2015

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

[Measles in Latin America: Current Situation](#)

Robério Dias Leite¹ and Eitan Naaman Berezin²

Extract

The Region of the Americas (North, Central, and South America and the Caribbean) successfully interrupted endemic measles transmission in 2002, but recent outbreaks in Latin America threaten to reverse this impressive achievement. Before widespread measles immunization in Latin America, measles was a common illness in early childhood and was associated with

substantial mortality. During the 1960s, 600 000 measles cases were reported annually in the Region of the Americas [1]. Although measles vaccine was introduced during the 1960s, it was the creation of the World Health Organization (WHO) Expanded Program on Immunization in 1977 that marked the beginning of sustained decreases in case numbers. During 1970–1979, Latin American countries reported 220 000 measles cases annually, with incidence rates of 47–116 cases/100 000 population [2]. The highest mortality rates occurred among young children; from 1971 through 1980, measles associated mortality was 14–55 measles-associated deaths per 100 000 infants and 8–54 deaths/100 000 children aged 1–4 years. By 1980, most countries in the region had established national immunization programs; however, the mean infant measles vaccine coverage in the region was only 42%. In 2002, after more than 30 years of successful strategies and joint efforts of many countries in the region, interruption of endemic measles transmission in the Americas was achieved [3]. However, isolated cases continue to occur, due to the importation of measles from other areas of the world, sometimes causing short chains of transmissions over a few months...

Journal of Public Health Policy

Volume 36, Issue 2 (May 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of the Royal Society – Interface

06 May 2015; volume 12, issue 106

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Knowledge Management for Development Journal

Vol 11, No 1 (2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

The Lancet

Aug 22, 2015 Volume 386 Number 9995 p717-828 e7-e8

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

Articles

[Global, regional, and national incidence, prevalence, and years lived with disability for 301 acute and chronic diseases and injuries in 188 countries, 1990–2013: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013](#)

Global Burden of Disease Study 2013 Collaborators(

Theo Vos, et al

Published Online: 07 June 2015

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)60692-4](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)60692-4)

Summary

Background

Up-to-date evidence about levels and trends in disease and injury incidence, prevalence, and years lived with disability (YLDs) is an essential input into global, regional, and national health policies. In the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013 (GBD 2013), we estimated these quantities for acute and chronic diseases and injuries for 188 countries between 1990 and 2013.

Methods

Estimates were calculated for disease and injury incidence, prevalence, and YLDs using GBD 2010 methods with some important refinements. Results for incidence of acute disorders and prevalence of chronic disorders are new additions to the analysis. Key improvements include expansion to the cause and sequelae list, updated systematic reviews, use of detailed injury codes, improvements to the Bayesian meta-regression method (DisMod-MR), and use of severity splits for various causes. An index of data representativeness, showing data availability, was calculated for each cause and impairment during three periods globally and at the country level for 2013. In total, 35 620 distinct sources of data were used and documented to calculate estimates for 301 diseases and injuries and 2337 sequelae. The comorbidity simulation provides estimates for the number of sequelae, concurrently, by individuals by country, year, age, and sex. Disability weights were updated with the addition of new population-based survey data from four countries.

Findings

Disease and injury were highly prevalent; only a small fraction of individuals had no sequelae. Comorbidity rose substantially with age and in absolute terms from 1990 to 2013. Incidence of acute sequelae were predominantly infectious diseases and short-term injuries, with over 2 billion cases of upper respiratory infections and diarrhoeal disease episodes in 2013, with the notable exception of tooth pain due to permanent caries with more than 200 million incident cases in 2013. Conversely, leading chronic sequelae were largely attributable to non-communicable diseases, with prevalence estimates for asymptomatic permanent caries and tension-type headache of 2·4 billion and 1·6 billion, respectively. The distribution of the number of sequelae in populations varied widely across regions, with an expected relation between age and disease prevalence. YLDs for both sexes increased from 537·6 million in 1990 to 764·8 million in 2013 due to population growth and ageing, whereas the age-standardised rate decreased little from 114·87 per 1000 people to 110·31 per 1000 people between 1990 and 2013. Leading causes of YLDs included low back pain and major depressive disorder among the top ten causes of YLDs in every country. YLD rates per person, by major cause groups, indicated the main drivers of increases were due to musculoskeletal, mental, and substance use disorders, neurological disorders, and chronic respiratory diseases; however HIV/AIDS was a notable driver of increasing YLDs in sub-Saharan Africa. Also, the proportion of disability-adjusted life years due to YLDs increased globally from 21·1% in 1990 to 31·2% in 2013.

Interpretation

Ageing of the world's population is leading to a substantial increase in the numbers of individuals with sequelae of diseases and injuries. Rates of YLDs are declining much more slowly than mortality rates. The non-fatal dimensions of disease and injury will require more and more attention from health systems. The transition to non-fatal outcomes as the dominant source of burden of disease is occurring rapidly outside of sub-Saharan Africa. Our results can guide future health initiatives through examination of epidemiological trends and a better understanding of variation across countries.

Funding

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Viewpoint

Responsibility and accountability for well informed health-care decisions: a global challenge

Prof Gro Jamtvedt, PhD, Prof Marianne Klemp, PhD, Berit Mørland, PhD, Prof Magne Nylenna, PhD

Published Online: 14 June 2015

August 15, 2015 No. 9994, p625-716, e2-e6

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/issue/vol386no9994/PIIS0140-6736%2815%29X6155-1>

[No relevant content identified]

August 8, 2015 No. 9993, p503-624

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/issue/vol386no9993/PIIS0140-6736%2815%29X6154-X>

Comment

The Vancouver Consensus: antiretroviral medicines, medical evidence, and political will

Chris Beyrer, Deborah L Birx, Linda-Gail Bekker, Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, Pedro Cahn, Mark R Dybul, Serge P Eholié, Matthew M Kavanagh, Elly T Katabira, Jens D Lundgren, Lilian Mworeko, Marama Pala, Thanyawee Puttanakit, Owen Ryan, Michel Sidibé, Julio S G Montaner on behalf of the Vancouver Consensus Signatories (appendix)

[No abstract]

The Lancet Global Health

Sep 2015 Volume 3 Number 9 e501-e576

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

Comment

Ethics in global health research: the need for balance

Lauren C Ng, Charlotte Hanlon, Getnet Yimer, David C Henderson, Abebaw Fekadu

Open Access

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(15\)00095-9](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(15)00095-9)

Summary

Global health research often needs collaboration between various organisations and oversight from many research ethics committees (RECs), including those from partner institutions, national committees, ministries of health, and funders, which increases administrative burden and time. Maintenance of the highest ethical standards in research is paramount; unfortunately ethics breaches are not uncommon.¹ In view of the real possibility of ethical wrongdoing, worldwide health research must abide by transparent, rigorous, and effective procedures of ethics review.

Trends and mortality effects of vitamin A deficiency in children in 138 low-income and middle-income countries between 1991 and 2013: a pooled analysis of population-based surveys

Gretchen A Stevens, James E Bennett, Quentin Hennocq, Yuan Lu, Luz Maria De-Regil, Lisa Rogers, Goodarz Danaei, Guangquan Li, Richard A White, Seth R Flaxman, Sean-Patrick Oehrle, Mariel M Finucane, Ramiro Guerrero, Zulfiqar A Bhutta, Amarilis Then-Paulino, Wafaie Fawzi, Robert E Black, Majid Ezzati

e528

Summary

Background

Vitamin A deficiency is a risk factor for blindness and for mortality from measles and diarrhoea in children aged 6–59 months. We aimed to estimate trends in the prevalence of vitamin A deficiency between 1991 and 2013 and its mortality burden in low-income and middle-income countries.

Methods

We collated 134 population-representative data sources from 83 countries with measured serum retinol concentration data. We used a Bayesian hierarchical model to estimate the prevalence of vitamin A deficiency, defined as a serum retinol concentration lower than 0·70 µmol/L. We estimated the relative risks (RRs) for the effects of vitamin A deficiency on mortality from measles and diarrhoea by pooling effect sizes from randomised trials of vitamin A supplementation. We used information about prevalences of deficiency, RRs, and number of cause-specific child deaths to estimate deaths attributable to vitamin A deficiency. All analyses included a systematic quantification of uncertainty.

Findings

In 1991, 39% (95% credible interval 27–52) of children aged 6–59 months in low-income and middle-income countries were vitamin A deficient. In 2013, the prevalence of deficiency was 29% (17–42; posterior probability [PP] of being a true decline=0·81). Vitamin A deficiency significantly declined in east and southeast Asia and Oceania from 42% (19–70) to 6% (1–16; PP>0·99); a decline in Latin America and the Caribbean from 21% (11–33) to 11% (4–23; PP=0·89) also occurred. In 2013, the prevalence of deficiency was highest in sub-Saharan Africa (48%; 25–75) and south Asia (44%; 13–79). 94 500 (54 200–146 800) deaths from diarrhoea and 11 200 (4300–20 500) deaths from measles were attributable to vitamin A deficiency in 2013, which accounted for 1·7% (1·0–2·6) of all deaths in children younger than 5 years in low-income and middle-income countries. More than 95% of these deaths occurred in sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia.

Interpretation

Vitamin A deficiency remains prevalent in south Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Deaths attributable to this deficiency have decreased over time worldwide, and have been almost eliminated in regions other than south Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. This new evidence for both prevalence and absolute burden of vitamin A deficiency should be used to reconsider, and possibly revise, the list of priority countries for high-dose vitamin A supplementation such that a country's priority status takes into account both the prevalence of deficiency and the expected mortality benefits of supplementation.

Funding

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Grand Challenges Canada, UK Medical Research Council.

The Lancet Infectious Diseases

Aug 2015 Volume 15 Number 8 p863-986

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

Comment

New vaccine strategies to finish polio eradication

Nicholas C Grassly

Published Online: 17 June 2015

Summary

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) currently faces two specific challenges. First, all the cases in the past 9 months caused by ongoing wild-virus transmission were in Afghanistan and Pakistan—Africa has had a remarkable 9 months without detection of the disease. Second, circulating vaccine-derived polioviruses are continuing to cause poliomyelitis in a few countries, a rare outcome associated with continued use of the live-attenuated oral poliovirus vaccine (OPV). In *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, the results of two clinical trials of OPV that address these challenges are reported by Fatima Mir and colleagues¹ and Concepción Estívariz and colleagues.

Comment

Making mandatory vaccination truly compulsory: well intentioned but ill conceived

Daniel A Salmon, C Raina MacIntyre, Saad B Omer

Summary

The USA, Australia, and about half of European countries have mandatory vaccination requirements.^{1,2} The experience of the USA and Australia has been well studied. In the USA, vaccine mandates are implemented through requirements for proof of vaccination or exemption at school entry. In Australia, many provinces have school entry requirements and nationally mandated vaccination has traditionally been implemented by denial of childcare benefits to those who refuse vaccines—unless they provide proof of exemptions.

Monovalent type-1 oral poliovirus vaccine given at short intervals in Pakistan: a randomised controlled, four-arm, open-label, non-inferiority trial

Fatima Mir, Farheen Quadri, Ondrej Mach, Imran Ahmed, Zaid Bhatti, Asia Khan, Najeeb ur Rehman, Elias Durry, Maha Salama, Steven M Oberste, William C Weldon, Roland W Sutter, Anita K M Zaidi

Immunogenicity of three doses of bivalent, trivalent, or type 1 monovalent oral poliovirus vaccines with a 2 week interval between doses in Bangladesh: an open-label, non-inferiority, randomised, controlled trial

Concepción F Estívariz, Abhijeet Anand, Howard E Gary Jr, Mahmudur Rahman, Jannatul Islam, Tajul I Bari, Steven G F Wassilak, Susan Y Chu, William C Weldon, Mark A Pallansch, James D Heffelfinger, Stephen P Luby, Khalequ Zaman

Long-term sequelae after Ebola virus disease in Bundibugyo, Uganda: a retrospective cohort study

Danielle V Clark, Hannah Kibuuka, Monica Millard, Salim Wakabi, Luswa Lukwago, Alison Taylor, Michael A Eller, Leigh Anne Eller, Nelson L Michael, Anna N Honko, Gene G Olinger Jr, Randal J Schoepp, Matthew J Hepburn, Lisa E Hensley, Merlin L Robb

905

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)

August 2015; 35 (6)
<http://mdm.sagepub.com/content/current>
[New issue; No relevant content identified]

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 524 Number 7565 pp265-382 20 August 2015
http://www.nature.com/nature/current_issue.html

World View

Tackle Nepal's typhoid problem now

As post-earthquake conditions increase the risk of a typhoid epidemic, Buddha Basnyat calls for a widespread vaccination programme.

Volume 524 Number 7564 pp137-260 13 August 2015
<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v524/n7564/index.html>
[No relevant content identified]

Volume 524 Number 7563 pp5-130 6 August 2015
<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v524/n7563/index.html>

Editorial

Trial and triumph

The success of an Ebola vaccine trial shows that clinical trials can be done under the difficult field conditions of an epidemic — if there is enough political and regulatory will.

World View

Train Africa's scientists in crisis response

To prevent future epidemics, a new international effort must boost West Africa's scientific and public-health capacity, says Christian Bréchet.

Comment

Disease outbreak: Finish the fight against Ebola

Leaders and health agencies are talking about 'lessons learned' from West Africa's Ebola epidemic. But a major push is needed to end the outbreak, urges Joanne Liu.

Ebola: Embed research in outbreak response

Testing Ebola treatments in West Africa's epidemic happened too late. Research response during future outbreaks must be more nimble, says Trudie Lang.

Genetic diversity and evolutionary dynamics of Ebola virus in Sierra Leone Open
Yi-Gang Tong, Wei-Feng Shi, Di Liu, Jun Qian, Long Liang+ et al.

The genome sequences of 175 Ebola virus from five districts in Sierra Leone, collected during September–November 2014, show that the rate of virus evolution seems to be similar to that observed during previous outbreaks and that the genetic diversity of the virus has increased substantially, with the emergence of several novel lineages.

Temporal and spatial analysis of the 2014–2015 Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa

Open

Miles W. Carroll, David A. Matthews, Julian A. Hiscox, Michael J. Elmore, Georgios Pollakis + et al.

Analysis of 179 new Ebola virus sequences from patient samples collected in Guinea between March 2014 and January 2015 shows how different lineages evolved and spread in West Africa.

Genetic diversity and evolutionary dynamics of Ebola virus in Sierra Leone Open

Yi-Gang Tong, Wei-Feng Shi, Di Liu, Jun Qian, Long Liang+ et al.

The genome sequences of 175 Ebola virus from five districts in Sierra Leone, collected during September–November 2014, show that the rate of virus evolution seems to be similar to that observed during previous outbreaks and that the genetic diversity of the virus has increased substantially, with the emergence of several novel lineages.

Nature Medicine

August 2015, Volume 21 No 8 pp828-961

<http://www.nature.com/nm/journal/v21/n8/index.html>

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

New England Journal of Medicine

August 20, 2015 Vol. 373 No. 8

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

August 13, 2015 Vol. 373 No. 7

<http://www.nejm.org/toc/nejm/373/7>

[No relevant content identified]

August 6, 2015 Vol. 373 No. 6

<http://www.nejm.org/toc/nejm/373/6>

[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>
[Reviewed earlier]

Pharmacoeconomics

Volume 33, Issue 8, August 2015
<http://link.springer.com/journal/40273/33/8/page/1>
Commentary

Development and Use of Disease-Specific (Reference) Models for Economic Evaluations of Health Technologies: An Overview of Key Issues and Potential Solutions

Gerardus W. J. Frederix, Hossein Haji Ali Afzali, Erik J. Dasbach...
[No abstract]

Systematic Review

The Economic Costs of Type 2 Diabetes: A Global Systematic Review

Till Seuring, Olga Archangelidi, Marc Suhrcke

Abstract

Objective

In view of the goal of eliminating tuberculosis (TB) by 2050, economic evaluations of interventions against the development of TB are increasingly requested. Little research has been published on the incremental cost effectiveness of preventative therapy (PT) in groups at high risk for progression from latent TB infection (LTBI) with Mycobacterium TB (MTB) to active disease. A systematic review of studies with a primary focus on model-driving inputs and methodological differences was conducted.

Methods

A search of MEDLINE, the Cochrane Library and EMBASE to July 2014 was undertaken, and reference lists of eligible articles and relevant reviews were examined.

Results

A total of 876 citations were retrieved, with a total of 24 studies being eligible for inclusion, addressing six high-risk groups other than contact persons. Results varied considerably between studies and countries, and also over time. Although the selected studies generally demonstrated cost effectiveness for PT in HIV-infected subjects and healthcare workers (HCWs), the outcome of these analyses can be questioned in light of recent epidemiologic data. For immigrants from high TB-burden countries, patients with end-stage renal disease, and the immunosuppressed, now defined as further vulnerable groups, no consistent recommendation can be taken from the literature with respect to cost effectiveness of screening and treating LTBI. When the concept of a fixed willingness-to-pay (WTP) threshold as a prerequisite for final categorization was used, the sums ranged between 'no specification' and US\$100,000 per quality-adjusted life-year.

Conclusions

To date, incremental cost-effectiveness analyses on PT in groups at high risk for TB progression, other than contacts, are surprisingly scarce. The variation found between studies

likely reflects variations in the major epidemiologic factors, particularly in the estimates on the accuracy of the tuberculin skin test (TST) and interferon-gamma release assays (IGRA) as screening methods used before considering PT. Further research, including explicit evaluation of local epidemiological conditions, test accuracy, and methodology of WTP thresholds, is needed.

PLOS Currents: Disasters

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

[Accessed 22 August 2015]

[No new content]

PLoS Currents: Outbreaks

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

(Accessed 22 August 2015)

[Rapid Assessment of Ebola-Related Implications for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Service Delivery and Utilization in Guinea](#)

August 4, 2015 · [Research](#)

Introduction: Since March 2014, Guinea has been in the midst of the largest, longest, and deadliest outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease ever recorded. Due to sub-optimal health conditions prior to the outbreak, Guinean women and children may have been especially vulnerable to worsening health care conditions. A rapid assessment was conducted to better understand how the delivery and utilization of routine RMNCH services may have been affected by the extraordinary strain placed on the health system and its client population by the Ebola outbreak in Guinea.

Methods: Data were collected January-February 2015 in a convenience sample of public and private facilities in areas of the country that were Ebola active, calm and inactive. Monthly data on a number of RMNCH services were collected by facility record abstraction for the period from October 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014. Structured interviews were also held with facility directors and RMNCH service providers.

Results: Data on RMNCH services from forty five public facilities were obtained. A statistically significant decline of 31% was seen in outpatient visits between October-December 2013 (before the Ebola outbreak) and October-December 2014 (the advanced stage of the Ebola outbreak). Service declines appeared to be greater in hospitals compared to health centers. Child health services were more affected by the Ebola epidemic than other assessed health areas. For example, the number of children under five seen for diarrhea and Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) showed a large decrease over the one-year period in both hospitals (60% for diarrhea and 58% for ARI) and health centers (25% and 23%, respectively). Results also suggest that the negative effects on service availability (such as reduced hours, closures, and service suspensions) are likely to be regional and/or facility-specific. Providers reported a number of improved infection control behaviors as a result of the Ebola outbreak, including more frequent hand-washing and the use of disinfectants. Nevertheless, 30% of interviewed staff had not received any training on Ebola infection control.

Discussion: Although there may be differences in RMNCH service delivery and availability in selected versus non-selected facilities, a large number of indicators were assessed in order to provide needed information on the effects of the Ebola crisis on routine RMNCH service delivery and uptake in Guinea. This information is an important and timely contribution to ongoing

efforts to understand and respond to the adverse effects of the Ebola crisis on essential RMNCH services in Guinea.

PLoS Medicine

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

(Accessed 22 August 2015)

No new digest content identified.

PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases

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

(Accessed 22 August 2015)

Viewpoints

[Responsible Use of Pop Culture and Communication in the Face of Ebola Virus](#)

Brandon Brown, Melissa Nasiruddin, Alexander Dao, Monique Halabi

Published: August 6, 2015

DOI: 10.1371/journal.pntd.0003890

...Current Use of Pop Culture in the Ebola Epidemic

The CDC, the World Health Organization (WHO), and other public health agencies have leveraged popular social media to distribute up-to-date and accurate information on Ebola [7,8], while social websites such as Reddit, to which users can submit content organized by areas of interest, allow for the assimilation of unverified information [9]. A literature review on the use of social networking sites for influencing health behavior demonstrated a particularly valuable aspect of social media: its cost-effective ability to reach hard-to-reach underserved and minority populations [10]. Health information reaches consumers at various levels that differ based on demographic and socioeconomic factors. For example, data from the Health Information National Trends Survey found that individuals who sought out health information tended to have regular health care access and were more likely to earn over US\$50,000 in income; conversely, males, people older than 65 years of age, and people identifying as Hispanic were less likely to seek out that information [11]. Because of differences in how these groups receive, trust, and process health information, mechanisms by which pertinent health information is disseminated must be diversified in order to maximize the audience reached. This can be done through media accessed by members of multiple socioeconomic and cultural strata. Examples of useful media include film, books, pamphlets, the Internet, and crowdsourcing mapping, among others. Smart phone apps and health reminders through text messages are some ways that technology has been used to help raise awareness about the epidemic [12,13], but there are still other ways that social media and popular culture can be used to further spread vital public health information. The public is eager for this information, as clearly demonstrated with the success of television programs such as the Dr. Oz show in promoting information-seeking behavior [14]...

PLoS One

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

[Accessed 22 August 2015]

[Towards a Science of Community Stakeholder Engagement in Biomedical HIV Prevention Trials: An Embedded Four-Country Case Study](#)

Peter A. Newman, Clara Rubincam, Catherine Slack, Zaynab Essack, Venkatesan Chakrapani, Deng-Min Chuang, Suchon Tepjan, Murali Shunmugam, Surachet Roungrakphon, Carmen Logie, Jennifer Koen, Graham Lindegger
Research Article | published 21 Aug 2015 | PLOS ONE
10.1371/journal.pone.0135937

Research Article

Measuring Health Utilities in Children and Adolescents: A Systematic Review of the Literature

Dominic Thorrington ,
Ken Eames

Published: August 14, 2015

DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0135672

Abstract

Background

The objective of this review was to evaluate the use of all direct and indirect methods used to estimate health utilities in both children and adolescents. Utilities measured pre- and post-intervention are combined with the time over which health states are experienced to calculate quality-adjusted life years (QALYs). Cost-utility analyses (CUAs) estimate the cost-effectiveness of health technologies based on their costs and benefits using QALYs as a measure of benefit. The accurate measurement of QALYs is dependent on using appropriate methods to elicit health utilities.

Objective

We sought studies that measured health utilities directly from patients or their proxies. We did not exclude those studies that also included adults in the analysis, but excluded those studies focused only on adults.

Methods and Findings

We evaluated 90 studies from a total of 1,780 selected from the databases. 47 (52%) studies were CUAs incorporated into randomised clinical trials; 23 (26%) were health-state utility assessments; 8 (9%) validated methods and 12 (13%) compared existing or new methods. 22 unique direct or indirect calculation methods were used a total of 137 times. Direct calculation through standard gamble, time trade-off and visual analogue scale was used 32 times. The EuroQol EQ-5D was the most frequently-used single method, selected for 41 studies. 15 of the methods used were generic methods and the remaining 7 were disease-specific. 48 of the 90 studies (53%) used some form of proxy, with 26 (29%) using proxies exclusively to estimate health utilities.

Conclusions

Several child- and adolescent-specific methods are still being developed and validated, leaving many studies using methods that have not been designed or validated for use in children or adolescents. Several studies failed to justify using proxy respondents rather than administering the methods directly to the patients. Only two studies examined missing responses to the methods administered with respect to the patients' ages.

Knowledge on HPV Vaccine and Cervical Cancer Facilitates Vaccine Acceptability among School Teachers in Kitui County, Kenya

Moses Muia Masika, Javier Gordon Ogembo, Sophie Vusha Chabeda, Richard G. Wamai, Nelly Mugo

Research Article | published 12 Aug 2015 | PLOS ONE

10.1371/journal.pone.0135563

Abstract

Background

Vaccines against human papillomavirus (HPV) infection have the potential to reduce the burden of cervical cancer. School-based delivery of HPV vaccines is cost-effective and successful uptake depends on school teachers' knowledge and acceptability of the vaccine. The aim of this study is to assess primary school teachers' knowledge and acceptability of HPV vaccine and to explore facilitators and barriers of an ongoing Gavi Alliance-supported vaccination program in Kitui County, Kenya.

Methods

This was a cross-sectional, mixed methods study in Central Division of Kitui County where the Ministry of Health is offering the quadrivalent HPV vaccine to grade four girls. Data on primary school teachers' awareness, knowledge and acceptability of HPV vaccine as well as facilitators and barriers to the project was collected through self-administered questionnaires and two focus group discussions.

Results

339 teachers (60% female) completed the survey (62% response rate) and 13 participated in 2 focus group discussions. Vaccine awareness among teachers was high (90%), the level of knowledge about HPV and cervical cancer among teachers was moderate (48%, SD = 10.9) and females scored higher than males (50% vs. 46%, $p = 0.002$). Most teachers (89%) would recommend the vaccine to their daughter or close relatives. Those who would recommend the vaccine had more knowledge than those who would not ($p = <0.001$). The main barriers were insufficient information about the vaccine, poor accessibility of schools, absenteeism of girls on vaccine days, and fear of side effects.

Conclusions

Despite low to moderate levels of knowledge about HPV vaccine among school teachers, vaccine acceptability is high. Teachers with little knowledge on HPV vaccine are less likely to accept the vaccine than those who know more; this may affect uptake if not addressed. Empowering teachers to be vaccine champions in their community may be a feasible way of disseminating information about HPV vaccine and cervical cancer.

Use of Mobile Information Technology during Planning, Implementation and Evaluation of a Polio Campaign in South Sudan

John Haskew, Veronica Kenyi, Juma William, Rebecca Alum, Anu Puri, Yehia Mostafa, Robert Davis

Research Article | published 07 Aug 2015 | PLOS ONE

10.1371/journal.pone.0135362

Abstract

Background

Use of mobile information technology may aid collection of real-time, standardised data to inform and improve decision-making for polio programming and response. We utilised Android-based smartphones to collect data electronically from more than 8,000 households during a national round of polio immunisation in South Sudan. The results of the household surveys are presented here, together with discussion of the application of mobile information technology for polio campaign planning, implementation and evaluation in a real-time setting.

Methods

Electronic questionnaires were programmed onto Android-based smartphones for mapping, supervision and survey activities during a national round of polio immunisation. National census

data were used to determine the sampling frame for each activity and select the payam (district). Individual supervisors, in consultation with the local district health team, selected villages and households within each payam. Data visualisation tools were utilised for analysis and reporting.

Results

Implementation of mobile information technology and local management was feasible during a national round of polio immunisation in South Sudan. Red Cross visits during the polio campaign were equitable according to household wealth index and households who received a Red Cross visit had significantly higher odds of being aware of the polio campaign than those who did not. Nearly 95% of children under five were reported to have received polio immunisation (according to maternal recall) during the immunisation round, which varied by state, county and payam. A total of 11 payams surveyed were identified with less than 90% reported immunisation coverage and the least poor households had significantly higher odds of being vaccinated than the most poor. More than 95% of households were aware of the immunisation round and households had significantly higher odds of being vaccinated if they had prior awareness of the campaign taking place.

Conclusion

Pre-campaign community education and household awareness of polio is important to increase campaign participation and subsequent immunisation coverage in South Sudan. More emphasis should be placed on ensuring immunisation is equitable according to geographic area and household socio-economic index in future rounds. We demonstrate the utility of mobile information technology for household mapping, supervision and survey activities during a national round of polio immunisation and encourage future studies to compare the effectiveness of electronic data collection and its application in polio planning and programming

PLoS Pathogens

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

(Accessed 22 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 22 August 2015)

[The collaborative roots of corruption](#)

Ori Weisela,¹ and Shaul Shalvib,²

Author Affiliations

Edited by Susan T. Fiske, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, and approved July 10, 2015
(received for review December 16, 2014)

Significance

Recent financial scandals highlight the devastating consequences of corruption. While much is known about individual immoral behavior, little is known about the collaborative roots of corruption. In a novel experimental paradigm, people could adhere to one of two competing moral norms: collaborate vs. be honest. Whereas collaborative settings may boost honesty due to increased observability, accountability, and reluctance to force others to become accomplices, we show that collaboration, particularly on equal terms, is inductive to the

emergence of corruption. When partners' profits are not aligned, or when individuals complete a comparable task alone, corruption levels drop. These findings reveal a dark side of collaboration, suggesting that human cooperative tendencies, and not merely greed, take part in shaping corruption.

Abstract

Cooperation is essential for completing tasks that individuals cannot accomplish alone. Whereas the benefits of cooperation are clear, little is known about its possible negative aspects. Introducing a novel sequential dyadic die-rolling paradigm, we show that collaborative settings provide fertile ground for the emergence of corruption. In the main experimental treatment the outcomes of the two players are perfectly aligned. Player A privately rolls a die, reports the result to player B, who then privately rolls and reports the result as well. Both players are paid the value of the reports if, and only if, they are identical (e.g., if both report 6, each earns €6). Because rolls are truly private, players can inflate their profit by misreporting the actual outcomes. Indeed, the proportion of reported doubles was 489% higher than the expected proportion assuming honesty, 48% higher than when individuals rolled and reported alone, and 96% higher than when lies only benefited the other player. Breaking the alignment in payoffs between player A and player B reduced the extent of brazen lying. Despite player B's central role in determining whether a double was reported, modifying the incentive structure of either player A or player B had nearly identical effects on the frequency of reported doubles. Our results highlight the role of collaboration—particularly on equal terms—in shaping corruption. These findings fit a functional perspective on morality. When facing opposing moral sentiments—to be honest vs. to join forces in collaboration—people often opt for engaging in corrupt collaboration.

Production diversity and dietary diversity in smallholder farm households

Kibrom T. Sibhatu, Vijesh V. Krishna, and Matin Qaim¹

Author Affiliations

Edited by B. L. Turner, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, and approved July 15, 2015

Significance

Given that hunger and malnutrition are still widespread problems in many developing countries, the question of how to make agriculture and food systems more nutrition-sensitive is of high relevance for research and policy. Many of the undernourished people in Africa and Asia are small-scale subsistence farmers. Diversifying production on these farms is often perceived as a promising strategy to improve dietary quality and diversity. This hypothesis is tested with data from smallholder farm households in Indonesia, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Malawi. Higher farm production diversity significantly contributes to dietary diversity in some situations, but not in all. Improving small farmers' access to markets seems to be a more effective strategy to improve nutrition than promoting production diversity on subsistence farms.

Abstract

Undernutrition and micronutrient malnutrition remain problems of significant magnitude in large parts of the developing world. Improved nutrition requires not only better access to food for poor population segments, but also higher dietary quality and diversity. Because many of the poor and undernourished people are smallholder farmers, diversifying production on these smallholder farms is widely perceived as a useful approach to improve dietary diversity. However, empirical evidence on the link between production and consumption diversity is scarce. Here, this issue is addressed with household-level data from Indonesia, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Malawi. Regression models show that on-farm production diversity is positively associated with dietary diversity in some situations, but not in all. When production diversity is already

high, the association is not significant or even turns negative, because of foregone income benefits from specialization. Analysis of other factors reveals that market access has positive effects on dietary diversity, which are larger than those of increased production diversity. Market transactions also tend to reduce the role of farm diversity for household nutrition. These results suggest that increasing on-farm diversity is not always the most effective way to improve dietary diversity in smallholder households and should not be considered a goal in itself. Additional research is needed to better understand how agriculture and food systems can be made more nutrition-sensitive in particular situations.

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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 22 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>

[Reviewed earlier]

Science

21 August 2015 vol 349, issue 6250, pages 761-896

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

Forest Health

Forest health in a changing world

Andrew Sugden, Julia Fahrenkamp-Uppenbrink, David Malakoff, and Sacha Vignieri

Science 21 August 2015: 800-801.

EDITORIAL:

Forestry in the Anthropocene

Ariel E. Lugo

Science 21 August 2015: 771.

Reviews

Forest health and global change

S. Trumbore, P. Brando, and H. Hartmann

Science 21 August 2015: 814-818.

Boreal forest health and global change

S. Gauthier, P. Bernier, T. Kuuluvainen, A. Z. Shvidenko, and D. G. Schepaschenko

Science 21 August 2015: 819-822.

Temperate forest health in an era of emerging megadisturbance

Constance I. Millar and Nathan L. Stephenson

Science 21 August 2015: 823-826.

Increasing human dominance of tropical forests

Simon L. Lewis, David P. Edwards, and David Galbraith

Science 21 August 2015: 827-832.

Planted forest health: The need for a global strategy

M. J. Wingfield, E. G. Brockerhoff, B. D. Wingfield, and B. Slippers

Science 21 August 2015: 832-836.

Perspective - Medicine

Global control of hepatitis C virus

Andrea L. Cox

Author Affiliations

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA.

Summary

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection is a blood-borne disease that infects ~185 million people (~3% of the world's population) worldwide (1). It can result in severe liver disease and is the leading cause of liver cancer in many countries. Although directly acting antivirals (DAAs) that target the viral life cycle have created enormous optimism about controlling HCV infection, achieving that goal remains a substantial challenge. Both acute and chronic infections are largely asymptomatic, infection incidence is rising in the United States (2), and comprehensive screening programs are rare in the most highly endemic regions of the world. As a result, less than 5% of the world's HCV-infected population, and only 50% of the United States' HCV-infected population, are aware that they are infected (3, 4) (see the figure). Most of these individuals will not receive treatment and will remain at risk for transmitting the infection to others. Successful control of HCV infection will most likely require a combination of mass global screening to identify those with infection, treatment, and prevention. Prophylactic HCV vaccination would also go a long way to reducing harm for uninfected people who are at risk.

14 August 2015 vol 349, issue 6249, pages 665-760

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/349/6249.toc>

Vaccines

Ebola virus vaccines—preparing for the unexpected

Hans-Dieter Klenk and Stephan Becker

Science 14 August 2015: 693-694.

Many lives might have been saved if clinical studies of Ebola virus vaccines had been done earlier [Also see Report by Marzi et al.]

Summary

The still ongoing Ebola outbreak in West Africa, which began in 2013, and with more than 27,000 cases and 11,000 deaths so far, highlights the need for a vaccine against the disease (1). Hopes to have a vaccine have been nourished in recent years by studies with recombinant vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) expressing the Ebola virus glycoprotein (VSV-EBOV). VSV-EBOV efficiently protects rodents and nonhuman primates against EBOV from viral strains (Kikwit strain in 1995, for example) that caused past outbreaks, but it was not known if it is also efficacious against the Makona strain responsible for the West African outbreak. On page 739 of this issue, Marzi et al. (2) demonstrate that the recombinant vaccine provides protective immunity in macaques against the Makona strain. Complete protection was achieved within 7 days after vaccination, suggesting that the vaccine will provide an ideal countermeasure for protecting health care workers and other persons at risk in an outbreak situation.

Report

VSV-EBOV rapidly protects macaques against infection with the 2014/15 Ebola virus outbreak strain

Andrea Marzi¹, Shelly J. Robertson¹, Elaine Haddock¹, Friederike Feldmann², Patrick W. Hanley², Dana P. Scott², James E. Strong³, Gary Kobinger³, Sonja M. Best¹, Heinz Feldmann^{1,*}

Author Affiliations

1Laboratory of Virology, Division of Intramural Research, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Hamilton, MT 59840, USA.

2Rocky Mountain Veterinary Branch, Division of Intramural Research, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Hamilton, MT 59840, USA.

3Special Pathogens Program, National Microbiology Laboratory, Public Health Agency of Canada, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

Abstract

The latest Ebola virus (EBOV) epidemic spread rapidly through Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia, creating a global public health crisis and accelerating the assessment of experimental therapeutics and vaccines in clinical trials. One of those vaccines is based on recombinant vesicular stomatitis virus expressing the EBOV glycoprotein (VSV-EBOV), a live-attenuated vector with marked preclinical efficacy. Here, we provide the preclinical proof that VSV-EBOV completely protects macaques against lethal challenge with the West African EBOV-Makona strain. Complete and partial protection was achieved with a single dose given as late as 7 and 3 days before challenge, respectively. This indicates that VSV-EBOV may protect humans against EBOV infections in West Africa with relatively short time to immunity, promoting its use for immediate public health responses.

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 22 August 2015]

Research Article

'It's Not a Gift When It Comes with Price': A Qualitative Study of Transactional Sex between UN Peacekeepers and Haitian Citizens

Athena Kolbe 20 Aug 2015

Volume: 4 (1) :Art. 44

Abstract

Sexual exploitation of civilians by peacekeepers undermines the fragile stability established in post-conflict settings. Despite this, it continues to be an ongoing problem for peacekeeping missions worldwide. Efforts to respond to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) have focused on the establishment of rules prohibiting this behavior, condom distribution, and the training of peacekeepers before and during deployment. In an effort to further our understanding of the dynamics that surround SEA by peacekeepers, 231 Haitian citizens who have engaged in transactional sex with peacekeepers were interviewed about their opinions and experiences. Themes which emerged from these interviews included the triggering events or situations which facilitated engagement in transactional sex, the individual's understandings of their own experiences in relationship to cultural and social factors, sex as a strategy for filling unmet economic needs, and the differences between the relationships with peacekeepers and normal romantic relationships. Experiences with condom use, pregnancy, abuse, and barriers to reporting assault and harassment were also discussed.

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5334/sta.gf>

Research Article

Courts, Clans and Companies: Mobile Money and Dispute Resolution in Somaliland

Nicole Stremlau, Ridwan Osman

19 Aug 2015

Volume: 4 (1) :Art. 43

Abstract

One of the world's most ambitious experiments in mobile money is underway in the Somali territories. In the absence of a strong central government and internationally recognized banking institutions, remittance companies and the telecoms industry have been innovating to provide services unique to the Somali context, which is making the economy increasingly 'cashless'. Mobile money has posed new regulatory and legal challenges, particularly when disputes involving consumers are involved. This article focuses on a case study from Somaliland (the northern, self-declared independent region of Somalia) and examines Zaad, the dominant mobile money platform. Given the weak state institutions, there are a variety of actors, including private companies, government police and courts, sharia courts and traditional elders that play an active role in resolving conflicts that result from mobile money transactions, forging a hybrid judicial approach. We examine how these different actors intervene and create an enabling environment to allow innovation and foster trust in a region of the world that is frequently characterized as violent and lawless.

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5334/sta.gh>

Sustainability

Volume 7, Issue 7 (July 2015), Pages 8051-9752

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

[Reviewed earlier]

TORTURE Journal

Volume 25, Nr. 1, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Tropical Medicine and Health

Vol. 43(2015) No. 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Tropical Medicine & International Health

July 2015 Volume 20, Issue 7 Pages 821–966

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

[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]

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

#

#

#

#

***The Sentinel** is a service of the Center for Governance, Evidence, Ethics, Policy, Practice [\[ge2p2\]](#) which is solely responsible for its content, and is an open access publication, subject to the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/>). Copyright is retained by ge2p2.*

#

#

#

#