



center for governance, evidence, ethics, policy, practice

human rights action :: humanitarian response :: health :: education :: holistic development :: sustainable resilience

The Sentinel

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

Week ending 28 November 2015

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

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

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

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

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:: Week in Review

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

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COP21 - 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21/CMP11)

2015, November 30 to December 11 - PARIS

Agenda and events: <http://www.cop21.gouv.fr/en/follow/>

Overview

...This Conference is a crucial event, because it needs to result in a new international climate agreement, applicable to all countries. The agreement will need to be universal and sustainable. It will need to send economic and political signals to make the economic development model shift to a new path, which needs to lead to carbon neutrality by the end of the century and compliance with the goal of keeping global warming below the 2°C ceiling.

The agreement will need to have four components:

- :: a legal agreement;
- :: national contributions with commitments for 2025 or 2030, for countries' efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- :: a financial aspect;
- :: concrete commitments to action by non-governmental stakeholders (such as the "Lima-Paris Action Agenda" and the "Agenda of Solutions").

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Unless we act now: The impact of climate change on children

UNICEF

November 2015 :: 81 pages ISBN: 978-92-806-4826-3

Pdf: http://www.unicef.org/publications/index_86337.html#

Overview

Today's children, and their children, are the ones who will live with the consequences of climate change. This report looks at how children, and particularly the most vulnerable, are affected and what concrete steps need to be taken to protect them.

Key Messages [Excerpt]

...Now is the time for action

The world must embark on low carbon development to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and needs to adapt to the impacts of climate change that cannot be halted. We can take steps now to safeguard our children's future, notably:

- :: Cutting greenhouse gas emissions so that the average rise in the global temperature is limited to a maximum of 2° Celsius, and ideally to 1.5°C.
- :: Prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable in climate change adaptation efforts, particularly children – who will bear the brunt of climate change far longer than adults.
- :: Reducing inequities among children now to promote their future resilience to climate change and other disasters or crises.
- :: Listening to and acting on children's perspectives on climate change.
- :: Providing children and youth with climate change education, awareness raising and training.

- :: Aligning and coordinating work on climate change adaptation, preparedness and disaster risk reduction at national and sub-national levels.
- :: Protecting children and their families who are forced to move as a result of climate change.
- :: Investing in children as part of national climate plans on mitigation and adaptation.
- :: Scale-up proven approaches to address the changing needs of children.

Children deserve to live in a world free from the life-threatening effects of climate change. Given the overwhelming scientific evidence on the dangers of climate change, and the clear opportunities we have for altering its course, there is no excuse for not acting ambitiously.

Press Release

[Children will bear the brunt of climate change: UNICEF](#)

More than half a billion children live in areas with extremely high flood occurrence, 160 million live in high drought severity areas

NEW YORK/GENEVA, 24 November 2015 – More than half a billion children live in areas with extremely high flood occurrence and 160 million in high drought severity zones, leaving them highly exposed to the impacts of climate change, UNICEF said in a report released ahead of the 21st United Nations climate change conference, known as COP21.

Of the 530 million children in the flood-prone zones, some 300 million live in countries where more than half the population lives in poverty – on less than \$3.10 a day. Of those living in high drought severity areas, 50 million are in countries where more than half the population lives in poverty.

“The sheer numbers underline the urgency of acting now,” said UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake. “Today’s children are the least responsible for climate change, but they, and their children, are the ones who will live with its consequences. And, as is so often the case, disadvantaged communities face the gravest threat.”

Climate change means more droughts, floods, heatwaves and other severe weather conditions. These events can cause death and devastation, and can also contribute to the increased spread of major killers of children, such as malnutrition, malaria and diarrhoea. This can create a vicious circle: A child deprived of adequate water and sanitation before a crisis will be more affected by a flood, drought, or severe storm, less likely to recover quickly, and at even greater risk when faced with a subsequent crisis.

The vast majority of the children living in areas at extremely high risk of floods are in Asia, and the majority of those in areas at risk of drought are in Africa...

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[Leaving no one behind: Our promise](#)

DFID Policy Paper

Published 24 November 2015

Promise made by governments, civil society and businesses at the UK government's Leave No One Behind event on 27 September 2015 at the United Nations General Assembly.

We commit to putting the last first.

The Global Goals for Sustainable Development offer a historic opportunity to eradicate extreme poverty and ensure no one is left behind. To realise this opportunity we will prioritise the

interests of the world's most vulnerable and disadvantaged people; the poorest of the poor and those people who are most excluded and at risk of violence and discrimination.

We believe that no one should face the indignity of extreme, absolute, chronic poverty, no one should be denied the opportunity to realise their full potential or to share in progress, no-one should be unfairly burdened by disaster or a changing climate, and no-one should have their interests systematically overlooked. We believe it is in all of our interest to leave no one behind and to ensure a fair opportunity for all, now and for the future.

We pledge to ensure that:

:: every person has a fair opportunity in life no matter who or where they are
:: people who are furthest behind, who have least opportunity and who are the most excluded will be prioritised
:: every person counts and will be counted.

As governments, citizens, civil society and businesses, we commit to work together to eradicate extreme poverty and leave no one behind by:

1.. listening and responding to the voices of those left furthest behind, such as people with disabilities, children, older people and those who face discrimination based on who they are or where they live. Every country, regardless of their stage of development, has a responsibility to empower and address the needs of its most vulnerable citizens.

2. holding ourselves and each other accountable for designing policies and building inclusive institutions that put the furthest behind first and sustainably address the root causes of poverty and exclusion.

3. taking steps to enable all people to reach their full potential, including by securing good nutrition, protection from disease, access to quality education, access to clean water and sanitation, and freedom to have a say in the decisions that affect their lives.

4. challenging the social barriers that deny people opportunity and limit their potential, including changing discrimination and exclusion based on gender, age, location, caste, religion, disability or sexual identity.

5. building inclusive and open economies and societies, where there is rule of law, inclusive political systems, action to address corruption and where all people are able to hold their governments to account.

6. working with young people to help break the cycle of discrimination, exclusion and poverty.

7. achieving gender equality, prioritise the empowerment of girls and women and end violence against girls and women, and stop modern slavery.

8. supporting a data revolution, to ensure timely, accurate and high quality data is used to achieve and measure sustainable development and to monitor progress and assess whether targets are being met by all peoples and all segments of society.

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The Least Developed Countries Report 2015 - Transforming Rural Economies

UNCTAD

November 2015 :: 190 pages

UNCTAD/LDC/2015 ISBN 978-92-1-112893-2 eISBN 978-92-1-057413-6

Full Report pdf: http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/lcd2015_en.pdf

Overview

The headline of the newly adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a global commitment to eradicate poverty by 2030. Nearly half the population of the 48 least developed countries (LDCs) – some 400 million people – remain in extreme poverty, compared with less than a quarter in any other developing country.

The LDCs are thus the battleground on which the 2030 Agenda will be won or lost. This is where shortfalls from the SDG targets are greatest, where improvement has been slowest, and where the barriers to further progress are highest.

Rural development will be central to the quantum leap in the rate of progress required for LDCs to achieve the SDGs. More than two thirds of people in LDCs live in rural areas, where poverty is also most widespread and deepest, and infrastructure and social provision most lacking. Rural development is essential, not only to poverty eradication, employment generation and economic development, but also to sustainable urbanization.

UNCTAD's Least Developed Countries Report 2015 therefore focuses on the transformation of rural economies. Assessing LDCs' progress in agricultural productivity, the extent and nature of their rural economic diversification, and gender issues in rural transformation, it shows that:

- :: Agricultural productivity began to increase in LDCs in 2000, following decades of stagnation or decline, but has risen strongly only in Asian LDCs.

- :: Rural economic diversification varies widely between LDCs, but only a few have passed beyond the stage in which non-farm activities are centred on agriculture and urban linkages are limited.

- :: Women comprise half the rural workforce in LDCs, but face serious constraints on realizing their productive potential, slowing rural transformation.

The 2030 Agenda both highlights the need and provides the opportunity for a new approach to rural development centred on poverty-oriented structural transformation (POST), to generate higher incomes backed by higher productivity. In rural areas, this means upgrading agriculture, developing viable non-farm activities, and fully exploiting the synergies between the two, through appropriately designed and sequenced efforts to achieve the SDGs.

The Report argues that:

- :: Differentiation is needed between peri-urban, intermediate, remote and isolated rural areas.

- :: A key priority is to overcome the contradiction between need and opportunity, by which more remote areas and poorer households have the greatest need but also the most limited opportunities for income diversification.

- :: A POST process can be promoted by labour-based methods and local procurement in infrastructure investment to stimulate demand, coupled with parallel measures to strengthen local supply response.

:: Supply response can be improved by appropriate sequencing of infrastructure investment and interventions, and provision of information about prospective changes in demand and market conditions.

:: Gender-specific measures are needed to overcome disadvantages arising directly from gender norms, and more inclusive gender-sensitive approaches to address their poverty-related consequences.

:: Access to appropriate technologies, inputs, skills and affordable finance needs to be fostered.

:: Effective policy coordination is required nationally, while producers' associations, cooperatives and women's networks can play a key role locally.

:: Innovative approaches to trade and cross-border investment could make a substantial contribution.

Finally, the Report highlights the importance of adequate support from the international community to achieve structural transformation and fulfil the SDGs, based on the principle that "to will the end is to will the means".

What are "Least Developed Countries"?

UNCTAD/PRESS/IN/2015/014

Geneva, Switzerland, (25 November 2015)

From UNCTAD The Least Developed Countries Report 2015

Forty-eight countries are currently designated by the United Nations as "least developed countries" (LDCs), entitling them to aid, preferential market access and special technical assistance, among other concessions. LDCs are distributed among the following regions:

Africa (34): Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, the Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia.

Asia (9): Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Timor-Leste, and Yemen.

Caribbean (1): Haiti.

Pacific (4): Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

The list of LDCs is reviewed every three years by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC), based on recommendations by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP). In March 2015, the CDP recommended the graduation of Angola, by virtue of the "income-only" graduation rule (see below). Equatorial Guinea and Vanuatu are scheduled to be taken off of the list in June 2017 and December 2017 respectively.

Since the category was defined forty years ago, four countries have graduated from LDC status: Botswana in December 1994; Cabo Verde in December 2007; Maldives in January 2011; and Samoa in January 2014. In March 2012, the CDP recommended Tuvalu's graduation from LDC

status but in the absence of an endorsement by ECOSOC, this recommendation has not come into effect.

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IRCT calls on States to reject move at UN General Assembly to restrict protection of human rights defenders

25-11-2015

The IRCT joins NGOs from all over the world in calling for States to actively oppose an initiative at the UN General Assembly to delegitimise the work of human rights defenders and remove essential obligations to protect and enable their important work to promote implementation of human rights obligations.

The initiative, which is led by the African Group, China and Iran, is proposing a series of amendments to a UN General Assembly resolution on protection of human rights defenders, which would result in a significant weakening of the existing global standards for protections of human rights defenders, including torture rehabilitation centres, that provide much needed support to victims of human rights violations worldwide.

"At the IRCT, we are well aware of the importance of protecting those who support others as many of our members and partners operate in an environment where threats, harassment and direct attacks against their organisations, their staff and the many torture victims benefitting from their services is a permanent concern," says Jamal Hammoud, responsible for the development of the IRCT's protection programme.

In the absence of international treaties protecting this important undertaking, the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders has provided the guiding principles for States to uphold. It is these principles that have once again come under threat.

The IRCT urges all our colleagues to raise the issue with their respective governments and share with their networks to generate further global action to preserve the resolution in its original language. Voting is expected to take place in New York on 25 or 26 November 2015.

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SUPPORT THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON RECOGNIZING THE ROLE OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AND THE NEED FOR THEIR PROTECTION

To: All Member States of the United Nations General Assembly

24 November 2015

Excellencies,

We write to you as a group of human rights defenders and civil society organizations located across the world working at national, regional and international levels. We write in regard to the draft resolution entitled "*Recognizing the role of human rights defenders and the need for their protection*" currently being advanced in the UN General Assembly's Third Committee, and due to be adopted on Wednesday 25 November 2015.

We urge your government to support the abovementioned resolution and to reject amendments, tabled by the African Group, China and Iran, designed to weaken the text.¹

Among other things, the proposed amendments remove references to the legitimacy of the work of human rights defenders, delete or weaken language regarding the need for their protection, and delete whole paragraphs related to the need to combat impunity for violations and abuses against defenders and the need to ensure adequate procedural safeguards in judicial proceedings. A call for the release of defenders detained or imprisoned in violation of international human rights law, for exercising their human rights and fundamental freedoms, is also proposed for deletion. In addition, the amendments introduce notions that States should only support and enable their work 'as appropriate', rather than in accordance with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and other obligations arising under international human rights law .

Human rights defenders make a vital contribution to the promotion and respect for human rights, democratic processes, securing and maintaining peace and security, and advancing development in our countries. However, in doing this work, defenders often face a range of violations and abuses at the hands of State and non-State actors. States must acknowledge the role of defenders and the specific risks they face, and commit to ensuring their protection.

Fifteen years ago, all States agreed to the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, including State obligations to protect all human rights defenders working on all human rights. This commitment has been reiterated and built upon in subsequent General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions. We are therefore extremely concerned to hear that the abovementioned delegations have objected to several core elements of the draft resolution.

Based on consultations with over 500 defenders from 111 States, the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders found that in the vast majority of States the situation for human rights defenders is deteriorating in law and in practice. He concluded that a lack of awareness regarding their vital and legitimate work, combined with a lack of political commitment and weak institutional arrangements for their protection, is placing them, their organisations and families at elevated risk.²

The resolution as drafted reflects a number of these findings and makes a series of recommendations for States and other actors. Importantly, this year's text includes a key focus on the implementation of the resolution itself. This will hopefully prompt States and other actors to move beyond rhetoric in addressing the challenges faced by human rights defenders and take action to ensure the implementation of the calls in the resolution.

We urge all States to live up to their human rights commitments by supporting this resolution, by rejecting amendments designed to weaken it, and by taking concrete steps to protect human rights defenders.

1 The amendments are contained in UN documents A/C.3/70/L.69 - L.107, available [here](#).

2 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders to the General Assembly, available [here](#).

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Landmine Monitor 2015

International Committee to Ban Landmines

Published: 26 November 2015 :: 68 pages

Pdf: http://www.the-monitor.org/media/2152583/Landmine-Monitor-2015_finalpdf.pdf

Overview

This is the 17th annual Landmine Monitor report. It is the sister publication to the Cluster Munition Monitor report, first published in November 2010. Landmine Monitor 2014 provides a global overview of the landmine situation. Chapters on developments in specific countries and other areas are available in online Country Profiles, found [here](#).

Landmine Monitor covers mine ban policy, use, production, trade, and stockpiling in every country in the world, and also includes information on contamination, clearance, casualties, victim assistance, and support for mine action. The report focuses on calendar year 2014, with information included up to November 2015 when possible.

Press Release

Landmine Monitor 2015: Mine-free world in a decade? States must keep their promise

Posted on November 26, 2015 4:00 AM

Silver Spring, MD—Handicap International is urging countries contaminated by landmines, and those home to victims of these barbaric weapons, to redouble their efforts to protect civilians. Landmine casualties rose 12% in 2014, according to the Landmine Monitor 2015[1] , an annual report that measures how States are meeting their obligations under the Ottawa Convention[2]. The report was released today in Geneva.

The 17th annual Landmine Monitor, coordinated in part by Handicap International, finds that demining operations are moving at a slow pace in several countries. Indeed, 27 of the 33 States Parties contaminated by mines have been granted extensions on their clearance deadlines. This throws into doubt the political will of certain States to meet their obligations.

"In 2014, States Parties to the Ottawa treaty committed themselves to ridding the world of mines by 2025," explains Anne Héry, Advocacy director at Handicap International. "They have ten years to complete their demining programs, destroy existing stockpiles and provide victims with assistance. We are calling on States Parties whose territories are contaminated to be particularly unstinting in their efforts. We're also asking funding bodies to stay fully engaged, and to reverse the loss of impetus in terms of funding for anti-mines action."

More than 3,600 casualties in 2014

According to the Landmine Monitor 2015, mines or explosive remnants of war killed or injured 3,678 people in 2014, up 12% compared with 2013. The report also underlines a steady rise in the use of improvised explosive devices by non-State armed groups....

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World Bank Group unveils \$16 Billion Africa Climate Business Plan to Tackle Urgent Climate Challenges

One third of funds expected to come from Bank's fund for the poorest countries

WASHINGTON, November 24, 2015—The World Bank Group today unveiled a new plan that calls for \$16 billion in funding to help African people and countries adapt to climate change and build up the continent's resilience to climate shocks.

Titled *Accelerating Climate-Resilient and Low-Carbon Development*, the Africa Climate Business Plan will be presented at COP21, the global climate talks in Paris, on November 30. It lays out measures to boost the resilience of the continent's assets – its people, land, water, and cities – as well as other moves including boosting renewable energy and strengthening early warning systems.

"Sub-Saharan Africa is highly vulnerable to climate shocks, and our research shows that could have far-ranging impact -- on everything from child stunting and malaria to food price increases and droughts," said World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim. "This plan identifies concrete steps that African governments can take to ensure that their countries will not lose hard-won gains in economic growth and poverty reduction, and they can offer some protection from climate change."

Per current estimates, the plan says that the region requires \$5-10 billion per year to adapt to global warming of 2°C.

The World Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme estimate that the cost of managing climate resilience will continue to rise to \$20-50 billion by mid-century, and closer to \$100 billion in the event of a 4°C warming.

Of the \$16.1 billion that the ambitious plan proposes for fast-tracking climate adaptation, some \$5.7 billion is expected from the International Development Association (IDA), the arm of the World Bank Group that supports the poorest countries. About \$2.2 billion is expected from various climate finance instruments, \$2.0 billion from others in the development community, \$3.5 billion from the private sector, and \$0.7 billion from domestic sources, with an additional \$2.0 billion needed to deliver on the plan.

"The Africa Climate Business Plan spells out a clear path to invest in the continent's urgent climate needs and to fast-track the required climate finance to ensure millions of people are protected from sliding into extreme poverty," explains Makhtar Diop, World Bank Group Vice President for Africa. "While adapting to climate change and mobilizing the necessary resources remain an enormous challenge, the plan represents a critical opportunity to support a priority set of climate-resilient initiatives in Africa."

The plan will boost the region's ability to adapt to a changing climate while reducing greenhouse emissions, focusing on a number of concrete actions. It identifies a dozen priority areas for action that will enhance Africa's capacity to adapt to the adverse consequences of climate variation and change.

The first area for action aims to boost the resilience of the continent's assets. These comprise natural capital (landscapes, forests, agricultural land, inland water bodies, oceans); physical capital (cities, transport infrastructure, physical assets in coastal areas); and human and social capital (where efforts should include improving social protection for the people most vulnerable to climate shocks, and addressing climate-related drivers of migration)...



Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
FAO - FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, 2015 :: 50 pages

Pdf: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4940e.pdf>

Abstract:

The guidelines take account of the characteristics of different genetic resources for food and agriculture which face different challenges and opportunities in respect to climate change. The objectives of the guidelines are to promote the use of genetic resources for food and agriculture in climate change adaptation and support their integration into national climate change adaptation planning; to support the genetic resources experts and those involved in climate change adaptation to identify and address the challenges and opportunities of genetic resources for food and agriculture in adaptation; and to promote the involvement of genetic resources stakeholders in the national climate change adaptation planning process. The guidelines follow the structure and approach of the technical guidelines for the National Adaptation Plan process prepared by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The process involves four main elements in each of which a number of steps are proposed.

Press Release

Making genetic diversity part of climate change adaptation

FAO issues guidelines on conservation and use of world's genetic resources for food and agriculture

24 November 2015, Rome - In the run-up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, FAO has released new guidelines to assist countries in better conserving and sustainably using genetic resources in times of climate change.

The Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning aim at ensuring that genetic resources for food and agriculture are part of national plans addressing measures for adaptation to climate change.

Genetic resources for food and agriculture encompass the diversity of plants, animals, forests, aquatic resources, micro-organisms and invertebrates that play a role in food and agricultural production.

While these life forms are themselves threatened by climate change, their genetic makeup makes them key players in addressing the challenges such changes present.

If properly conserved and used, for example, plant genetic resources may provide seeds that can tolerate or thrive amid greater aridity, frost, flooding or soil salinity. Livestock breeds raised in harsh production environments over a long period of time tend to acquire characteristics that enable them to cope with these conditions.

Policies that anticipate future needs and plan the management of genetic resources as a pivotal reservoir and tool can help build more resilient agricultural and food production systems.

To promote more informed decision-making, FAO is, for example, developing an instrument that can be used to predict the impact of climate change on the distribution of livestock breeds. "Genetic resources for food and agriculture will have to contribute greatly to our efforts to cope with climate change," says Maria Helena Semedo, FAO Deputy Director-General for Natural Resources. "We need to act now to reduce the risk that the scale and speed of climate change will surpass our ability to identify, select, reproduce and - eventually - use these resources in the field." she added.

If current trends prevail, yields of some staple crops may in 2050 be 25 percent lower than today, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Such projections make plans to organize and deploy genetic resources all the more urgent, especially as just five cereal crops - rice, wheat, maize, millet and sorghum- provide about 60 percent of all human dietary energy.

Guidelines fill a gap

Currently, there is no commonly adopted approach to integrating agricultural biodiversity into strategic planning for climate change adaptation. The Guidelines aim to address this gap. They will assist countries in addressing genetic resources dimensions when developing or updating their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

"We need to secure and mobilize genetic resources now to have options for the future - we need to have effective conservation, improved information and improved utilization pathways - and we need to plan. Funding is required to support countries in this process," says Irene Hoffmann, Secretary of FAO's intergovernmental Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, under whose aegis the guidelines were developed.

FAO together with the United Nations Development Programme currently assists eight developing countries in the development of their NAPs.

Greater efforts need to be made to conserve and support the sustainable use of plant varieties and livestock breeds and to collect and conserve the wild relatives of important food crops. Promoting the maintenance of on-site farm diversity allows for evolution in step with environmental changes. Regional and global gene banks provide for the maintenance of backup collections of genetic material that can be drawn upon to support climate change adaptation measures.

Given that all countries depend on genetic diversity from other countries and regions, international cooperation and exchange of such material is crucial. In this regard, the Commission negotiated the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which allows researchers and breeders to access genetic resources from other countries.

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:: Agency/Government/IGO Watch

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

United Nations – Secretary General, Security Council, General Assembly

[to 28 November 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases/Meetings Coverage

25 November 2015

SC/12136

[Root Causes of Increasing Instability Must Be Addressed to Prevent Further Deterioration in Sahel, Special Envoy Tells Security Council](#)

Citing accelerating terrorist attacks, spikes in displacement and increasingly grave humanitarian challenges, the top United Nations official for the Sahel told the Security Council today that the international community must address the root causes of such threats to prevent further deterioration in the region.

25 November 2015

SC/12138

[Security Council Presidential Statement Expresses Outrage that Civilians Continue to Account for Vast Majority of Casualties in Armed Conflict Situations](#)

The Security Council today expressed its intention to continue addressing the protection of civilians, both in country-specific considerations and as a thematic agenda item, outraged that they accounted for the vast majority of casualties in conflict situations, suffering forced displacement and destruction of property, among other impacts.

UN OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 28 November 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases/Announcements

[Modern slavery may be hidden in supply chains, but it can be rooted out – UN rights expert](#) 11/27/2015

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery - Wednesday 2 December 2015

GENEVA (27 November 2015) – The United Nations Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, Urmila Bhoola, today called on States, businesses and civil society across the world to step up actions to eradicate modern slavery and other human rights violations from business supply chains.

Speaking ahead of the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, on Wednesday 2 December, Ms. Bhoola urged the international community to utilize social dialogue and create multi-stakeholder platforms as part of increased efforts to end these human rights violations. "Slavery is often hidden, but we do know that contemporary forms of slavery such as forced labour and debt bondage are present in supply chains in numerous industries and sectors,

including agriculture, garments and textiles manufacture, food processing and packaging. Modern slavery is particularly difficult to detect beyond the first tier of complicated supply chains of transnational businesses.

However, these forms of slavery can be rooted out through a multi-stakeholder and multi-faceted approach ensuring that all business operations and relationships are based on human rights, that those responsible for supply chain-related human rights violations are held accountable and that the victims are guaranteed the right to effective judicial and non-judicial remedy and appropriate and timely assistance aimed at empowering them.

My latest report* to the UN Human Rights Council focuses on the duty of States, the responsibility of businesses and the role of other stakeholders in preventing, mitigating and redressing contemporary forms of slavery in supply chains:

**Special Rapporteur's report on the elimination of contemporary forms of slavery from supply chains (A/HRC/30/35):*

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Slavery/SRSlavery/Pages/AnnualReports.aspx>

Committee on the Rights of the Child [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

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

[to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

SRSG/CAAC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict [to 28 November 2015]

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

27 Nov 2015

[DR Congo: Statement by Leila Zerrougui on the Publication of Report on Recruitment of Girls by Armed Groups](#)

The report "Invisible Survivors: Girls in Armed Groups in Democratic Republic of the Congo from 2009 to 2015", published this week by the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) on the recruitment of girls by armed groups in the country highlights the violence girls are confronted with as well as the difficulty of providing them with adequate assistance.

SRSG/SVC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

UN OCHA [to 28 November 2015]

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

[We generally do not include OCHA Flash Updates on humanitarian crises in this digest]

27 Nov 2015

[Somalia: Somalia: Flash Update 5 Humanitarian Impact of Heavy Rains | 27 November 2015](#)

27 Nov 2015

[Central African Republic: Central African Republic: Humanitarian Coordinator calls for more international support to humanitarian crisis as he welcomes Pope Francis' visit to displacement sites](#)

27 Nov 2015

[Nigeria: Multi-faceted support urgent in north-east Nigeria to address complex crisis in Lake Chad basin](#)

24 Nov 2015

[Yemen: Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien - Statement on Yemen \[EN/AR\]](#)

Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Country: Yemen

I am deeply concerned by the worsening humanitarian situation for people living in the central Yemeni city of Taizz. Since September fighting has intensified there, and some 200,000 vulnerable civilians are living under a virtual state of siege, in dire need of drinking water, food, medical treatment, and other life-saving assistance and protection. Civilian neighbourhoods, medical facilities and other premises...

UNICEF [to 28 November 2015]

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

Selected press releases

[UNICEF Advocate Ishmael Beah witnesses impact of conflict on children in South Sudan](#)

JUBA, South Sudan/NAIROBI, Kenya/GENEVA/NEW YORK, 27 November 2015 – Continued violence and the impact of brutal fighting has taken an increasingly heavy toll on the lives of children in South Sudan, Ishmael Beah said today, as the UNICEF Advocate for Children Affected by War wrapped up a one week visit to the country.

[More than 1 million children in urgent need of assistance after three years of fighting in Central African Republic](#)

BANGUI, Central Africa Republic, 27 November 2015 – An estimated 1.2 million children are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance nearly three years after conflict erupted in the Central African Republic.

[Adolescent deaths from AIDS tripled since 2000 – UNICEF](#)

JOHANNESBURG/NEW YORK, 27 November 2015 – The number of adolescent deaths from AIDS has tripled over the last 15 years, according to new data released today by UNICEF.

[Child brides in Africa could more than double to 310 million by 2050 - UNICEF](#)

NEW YORK/LUSAKA, Zambia, 26 November 2015 – If current levels persist, the total number of child brides in Africa will rise from 125 million to 310 million by 2050, according to a UNICEF report released at the African Union Girls Summit in Lusaka, Zambia, today.

[Children will bear the brunt of climate change: UNICEF](#)

NEW YORK/GENEVA, 24 November 2015 – More than half a billion children live in areas with extremely high flood occurrence and 160 million in high drought severity zones, leaving them highly exposed to the impacts of climate change, UNICEF said in a report released ahead of the 21st United Nations climate change conference, known as COP21.

[See Week in Review above]

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [to 28 November 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)

[Fast Retailing and UNHCR Announce New Agreement](#)

25 November 2015

[IKEA stores around the world to raise funds to brighten lives for refugees](#)

23 November 2015

IOM / International Organization for Migration [to 28 November 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[Mediterranean Migrants: Latest Developments](#)

11/27/15

Greece - IOM estimates that over 110,000 migrants and refugees have now arrived in Greece by sea since the beginning of November.

[Germany Offers Protection to Refugees Stranded in Egypt](#)

11/27/15

Egypt - This week IOM moved the last of nearly 600 refugees – half of them Syrian – from Egypt to Germany as part of the country's Humanitarian Admissions Programme (HAP).

[Egypt Passes New Anti-Human Smuggling Law](#)

11/27/15

Egypt - The Egyptian Cabinet has approved a new anti-human smuggling law that is in line with international standards.

[Mediterranean Migrants: Latest Developments](#)

11/24/15

Greece - IOM staff in Greece report a drastic decrease in the number of migrants and refugees crossing into Greece over the weekend.

UN Women [to 28 November 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[Girls speak out at the First African Girls' Summit on Ending Child Marriage](#)

Date: 27 November 2015

UN Women is participating and actively contributing to the First African Girls' Summit on Ending Child Marriage, being held in Lusaka, Zambia, from 24–27 November 2015.

[Press release: Spotlighting prevention, "Orange the World" kicks off global efforts to end violence against women and girls](#)

Date: 24 November 2015

From parades to soccer matches, school debates, and the lighting up of hundreds of iconic monuments, starting tomorrow a United Nations call to "Orange the World" will galvanize global action calling for an end to violence against women and girls, which affects one in three worldwide.

[Nearly 40 Chinese companies sign on to the Women's Empowerment Principles](#)

Date: 24 November 2015

Thirty eight companies from China signed the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) CEO Statement of Support. The Women's Empowerment Principles, developed by UN Women in collaboration with the UN Global Compact, outline seven steps for companies to improve women's empowerment at work and in the marketplace

[Press release: Progress for women in news media grinds to a halt](#)

Date: 23 November 2015

After 20 years, research in 114 countries reveals continued severe disparity between representation of women and men in the news media.

WHO & Regionals [to 28 November 2015]

[Iraq cholera vaccination campaign](#)

24 November 2015 -- An oral cholera vaccine campaign in Iraq helps to control and contain the outbreak. This photo story follows the vaccination teams that are disseminating the vaccine and educational material on how to prevent the disease. The campaign has reached over 232 000 people during the first round. In the last 3 weeks the number of cases has continued to decline with only a few cases being reported from the affected areas.

[New recommendations show how to treat all people living with HIV and decrease new infections](#)

Harare, 27 November 2015 –The world is poised to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030 – provided it can accelerate the pace of progress achieved globally over the past 15 years, according to a new World Health Organization (WHO) report...

[Eliminate violence against women](#)

25 November 2015 -- WHO releases a new tool for medical and legal professionals to ensure that proper evidence is collected in cases of sexual violence to help bring justice for victims. The goal is to end impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence and help eliminate violence against women. Globally 1 in 3 women has been a victim of physical/sexual partner violence in her lifetime.

[New toolkit to strengthen the medico-legal response to sexual violence](#)

Global Alert and Response (GAR) – Disease Outbreak News (DONs)

:: [27 November 2015](#) Zika virus infection – Guatemala

:: [27 November 2015](#) Zika virus infection – El Salvador

- :: [27 November 2015](#) Microcephaly – Brazil
- :: [26 November 2015](#) Cholera – Iraq
- :: [26 November 2015](#) Cholera – United Republic of Tanzania
- :: [26 November 2015](#) Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus – Lao People’s Democratic Republic

:: WHO Regional Offices

[WHO African Region](#) AFRO

:: [New recommendations show how to treat all people living with HIV and decrease new infections](#)

:: [Youngest victims of the health crisis in Central African Republic - 26 November 2015](#)

:: [Health Ministers Endorse a Research Strategy for the African Region - 25 November 2015](#)

[WHO Region of the Americas](#) PAHO

:: [Lila Downs and PAHO launch campaign to prevent postpartum hemorrhage deaths in the Americas](#) (11/24/2015)

:: [First meeting of the Program to Strengthen Cooperation for Health Development in the Americas, in Brazil](#) (11/24/2015)

[WHO South-East Asia Region](#) SEARO

No new digest content identified.

[WHO European Region](#) EURO

:: [New HIV guidelines will help Europe meet the ambitious global goal](#) 27-11-2015

:: [Highest number of new HIV cases in Europe ever](#) 26-11-2015

:: [“Europe is Europe because of migration”: highlights from day 2 of the high-level conference on refugee and migrant health](#) 24-11-2015

:: [“We cannot turn away our eyes”: highlights from day 1 of the high-level conference on refugee and migrant health](#) 24-11-2015

:: [European health decision-makers meet for high-level discussion on refugee and migrant health](#) 23-11-2015

[WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region](#) EMRO

No new digest content identified.

[WHO Western Pacific Region](#)

:: [The Royal Government of Cambodia launches the first dedicated, nationally representative study on the prevalence of intimate partner violence](#)

PHNOM PENH, 24 November 2015 – One in five women in Cambodia has experienced sexual and/or physical intimate partner violence, according to the National Survey on Women’s Health and Life Experiences launched by the Ministry of Women’s Affairs and the National Institute of Statistics. The study documents significant physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health consequences, including injuries and pain, suicide and miscarriage. The study shows that 90% of women who reported being injured by their intimate partner had been hurt severely enough to need health care. However, 47% never sought health care.

UNAIDS [to 28 November 2015]

[http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/UNAIDS calls on countries to put the health and rights of women and girls at the centre of efforts to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030](http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/UNAIDS_calls_on_countries_to_put_the_health_and_rights_of_women_and_girls_at_the_centre_of_efforts_to_end_the_AIDS_epidemic_by_2030)

25 November 2015

[Countries adopt UNAIDS Fast-Track Strategy to double number of people on life-saving HIV treatment by 2020](#)

24 November 2015

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNDP United Nations Development Programme [to 28 November 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[Breakthrough brings cost of HIV treatment to under \\$100 per patient per year](#)

Nov 27, 2015

UNDP has achieved significant reductions in the price of HIV medicines that it procures, bringing down the cost of the most common treatment to an unprecedented US\$100 per patient per year in Equatorial Guinea, Haiti, Mali, South Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Through these price reductions UNDP is saving US\$ 25 million that are being used to put an additional 250,000 people on life-saving HIV treatment.

[Helen Clark: Speech on "Youth as Partners for Change in the Implementation of Agenda 2030"](#)

Nov 24, 2015

Keio University, Tokyo, Japan 24 November 2015

[UNDP Africa launches initiative to help prevent and respond to violent extremism](#)

Nov 23, 2015

UNDP's Regional Bureau for Africa today launched an initiative to support African countries to prevent and respond to the growth of violent extremism through a development lens.

UN Division for Sustainable Development [to 28 November 2015]

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

SDGs: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics>

No new digest content identified.

UN Statistical Commission :: UN Statistics Division [to 28 November 2015]

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

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

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

No new digest content identified.

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme [to 28 November 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[Portfolio Decarbonization Coalition Overseeing Decarbonization of \\$230bn Assets under Management, Far above Target](#)

UK, Dutch and French Investment Firms Join Coalition Ahead of COP21, with More to Follow

London/Geneva, 27 November 2015 - The Portfolio Decarbonization Coalition (PDC), which aims to support greenhouse gas emissions cuts by engaging institutional investors committed to decarbonizing their portfolios, is now overseeing the decarbonization of \$230 billion in Assets Under Management (AUM), dramatically surpassing its target of \$100 bn.

Hermes Investment Management in the UK, MN in the Netherlands, BNP Paribas Investment Partners, Humanis, and Caisse des Dépôts (CDC) in France today joined the coalition, bringing the number of members to 23, managing total assets of \$2.2 trillion.

Announcements of new members are planned for COP 21, where 190 nations will convene in Paris with the aim of negotiating a universal agreement on climate. The new members will significantly increase the total commitments to decarbonization.

The increasing membership of the PDC is a clear signal that a growing number of leading investors are committed to reducing the carbon risks and impacts of their portfolios, and playing a key role in tackling climate change.

UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner said, "The success of the PDC is a clear signal that more and more leading investors are recognizing the inherent risk that climate change poses to their portfolios. By aligning their portfolios with the low-carbon economy, they are playing a key role in the climate action the world wants to see. Exceeding the \$100 billion target is a significant milestone, and I hope the leadership of the coalition members inspires other investors to join this great effort."

UNISDR UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 28 November 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[Americas hit hard by El Niño](#)

27 Nov 2015

The Americas are paying a high price as one of the worst El Niños on record continues to strengthen. The World Meteorological Organization this week singled out "considerable concern" about the impact of El Niño on the Amazon basin in the context of long-term climate change.

[20-year review shows 90% of disasters are weather-related; US, China, India, Philippines and Indonesia record the most](#)

23 Nov 2015

A new report issued today by the UN, "The Human Cost of Weather Related Disasters", shows that over the last twenty years, 90% of major disasters have been caused by 6,457 recorded floods, storms, heatwaves, droughts and other weather-related events.

UN DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 28 November 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

No new digest content identified.

UNESCO [to 28 November 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[New report shows cultural and creative industries account for 29.5 million jobs worldwide](#)

27 November 2015

[Protect Heritage Now for Resilience and Peace](#)

26 November 2015

The protection of culture and heritage is a humanitarian and security imperative that also paves the path towards resilience, reconciliation and peace, said UNESCO Director-General, Irina Bokova, addressing the International Symposium on "Cultural Heritage at Risk, the Role of Museums in War and Conflict", held at the Museum of Mediterranean and Near Eastern Antiquities in Stockholm, Sweden, on 26 November.

[UNESCO and UNIFIL: Exploring the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict](#)

24 November 2015

Throughout our long human history, wars and conflicts have always constituted serious threats to cultural heritage. Since ancient times, and going into world wars I and II, looting and destruction of cultural heritage were part of ongoing battles.

As witnessed in countries living an armed conflict in the region, cultural heritage is particularly at risk, owing to its inherent vulnerability and tremendous symbolic value. Intentional targeting and destruction of heritage sites, illicit trafficking of artefacts, and illegal excavation are causing major losses that can deprive a community of its memory, the physical testimony to its past, but also of a precious resource for social and economic wellbeing.

With these new enormous challenges, it has become necessary to develop and improve the mechanisms and tools for the protection of cultural property, especially in the case of disputes. As the leading organization in this area, UNESCO has sounded the alarm, calling for greater cooperation to take concrete steps to protect the cultural history and unique cultural heritage in this region through awareness, and recalling the obligation to commit by international conventions and treaties, in particular the Hague Convention (1954), which established the rules for the protection of cultural goods during armed conflict. This Convention is the first international treaty designed to protect the cultural heritage in the context of war, and has highlighted the concept of common heritage and led to the creation of the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS), headed currently by Director-General, Mr. Julien Anfernez of the International Council of Museums (ICOM)...

[Three UN agencies join forces to boost education of adolescent girls and young women](#)

23 November 2015

The heads of UNESCO, UNFPA and UN Women sealed a partnership to empower adolescent girls and young women through education, by signing a joint programme agreement at the headquarters of the United Nations Population Fund in New York.

The agreement was signed today by UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova, UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin and UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka represented by UN Women Deputy Executive Director Yannick Glemarec.

"Taking the 2030 Agenda forward calls for working in synergy to better tackle the cross-cutting obstacles that are preventing young girls and women from fulfilling their potential," said Ms. Bokova. "This partnership is a model that brings together our respective strengths to break the cycle of exclusion and vulnerability, to ensure that girls benefit from a full cycle of quality education, in line with the promise of Sustainable Development Goal 4."

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 28 November 2015]

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

27/11/2015 –

[Unprecedented funding agreement between UNODC and Qatar leaves lasting legacy for Doha Declaration](#)

Vienna 27 November 2015 - A multi-million-dollar funding agreement between Qatar and UNODC was signed in Vienna. The agreement, totalling more than US\$49 million and slated to run over four years, is to deliver projects related to justice, prisoners, youth and justice education...

Viewed as a lasting legacy to the 13th [UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice](#), held in Doha in April of this year, the agreement is intended to help countries achieve a positive and sustainable impact on criminal justice and the rule of law in all regions of the world.

"This generous funding will be used to continue to advance the [Doha Declaration](#) and to ensure that UNODC builds projects and programmes that support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals"...

26/11/2015 –

[Drug money and opiate trafficking on the Balkan route, focus of new UNODC report](#)

Vienna, 26 November 2015 - A new [report](#) launched today by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) shows that the total value of illicit heroin and opium trafficked from Afghanistan to Western Europe through the Balkans amounts to some \$28 billion every year. Sixty-five per cent of this total (\$18 billion) is generated in Western and Central Europe. The four largest European markets for heroin - France, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Italy - account for nearly half of the gross profits, as the major heroin benefits are made by traffickers on the retail markets.

The report, entitled *Drug Money: the illicit proceeds of opiates trafficked on the Balkan route*, shows that the total value generated by Afghan heroin and opium trafficked in Europe and through the Balkan route is one third bigger than the entire GDP of Afghanistan itself, which, in 2014, amounted to some \$21 billion. Other findings indicate that the negative economic impact of heroin and opium are actually greater in Europe and the Balkan route countries than in Afghanistan itself...

UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme [to 28 November 2015]

<http://unhabitat.org/media-centre/news/>

[Selected Announcements]

[UN-Habitat and ISOCARP launch a magazine focused on West Bank and Palestine](#)

Ramallah, 25 November 2015—UN-Habitat and the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) have joined forces with local and national partners to elaborate a series of spatial visions for the heartland of the West Bank region...

Posted November 25, 2015

FAO Food & Agriculture Organization [to 28 November 2015]

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

[Selected Announcements]

[Netherlands donates \\$7 million to improve water management in Near East and Africa](#)

The Netherlands and FAO are expanding their collaboration in the area of water management with a \$7 million donation by the Government of the Netherlands to support the use of remote sensing technology in helping water-scarce countries in the Near East and Africa monitor and improve the way they use water for crop production.

27-11-2015

[Surge in climate change-related disasters poses growing threat to food security](#)

Focusing specifically on the impact of climate-related disasters in developing countries, some 25 percent of the negative economic impacts were borne by the crop, livestock, fisheries and forestry sectors alone.

26-11-2015

[World mayors' meeting to be hosted by FAO in 2016](#)

The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, promulgated earlier this year at the 2015 World Expo, offers a unique international platform to make city food systems more equitable and sustainable, FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva and the Italian city's Mayor, Giuliano Pisapia, have said.

26-11-2015

[Growing need to revamp national laws governing pesticides](#)

Some thirty years to the day after FAO first launched its International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, the UN food agency is calling on countries to make sure that national regulatory frameworks governing the management of pesticides are kept up to date.

25-11-2015

[Making genetic diversity part of climate change adaptation](#)

In the run-up to the Paris Climate Change Summit, FAO has released new Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning, designed assist countries in better conserving and sustainably using genetic resources in times of climate change.

24-11-2015

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 28 November 2015]

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

26 November 2015

[The impact of what happens in a small African village can now be felt around the world, IFAD President tells meeting of Pope's encyclical on the environment](#)

ILO International Labour Organization [to 28 November 2015]

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

Sustainable development

[10 action points towards a greener economy](#)

26 November 2015

Just before the opening of the Paris climate conference that is expected to set new ambitious targets to move to a low-carbon economy, ILO Green Jobs Programme Coordinator Kees van der Ree outlines ten steps that can facilitate a transition to a green economy.

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization [to 28 November 2015]

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

[ICAO and UNFCCC Join Forces to Bring CDM Coverage to Aviation in Advance of Important 2015 Paris Climate Conference](#)

27/11/15

[Concluding Communiqué: ICAO World Aviation Forum](#)

25/11/15

[ICAO Council Declaration on International Aviation and Climate Change](#)

24/11/15

IMO International Maritime Organization [to 28 November 2015]

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

[IMO Assembly elects new 40-Member Council](#)

27/11/2015 40 States elected to be Members of IMO Council for the 2016-2017 biennium.

[IMO Assembly confirms Mr. Kitack Lim as Secretary-General](#)

26/11/2015 IMO Assembly unanimously endorses appointment of Mr. Kitack Lim (Republic of Korea) as Secretary-General of IMO with effect from 1 January 2016 for four-year term.

WMO World Meteorological Organization [to 28 November 2015]

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

[New Radio Regulations protect vital meteorological radio frequencies](#)

27 November 2015

Radio frequencies which are vital for weather forecasts, disaster warnings and climate monitoring will remain available to the meteorological community and protected from interference from other applications thanks to decisions taken by the World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15).

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) today welcomed the outcome of WRC-15, which revised and updated the Radio Regulations, the international treaty governing the use of the radio-frequency spectrum. The month-long conference is sponsored by the International Telecommunications Union and takes place every four years.

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 28 November 2015]

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

[Vienna Ministerial Conference focuses on “graduation path” out of LDC category](#)

VIENNA, 26 November 2015 – Operationalizing inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) as a path to graduation out of the LDC category is the focus of a Ministerial Conference that...

[The Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth backed by UNIDO and other UN entities](#)

VIENNA, 23 November 2015 - Of the estimated 200 million unemployed people in 2014, about 37 per cent (or about 73 million) were between the ages ...

UNWTO World Tourism Organization [to 28 November 2015]

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

[World Committee on Tourism Ethics discusses the impact of web reviews](#)

26 November 2015

The accuracy and reliability of online consumer reviews was the main focus of the 16th meeting of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics. The Committee also discussed the issue of child protection in tourism and all-inclusive holidays (Paris, France, 16-17 November 2015).

ITU International Telecommunications Union [to 28 November 2015]

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

[World Radiocommunication Conference allocates spectrum for future innovation](#)

Conference outcomes to spur long-term investments in ICT industry

Geneva, 27 November 2015 – The World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15) has concluded its deliberations as delegates sign the Final Acts that revise the Radio Regulations, the international treaty governing the use of radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits. Around 3300 participants, representing 162 out of ITU's 193 Member States attended the four-week conference from 2 to 27 November. Some 500 participants representing 130 other entities, including industry, also attended the conference as observers.

The Conference was steered under the Chairmanship of Mr Festus Yusufu Narai Daudu of Nigeria. He was assisted in the task by six Vice Chairmen: Mr A. Jamieson (New Zealand), Mr Y. Al-Bulushi (Oman), Mr D. Obam (Kenya), Ms D. Tomimura (Brazil), Mr A. Kühn (Germany), and Mr N. Nikiforov (Russian Federation).

New challenges, new opportunities

"As new technological innovations and applications emerge, they set new challenges as well as bring new opportunities for billions around the world," said Mr Festus Daudu, Chairman of WRC-15. "This conference dealt with a large number of important and sensitive issues, ranging from mobile broadband communications and satellite systems to emergency communications and disaster relief, maritime and aeronautical communications, environmental monitoring and climate change, universal time and space research as well as radiocommunication services that the public relies on for health, information, education, security and safety."

"This World Radiocommunication Conference will define new and better ways to regulate radio services and applications," said ITU Secretary-General Houlin Zhao. "In a world where radiocommunications are playing an increasingly important role in connecting people, I am convinced that the outcome of this conference will represent a major contribution in making the world a better – and safer – place for all."

"A great deal has been achieved in the last four weeks and the results will have a major impact on the future of the telecommunication sector in general and radiocommunications in particular," said Mr François Rancy, Director of the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau. "The outcomes of WRC-15 are aimed at maintaining a stable, predictable and universally applied regulatory environment that secures long-term investments for the multi-trillion dollar ICT industry."

WRC-15 addressed over 40 topics related to frequency allocation and frequency sharing for the efficient use of spectrum and orbital resources. The outcomes ensure high quality radiocommunication services for mobile and satellite communications, maritime and aeronautical transport, air and road safety as well as for scientific purposes related to the environment, meteorology and climatology, disaster prediction, mitigation and relief. The ITU Radiocommunication Sector has been set an ambitious studies programme for the next four years covering a wide range of services from amateur radio to broadcasting, mobile broadband, mobile satellite, fixed satellite, earth stations on mobile platforms, and space exploration services.

WRC-15 adopted a revised version of Resolution 12 on Assistance and Support to Palestine, which resolves to continue assistance to Palestine and to enable Palestine to obtain and manage the spectrum required to operate telecommunications networks and wireless services. This followed an Israeli-Palestinian agreement to facilitate cellular phone operations and the establishment of a modern and reliable telecommunication network in Palestine...

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

.....

US Department of State [to 28 November 2015]

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

Selected Announcements

11/25/15 [Myths and Facts: Resettling Syrian Refugees](#); Office of the Spokesperson; Washington, DC

11/23/15 [Readout of the Plenary Meeting of the Global Coalition to Counter-ISIL](#); Office of the Spokesperson; Washington, DC

11/23/15 [The U.S. Announces Additional Humanitarian Assistance for Sahrawi Refugees in Response to Severe Floods](#); Office of the Spokesperson; Washington, DC

USAID [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

DFID [to 28 November 2015]

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

Selected Announcements

[Leaving no one behind: Our promise](#)

Published 24 November 2015 Policy paper DFID

[See Week in Review above]

[Chancellor George Osborne and Bill Gates to join forces to end malaria](#)

Published 22 November 2015 News story DFID and HMT

A new £1 billion fund will be used to support the global fight against malaria and other infectious diseases.

Chancellor George Osborne and Bill Gates have announced they are to join forces as part of the global effort to end malaria.

A new £1 billion Ross Fund – named after Sir Ronald Ross, the first ever British Nobel Laureate who was recognised for his discovery that mosquitoes transmit malaria – will be used to support the global fight against malaria and other infectious diseases...

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have announced they will partner with the UK in this work, and have welcomed the Chancellor's announcement.

The £1 billion will include a £300 million package focused on malaria and other infectious diseases. This will include:

:: a £90 million eradication of malaria implementation fund

:: £100 million support for research and development into products for infectious diseases

:: £115 million to develop new drugs, diagnostics and insecticides for malaria, TB and other infectious disease resistance

It will also fund work to target diseases with epidemic potential, neglected tropical diseases, and diseases with emerging resistance...

ECHO [to 28 November 2015]

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

[European Commission to increase humanitarian support to education for children in emergencies](#)

25/11/2015

The European Commission is set to step up in 2016 its funding for education in emergencies to 4% of the EU's overall humanitarian budget.

[International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women: Responding to gender-based violence in humanitarian crises](#)

25/11/2015

On the occasion of this international day, the European Commission joins the global community to put an end to violence against women and girls, which constitutes a blatant violation of human rights affecting one in three women worldwide.

.....

African Union [to 28 November 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]

Nov.26.2015 to Nov.27.2015

[First African Girls' Summit on Ending Child Marriage in Africa](#)

Nov.24.2015

[Seeds without borders: Using and sharing plant genetic diversity to adapt to climate change in Africa](#)

The African Development Bank Group [to 28 November 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]

[Pan-African conference for civil society organisations to promote public participation in natural resources policy](#)

27/11/2015 - For two full days the African Natural Resources Center (ANRC) of the African Development Bank (AfDB) brought together 45 civil society organisations (CSOs) from 30 countries in Africa to discuss ways to foster inclusive and sustainable development through public participation in natural resources policy formulation.

[AfDB Transport Forum focuses on sustainable solutions for transport and integration on the continent](#)

26/11/2015 - The first-ever African Development Bank Transport Forum (ATF) opened Thursday, November 26 at the Bank's headquarters in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, with lively debates on how to achieve sustainable solutions to the continent's transport and integration challenges.

ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations [to 28 November 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]

No new digest content identified.

European Union [to 28 November 2015]

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

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

State of Play: Measures to Address the Refugee Crisis

Date: 27/11/2015

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 27 November 2015 State of Play: Measures to Address the Refugee Crisis Updated on 27 November The European Agenda on Migration adopted by the Commission in May 2015 set out the need for a comprehensive approach to migration management.

EU signs program worth €3.6 billion with Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States

Date: 26/11/2015

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 26 November 2015 EU signs program to provide support in the areas of human and social development, environment and climate change, private sector development and peace and security across African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

European Commission to increase humanitarian support to education for children in emergencies

Date: 25/11/2015

Press release European Commission Brussels, 25 November 2015 More children to benefit from education in emergency situations. The European Commission is set to increase in 2016 its humanitarian funding for education in emergencies to 4% of the EU's overall humanitarian budget.

OECD [to 28 November 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]

Reducing inequalities and financing education remain key challenges

24-November-2015

Governments need to tackle persistent inequalities in education and focus on improving efficiencies in their education systems in order to ensure that every child, whatever their background, can realise their full potential and benefit from a good education, according to a new OECD report.

Education at a Glance 2015 reveals the rapid progress made in expanding education over the past 25 years, with around 41% of 25-34 year-olds now having a tertiary qualification. But inequalities still persist in education, with serious consequences for labour markets and economies. In 2014, less than 60% of adults without an upper secondary education were in work, compared to over 80% of tertiary-educated adults.

Educational inequalities also affect earnings, with adults who have attained tertiary education 23 percentage points more likely to be among the 25% highest paid adults than adults with an upper secondary education.

"The dream of 'quality education for all' is not yet a reality," said OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría at the launch of the report in Paris. "Lack of a quality education is the most powerful

form of social exclusion and prevents people from benefitting from economic growth and social progress.” Read the speech.

Inequalities in initial education continue to unfold throughout people’s lives, notably in access to lifelong learning: about 60% of workers in the most skilled occupations participate in employer-sponsored education, while only 26% of workers in elementary occupations do.

This year’s edition of Education at a Glance also reveals the difficulties that governments face in financing education. Between 2010 and 2012, GDP began to rise again in most countries, and public spending on primary to tertiary educational institutions fell in more than one in three OECD countries, including Australia, Canada, Estonia, France, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and the United States.

Organization of American States (OAS) [to 28 November 2015]

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

[OAS Council Highlights Value of the Social Charter of the Americas and Commemorates Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](#)

FNE-18683

November 24, 2015

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) [to 28 November 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[Encouraging Tourism to Al-Quds will Protect Al-Aqsa](#)

Encouraging tourism to Al-Quds Al-Sharif (Jerusalem) would support the Holy City, empower its people, and convey their sufferings and demands to the Muslim World in particular and to the international community in general, said OIC Secretary General Iyad Ameen Madani in a speech delivered on his behalf by Ambassador Hameed A. Opeloyeru, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs, at a workshop entitled “Exploring Tourism Potential of Al-Quds Al-Sharif City” on 24-25 November 2015 in Istanbul, Turkey....

25/11/2015

[OIC Human Rights Commission Holds Intensive Debate To Draw Lines Between Hate Speech and Freedom of Speech](#)

The Eighth Regular Session of the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC), held at the OIC headquarters in Jeddah on Monday 23rd November, 2015, witnessed intense deliberations on its pivotal theme “Freedom of expression Versus Hate Speech”....

23/11/2015

Group of 77 [to 28 November 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

UNCTAD [to 28 November 2015]

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

25 Nov 2015 - [What are "Least Developed Countries"?](#)

25 Nov 2015 - [Report proposes solution to failure of rural development behind poverty-driven migration from world's poorest countries](#)

24 Nov 2015 - [Africa's oil, gas and mining sectors must create more direct and indirect jobs to drive prosperity](#)

24 Nov 2015 - [Tackling high levels of joblessness among young people, UNCTAD and the commonwealth launch guide to youth entrepreneurship](#)

23 Nov 2015 - [Ireland's President calls for reform of global debt architecture in light of new development agenda](#)

World Trade Organisation [to 28 November 2015]

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

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

[WTO members consider draft Nairobi Ministerial Declaration](#)

27 November 2015

The three facilitators appointed by Director-General Roberto Azevêdo to support members to develop a Ministerial Declaration for the WTO's 10th Ministerial Conference presented their draft Declaration text at a meeting of all members today (27 November).

The facilitators' draft Declaration text is available [here](#).

IMF [to 28 November 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

World Bank [to 28 November 2015]

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

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

[World Bank Group unveils \\$16 Billion Africa Climate Business Plan to Tackle Urgent Climate Challenges](#)

One third of funds expected to come from Bank's fund for the poorest countries

Date: November 24, 2015 Type: Press Release

[See Week in Review above]

IPU Inter-Parliamentary Union [to 28 November 2015]

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

IPU President seeks more strategic partnership with Latin America region

27 NOVEMBER 2015

IPU President Saber Chowdhury is seeking to strengthen the partnership between IPU and the parliaments of the Latin American region during a visit to Panama on 25-28 November. Addressing the 31st General Assembly of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (Parlatino) on 27 November, President Chowdhury urged the representatives of 23 national parliaments from the region to work more closely with IPU in dealing with the global issues of the day, and on the impact of political violence on the safety of citizens, a major concern for Latin America. Parlatino is one of the 10 regional parliaments that have Associate Membership with IPU. The President, who held meetings with the Speaker of Parlatino, Blanca Alcala and Deputy Foreign Minister María Lusía Navarro during his visit, also discussed strengthening the Panamanian Parliament's engagement on international affairs with the Speaker of Parliament Rubén de León Sanchez. With the adoption of the new global sustainable development agenda in September, including one on strong, inclusive and effective institutions to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, there were discussions on the need to interlock and integrate action on sustainable development, climate change and disaster risk reduction in national development plans. Partnerships at national and international levels would be key to success.

International Criminal Court (ICC) [to 28 November 2015]

http://www.icc-cpi.int/en_menus/icc/Pages/default.aspx

Launch of new treatise on the Rome Statute by ICC Judge Sylvia Steiner

26/11/2015

On 25 November 2015, a new treatise on the Rome Statute was launched at a side event, as a part of the Assembly of States Parties ("ASP") meeting in The Hague. The book, "O Tribunal Penal Internacional – Comentários ao Estatuto de Roma", edited by Judge Sylvia Steiner of the International Criminal Court ("ICC" or the "Court") and Prof. Leonardo Brandt, is the first fully comprehensive commentary on the Rome Statute published in Portuguese. Renan Villacis, Director of the Secretariat of the ASP, Judge Steiner, the longest serving Judge at the ICC, and Sidiki Kaba, President of the ASP, all stressed the importance of disseminating the jurisprudence of the Court in languages that practitioners understand, in order to achieve the Court's goal of universal ratification. Following the remarks, ASP delegates, ICC officials, staff, and practitioners enjoyed a brief reception, celebrating the creation of such an important text.

Statement of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Fatou Bensouda, marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

25/11/2015

ICC President Silvia Fernández welcomes establishment of independent Africa Group for Justice and Accountability

25/11/2015

The President of the International Criminal Court, Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, met on Tuesday, 24 November 2015, with members of the Africa Group for Justice and Accountability, a newly formed independent group consisting of senior African experts on

international criminal law and human rights. The Group's objective is to support efforts to strengthen justice and accountability measures in Africa through domestic and regional capacity building, advice and outreach, and enhancing cooperation between Africa and the ICC...

The current members of the Africa Group for Justice and Accountability include Richard Goldstone (South Africa), Hassan Bubacar Jallow (Gambia), Athaliah Molokomme (Botswana), Betty Murungi (Kenya), Navi Pillay (South Africa), Fatiha Serour (Algeria), Femi Falana (Nigeria), Abdul Tejan-Cole (Sierra Leone), and Mohamed Chande Othman (Tanzania).

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

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:: 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 announcements, programs events or appeals, and generally not include content which is primarily photo-documentation or video in format.

Amref Health Africa [to 28 November 2015]

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

[AMREF Flying Doctors Ambulance on Standby During Pope's Visit to Kenya](#)

Published: 26 November 2015 Carolyn Khamala

AMREF Flying Doctors ground ambulance is currently on standby at State House Nairobi as one of the official ambulances covering Pope Francis' three days event in Kenya.

Our Ambulances are Mercedes Transit vans retrofitted by BINZ of Germany and equipped with High-tech medical equipment to handle critical care transfers, major trauma and resuscitation and advanced life support, crewed by professional, well trained critical care nurses and doctors who undergo rigorous and continuous education...

Aravind Eye Care System [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

BRAC [to 28 November 2015]

<http://www.brac.net/#news>

No new digest content identified.

CARE International [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Casa Alianza [to 28 November 2015]
Covenant House [to 28 November 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

Clubhouse International

<http://www.clubhouse-intl.org/news.html>

No new digest content identified.

Danish Refugee Council [to 28 November 2015]

<https://www.drc.dk/news>

[Overstretched refugee camps put over 110,000 Burundians in Tanzania at risk, warn aid agencies](#)

Overstretched and underfunded refugee camps put over 110,000 Burundians in Tanzania at risk, as potential influx and heavy rains loom large warn aid agencies

23.11.15

ECPAT [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Fountain House [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Handicap International [to 28 November 2015]

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

[Landmine Monitor 2015: Mine-free world in a decade? States must keep their promise](#)

Posted on November 26, 2015 4:00 AM

Silver Spring, MD—Handicap International is urging countries contaminated by landmines, and those home to victims of these barbaric weapons, to redouble their efforts to protect civilians. Landmine casualties rose 12% in 2014, according to the Landmine Monitor 2015[1], an annual report that measures how States are meeting their obligations under the Ottawa Convention[2]. The report was released today in Geneva.

The 17th annual Landmine Monitor, coordinated in part by Handicap International, finds that demining operations are moving at a slow pace in several countries. Indeed, 27 of the 33 States Parties contaminated by mines have been granted extensions on their clearance deadlines. This throws into doubt the political will of certain States to meet their obligations.

"In 2014, States Parties to the Ottawa treaty committed themselves to ridding the world of mines by 2025," explains Anne Héry, Advocacy director at Handicap International. "They have ten years to complete their demining programs, destroy existing stockpiles and provide victims with assistance. We are calling on States Parties whose territories are contaminated to be particularly unstinting in their efforts. We're also asking funding bodies to stay fully engaged, and to reverse the loss of impetus in terms of funding for anti-mines action."

More than 3,600 casualties in 2014

According to the Landmine Monitor 2015, mines or explosive remnants of war killed or injured 3,678 people in 2014, up 12% compared with 2013. The report also underlines a steady rise in the use of improvised explosive devices by non-State armed groups....

Heifer International [to 28 November 2015]

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

[Heifer International Weekly](#)

Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2015

HelpAge International [to 28 November 2015]

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

[Overstretched and underfunded refugee camps put over 110,000 Burundians in Tanzania at risk, as potential influx and heavy rains loom large, aid agencies warn](#)

Health and shelter for Burundian refugees in Tanzania are poised to get worse in already overstretched camps, the aid agencies Oxfam, Help Age International, Plan International, Save the Children, International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) warned today, if there is an increased influx of refugees across the border.

Posted: 23 November 2015

IRC International Rescue Committee [to 28 November 2015]

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

27 Nov 2015

[Central African Republic: Papal Visit Sheds Light on Security, Humanitarian Access Challenges in War-Torn Country](#)

:: Pope's visit to war-torn country amid continuing tensions symbol of much-needed reconciliation between communities.

:: International and local humanitarian agencies still working at limited capacity because of volatile and unpredictable security, both in and out of the capital.

:: Pope should support the International Rescue Committee's call to condemn attacks against humanitarian actors, ask warring parties to cease hostilities and grant access to most vulnerable, specifically PK5 in Bangui.

:: International spotlight on CAR should not be limited to the pope's visit; donors should redouble funding essential social services until the government is able to take over.

23 Nov 2015

[Overstretched and underfunded refugee camps put over 110,000 Burundians in Tanzania at risk, as potential influx and heavy rains loom large warn aid agencies](#)

ICRC [to 28 November 2015]

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

[Kazakhstan: Round-table on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons](#)

Astana (ICRC) – The Kazakh Humanitarian Law University will host a round-table on 30 November on the cost in human terms of nuclear weapons.

27-11-2015 | News release

[European Microfinance Award. Speech by ICRC president Peter Maurer.](#)

Sixth European Microfinance Award.

25-11-2015 | Statement

[Niger: Seminar on Islamic law and humanitarianism](#)

Niamey (ICRC) – A seminar on Islam, humanitarian action and protecting victims of armed conflict is bringing together 30 intellectuals and academics from Islamic and Arabic-speaking universities from across Africa.

25-11-2015 | News release

[Kuwait: Authorities share health-care expertise with visiting Algerian team](#)

Kuwait (ICRC) –The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), together with the health and interior ministries of Kuwait, facilitated a study trip to Kuwait from 22 to 25 November for a team of Algerian officials.

25-11-2015 | News release

IRCT [to 28 November 2015]

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

News

[Human Rights Council tells Georgia, Lebanon and Nepal to enhance fight against torture and ensure rehabilitation for victims](#)

27 November 2015

News

[IRCT calls on States to reject move at UN General Assembly to restrict protection of human rights defenders](#)

25 November 2015

[See Week in Review above]

Islamic Relief [to 28 November 2015]

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

[Putting an end to early and forced marriage](#)

November 25, 2015

The right of girls to a childhood free of early and forced marriage is the subject of an interfaith conference being held today in Zambia.

Organised by Islamic Relief and the World YWCA in collaboration with World Vision International, the two-hour discussion will centre on faith responses to child, early and forced marriage...

[Campaigning for climate justice](#)

November 24, 2015

Islamic Relief is launching a toolkit to help Muslim communities around the world share the messages of the Islamic Declaration on Climate Change and join a fast-growing international community of faith groups that are actively working to tackle climate change ahead of COP21.

The [Islamic Climate Change Declaration Toolkit](#) will equip individuals and groups with ideas on how to use the Islamic Climate Change Declaration to mobilise for change and will provide a platform for them to deliver climate justice in their local communities, helping them to live up to Allah's responsibility bestowed upon humankind as: "stewards placed on this earth"...

[MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières](#) [to 28 November 2015]

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

Press release

[Missiles Hit MSF-Supported Hospital Near Damascus](#)

November 21, 2015

BRUSSELS—A Damascus area hospital supported by the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) was struck by missiles on November 19, during an attack on a town in a besieged area east of the [Syrian](#) capital.

Field News

[MSF Initial Reaction to US Military Investigation into Kunduz Attack](#)

November 25, 2015

The US version of events presented today leaves MSF with more questions than answers. It is shocking that an attack can be carried out when US forces have neither eyes on a target nor access to a no-strike list, and have malfunctioning communications systems. It appears that 30 people were killed and hundreds of thousands of people are denied lifesaving care in Kunduz simply because the MSF hospital was the closest large building to an open field and "roughly matched" a description of an intended target.

The frightening catalogue of errors outlined today illustrates gross negligence on the part of US forces and violations of the rules of war. The destruction of a protected facility without verifying the target—in this case a functioning hospital full of medical staff and patients—cannot only be dismissed as individual human error or breaches of the US rules of engagement. MSF reiterates its call for an independent and impartial investigation into the attack on our hospital in Kunduz. Investigations of this incident cannot be left solely to parties to the conflict in Afghanistan.

Field news

[Key MSF Articles, Statements, and Reports on Kunduz](#)

November 24, 2015

[Kunduz Hospital Attack: MSF Factsheet](#)

[MSF Initial Reaction to US Military Investigation into Kunduz Attack](#)

Field news

[In Memoriam: MSF Colleagues Killed in the Kunduz Trauma Hospital Attack](#)

November 23, 2015

Mercy Corps [to 28 November 2015]
<http://www.mercycorps.org/press-room/releases>
No new digest content identified.

Operation Smile [to 28 November 2015]
<http://www.operationssmile.org/press-room>
:: [Program Schedule](#)
Here's what we're doing worldwide to make a difference in the lives of children who deserve every opportunity for safe surgical care.

OXFAM [to 28 November 2015]
<http://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressreleases>
[Delays in cutting emissions set to cost developing countries hundreds of billions of dollars more](#)
25 November 2015
Climate change alert: Oxfam report reveals spiralling costs of 3 degree compared to 2 degrees warming.

[Huge majority of public call for new laws to clamp down on tax havens – Pan-European poll](#)
24 November 2015
Eight of ten Europeans say laws need to change to clamp down on the use of tax havens, a poll published on Tuesday shows.

[Overstretched and underfunded refugee camps in Tanzania put over 110,000 Burundian refugees at risk](#)
23 November 2015
Health and shelter for Burundian refugees in Tanzania are poised to get worse in already overstretched camps, the aid agencies Oxfam, HelpAge International, Plan International, Save the Children, International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) warned today, if there is an increased influx of refugees across the border.

Norwegian Refugee Council [to 28 November 2015]
<http://www.nrc.no/>
Mediterranean
[More deaths at sea likely as winter looms](#)
Tiril Skarstein (27.11.2015)
Friday six children drowned off the Turkish coast. The Norwegian Refugee Council fears that more children will die in the Mediterranean in the coming months as the sea gets rougher and refugees and migrants continue to come.
"The EU and its Member States must prioritise the saving of lives at sea as the weather gets worse and people continue to cross the sea from Turkey to Greece," said Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council Jan Egeland. "Today's tragic accidents outside Turkey's coast highlight the need for more and better rescue capacity between Turkey and Greece, and for alternative safe and legal routes to Europe".

News

[Verdict in court case against NRC](#)

Tuva Raanes Bogsnes (25.11.2015)

NRC has received the verdict in the court case related to the attack and kidnapping in Dadaab, Kenya in June 2012.

Oslo District Court has awarded Steve Dennis compensation for financial and non-financial loss of NOK 4.4 million. The court found that NRC was grossly negligent in regards to the safe-guarding of staff during the visit of the Secretary General in Dadaab in 2012.

"We will now need time to evaluate all the aspects of the verdict before we decide whether to appeal the ruling," said NRC Deputy Secretary General, Geir Olav Lisle.

On 29 June 2012, a group of armed men opened fire on an NRC convoy in the IFO II Dadaab Refugee Camp in Kenya. Several people suffered gunshot wounds and one driver was fatally injured. Four NRC staff were abducted and taken across the border into Somalia. NRC's then Secretary General, the Regional Director for the Horn of Africa and the Area Manager for Dadaab managed to escape the scene unharmed. The abducted staff were rescued and returned to Kenya four days later.

Steve Dennis was one of the NRC staff abducted in Dadaab. He filed a claim against NRC seeking financial and non-financial damages on the basis that the kidnapping and subsequent loss of work ability was directly caused by negligence and gross negligence on NRC's part in Dadaab in 2012. The court case took place in Oslo in late October this year.

"It is important to underline that the Dadaab attack profoundly impacted the entire organisation and that NRC deeply regrets the loss and the traumatic experience suffered by all NRC staff in Dadaab in June 2012. It has been important for us to learn from the incident and we will continue to learn from this in the time to come, Lisle said...

Pact [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Partners In Health [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

PATH [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Plan International [to 28 November 2015]

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

Publications & Research

[Young, Woman and Unemployed: The Triple Challenge - Youth Economic Empowerment in developing and emerging countries](#)

26 November 2015

Young women are the first victims of economic instability throughout the world. They represent the majority of the 628 million young people aged 15-24 who have neither a job nor an education.

This report highlights situations experienced by the most vulnerable young women in terms of accessing decent employment or self-employment in developing countries. Working from a grid analysis and field experiences, it also shows how to mainstream gender at all stages of youth economic empowerment programmes...

Save The Children [to 28 November 2015]

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

Overstretched and Underfunded Refugee Camps Put over 110,000 Burundians in Tanzania at Risk, as Potential Influx and Heavy Rains Loom Large, Warn Aid Agencies

FAIRFIELD, Conn. (Nov. 23, 2015) — Health and shelter for Burundian refugees in Tanzania are poised to get worse in already overstretched camps, if there is an increased influx of refugees across the border, the aid agencies Oxfam, HelpAge International, Plan International, Save the Children, International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) warned today. Reports of escalating political instability inside Burundi have prompted fears of a new exodus of refugees into neighboring countries, which would push the current limits of the camps in western Tanzania to breaking point. Nyarugusu, where Burundians began arriving in April this year, is now the world's third largest refugee camp...

SOS-Kinderdorf International [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Tostan [to 28 November 2015]

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

November 24, 2015

Communities in Senegal Embrace Positive Parental Practices

...The RPP program—implemented in communities that have already taken part in Tostan's Community Empowerment Program (CEP)—equips parents with the knowledge and tools to improve the quality of their interactions with children, stimulating brain development and preparing them for school. Since the pilot phase in 2012, the program has been implemented in 342 communities, and has reached many more as a result of communities spreading their new knowledge within their social networks. The program includes class sessions tailored to the local context and delivered in three national languages—Wolof, Pulaar and Mandinka—by a trained facilitator who lives in the community throughout the one-year program. Parents are also given a set of illustrated storybooks written in national languages to encourage reading with children...

Women for Women International [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

.....

ChildFund Alliance [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

CONCORD [to 28 November 2015]

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

European NGO confederation for relief and development

[EU misses its own target for development aid: A false start for the EU Agenda 2030 ambitions](#)

(Brussels 24/11/2015) Action remains well short of ambition in the European Union, a new report by CONCORD, the European NGO confederation for relief and development shows.

Despite repeated promises, the EU as a whole did not deliver on its commitment to spend 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) as aid by 2015. More worryingly, there is an emerging trend in EU countries to divert aid budgets from sustainable development to domestic costs associated with hosting refugees and asylum seekers.

Disasters Emergency Committee [to 28 November 2015]

[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]

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

No new digest content identified.

The Elders [to 28 November 2015]

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

Guest blog Mai Abu Moghli 26 November 2015

[Palestine Refugees in Syria: A Recurring Tragedy](#)

Refugees for over six decades, Palestinians in Syria face a precarious legal status given the civil war and renewed displacement. Mai Abu Moghli – a PhD candidate at the Institute of Education, University of London explains how some are falling through the cracks of the international protection regime and calls for a solution based on human rights and international law.

Guest blog Arifa Nasim 23 November 2015

[How young people can combat violence against women](#)

Violence against women is sometimes justified by abusers and perpetrators as a matter of 'honour'. In this guest blog to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, 18 year-old youth activist Arifa Nasim from London explains how she uses education to challenge prejudice within communities and encourages women of all ages and backgrounds to empower themselves.

END Fund [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Gavi [to 28 November 2015]

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

[Organisation of Islamic Cooperation approves Gavi membership to key health committee](#)

Vaccine Alliance support already helping to immunise millions of children in OIC member states.

Geneva, 26 November 2015 – Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance has been officially invited to become a member of the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) Steering Committee on Health. The invitation, which recognises Gavi's support for childhood immunisation in OIC member states, meant the Vaccine Alliance was able to participate in the 10th Steering Committee on Health (SCH) in Istanbul last week. The SCH, set up at the first Islamic Conference of Health Ministers (ICHM) in 2007, tracks implementation of a framework for action through progress and evaluation reports.

From 2000 to 30 September 2015, Gavi provided more than US\$ 4 billion to support immunisation in 33 OIC member states – equivalent to 49% of Gavi disbursements. This has helped developing countries immunise more than 210 million children, saving over four million lives.

Ambassador Mohammed Naeem Khan, Assistant Secretary-General of Science and Technology at the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), said: "We welcome Gavi as a member of SCH and highly appreciate its active support to OIC member states and look forward to further strengthening of the partnership between OIC and Gavi."...

Global Fund [to 28 November 2015]

<http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/news/>

[The Link Between HIV and Violence Against Women](#)

in Voices on 24 November 2015

[Accelerating the Elimination of Malaria in Southern Africa](#)

By Dr. Richard Kamwi, Elimination 8 Ambassador and former Minister of Health of Namibia, and Mark Dybul, Executive Director of the Global Fund
in Voices on 23 November 2015

Hilton Prize Coalition [to 28 November 2015]

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

An Alliance of Hilton Prize Recipients

No new digest content identified.

InterAction [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Start Network [to 28 November 2015]

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

[Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies]

[Spotlight on the Start Fund: Peer field review of the Malawi & Mozambique flood response](#)

November 23, 2015

Posted by Helen James in Blog.

In January 2015, the Start Fund responded to flooding in Malawi and Mozambique. The floods had caused mass displacement and destroyed the vast majority of agricultural livelihoods, affecting more than 1 million people.

The Learning and Evaluation Committee conducted its normal peer-review of the response, and a number of key questions arose. With their approval, the Monitoring and Evaluation team at Action Against Hunger decided to launch a learning exercise from July 11-18 using the 1% learning budget.

A bespoke methodology was developed for the Start Fund's first ever peer field review. The pilot was successful and led to a number of key findings, detailed in this case study...

Muslim Charities Forum [to 28 November 2015]

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.

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

No new digest content identified.

.....

Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) [to 28 November 2015]

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

RECOMMENDED EVENT

[Online Learning Series on Humanitarian Law and Policy – The relationship between the International Criminal Court and humanitarian actors](#)

2 December 2015 | 2pm – 3pm (GMT) | PHAP

Though the International Criminal Court represents an important commitment to international justice, it is not free from challenges and critique. One such issue is the relationship between the ICC and humanitarian actors.

Humanitarian actors often have unparalleled access in the contexts the Court investigates, and because of this humanitarians may be approached to cooperate with the Court. Such cooperation, however, complicates the principles that govern humanitarians' operations. This event will explore the issues and debates stemming from the relationship between the ICC and humanitarian actors.

CHS International Alliance [to 28 November 2015]

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

25/11/2015

[The CHS is now available in Urdu](#)

The Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) is now available in Urdu. The Standard was translated into Urdu by Community World Service Asia (CWSA).

EHLRA/R2HC [to 28 November 2015]
[http://www.elrha.org/resource-hub/news/
Collaborate and innovate to tackle GBV](http://www.elrha.org/resource-hub/news/Collaborate_and_innovate_to_tackle_GBV)
27.11.2015

Seed Funding Opportunity - The objective for the HIF during the first year of the GBV programme is to lay foundations for successful next steps.

Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) [to 28 November 2015]
[http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/
Ebola virus disease in Liberia](http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/Ebola_virus_disease_in_Liberia)
Report Synopsis
Date: 2015/11/23

On 20 November 2015 we responded to a funding alert for a new case of the Ebola virus disease in Liberia. The day before, less than three months after Liberia was last declared free of Ebola, it was confirmed that a 10-year-old boy had tested positive for the virus.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)'s Financial Tracking Service (FTS), donors have committed/contributed US\$236.9 million of humanitarian assistance to Liberia since the start of 2015. At least US\$227.7 million of this is for the Ebola response. However, there are currently no financial contributions or pledges in response to this new outbreak of the disease.

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

The Sphere Project [to 28 November 2015]
[http://www.sphereproject.org/news/
Launching the global survey "Growing the Sphere network"](http://www.sphereproject.org/news/Launching_the_global_survey_\)
26 November 2015 | Sphere Project

The purpose of this survey is to help Sphere become a stronger, more robust and inclusive network whose mission it is to convene and support individuals, communities, organisations and like-minded standards-setting bodies who apply, promote and encourage voluntary adherence to humanitarian standards and principles....

The survey is available in [English](#), [Arabic](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#). You can take this survey online until 11 December 2015...

Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP) [to 28 November 2015]
<https://phap.org/>
No new digest content identified.

.....

Center for Global Development [to 28 November 2015]
<http://www.cgdev.org/page/press-center>

[Changes in Funding Patterns by Latin American Banking Systems: How Large? How Risky? - Working Paper 420](#)

11/20/15

[Liliana Rojas-Suarez](#) and [José María Serena](#)

This paper investigates the shifts in Latin American banks' funding patterns in the post-global financial crisis period. To this end, we introduce a new measure of exposure of local banking systems to international debt markets that we term: International Debt Issuances by Locally Supervised Institutions. In contrast to well-known BIS measures, our new metric includes all entities that fall under the supervisory purview of the local authority.

ODI [to 28 November 2015]

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

[Financing climate technology transfer](#)

Briefing papers | November 2015 | Sam Barnard and Smita Nakhooda

We discuss the opportunities to encourage and finance technology transfer in developing countries, informed by the experience of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

World Economic Forum [to 28 November 2015]

<https://agenda.weforum.org/news/>

[City Planning Needed as 6 out of 10 Global Consumers Expect Driverless Revolution](#)

Report News 24 Nov 2015

:: Nearly 60% of consumers in cities around the world are willing to travel in self-driving vehicles, according to a new World Economic Forum survey; acceptance highest in emerging markets such as China, India and UAE; around 50% in US and UK; lowest in Japan and Germany

:: City planners and governments need to prepare for introduction of self-driving cars; smart mobility cities such as Gothenburg and Singapore are already doing so

:: Find the full results of the survey [here](#)

New York, USA 24 November 2015 – The age of autonomous vehicles is fast approaching, and city leaders need to take steps to prepare as the disruptive technology becomes a reality, according to new survey results by the [World Economic Forum](#) released today...

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

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:: Foundation/Major Donor Watch

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

BMGF - Gates Foundation [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Annie E. Casey Foundation [to 28 November 2015]

<http://www.aecf.org/contact/newsroom/>

No new digest content identified.

Clinton Foundation [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Ford Foundation [to 28 November 2015]

<http://www.fordfoundation.org/?filter=News>

No new digest content identified.

GHIT Fund [to 28 November 2015]

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

GHIT was set up in 2012 with the aim of developing new tools to tackle infectious diseases that devastate the world's poorest people. Other funders include six Japanese pharmaceutical companies, the Japanese Government and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

No new digest content identified.

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

IKEA Foundation [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

HHMI - Howard Hughes Medical Institute [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Kellogg Foundation [to 28 November 2015]

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

[La June Montgomery Tabron talks Business Case for Racial Equity in Michigan at 2015 Diversity and Inclusion Forum](#)

WKKF's president and CEO delivers keynote detailing economic benefits of promoting racial equity in Grand Rapids and Michigan

Nov. 20, 2015

BATTLE CREEK, MICH. – La June Montgomery Tabron, president and CEO of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), opened the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Diversity and Inclusion Forum on Friday with a keynote speech sharing key takeaways from the [Business Case for Racial Equity in Michigan](#), focusing on the benefits for developing a well-trained, more diverse workforce in Grand Rapids and Michigan.

The report, developed by WKKF and the Altarum Institute, provides a blueprint for how pursuing and achieving racial healing and equity can lead to better outcomes for future generations and our economy...

MacArthur Foundation [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation [to 28 November 2015]

<https://www.moore.org/newsroom/press-releases>

[Janet Corrigan, Ph.D., M.B.A., joins Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation](#)

November 23, 2015

Palo Alto, Calif. – Today, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation announced the appointment of Janet Corrigan, Ph.D., M.B.A., as the new chief program officer for patient care. Dr. Corrigan will lead the team responsible for distributing more than \$40 million a year to improve the experience and outcomes of patient care...

Open Society Foundation [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

David and Lucile Packard Foundation [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Pew Charitable Trusts [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Rockefeller Foundation [to 28 November 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [to 28 November 2015]
<http://www.rwjf.org/en/about-rwjf/newsroom/news-releases.html>
No new digest content identified.

Wellcome Trust [to 28 November 2015]
<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/News/2015/index.htm>
No new digest content identified.

[\[back to table of contents\]](#)16 to 30

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:: Journal Watch

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

American Journal of Disaster Medicine

Spring 2015, Volume 10, Number 2
<http://pnpcsw.pnpco.com/cadmus/testvol.asp?year=2015&journal=ajdm>
[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Infection Control

November 2015 Volume 43, Issue 11, p1147-1268, e67-e81
<http://www.ajicjournal.org/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Preventive Medicine

December 2015 Volume 49, Issue 6, p811-988, e89-e134
<http://www.ajpmonline.org/current>

[A Systematic Review of the Impact of Juvenile Curfew Laws on Public Health and Justice Outcomes](#)

Elyse R. Grossman, Nancy A. Miller
p945–951
Published online: October 8 2015
Preview

Automobile crashes cause more than 800,000 youth injuries and deaths each year. Other youth suffer the consequences from being either a perpetrator or victim of a crime. One type of law that has an effect on youth behavior is juvenile curfew laws. These laws restrict the times that youth may occupy public places or streets. We systematically reviewed studies evaluating the effectiveness of these laws to address the question: Can juvenile curfew laws be used to improve youth public health and juvenile justice outcomes?

American Journal of Public Health

Volume 105, Issue 12 (December 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

November 2015; 93 (5)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

BMC Health Services Research

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

(Accessed 28 November 2015)

Research article

Population level usage of health services, and HIV testing and care, prior to decentralization of antiretroviral therapy in Agago District in rural Northern Uganda

G. Abongomera, S. Kiwuwa-Muyingo, P. Revill, L. Chiwaula, T. Mabugu, A. Phillips, E. Katabira, V. Musiime, C. Gilks, A. Chan, J. Hakim, R. Colebunders, C. Kityo, D. Gibb, J. Seeley, D. Ford, for the Lablite Project Team

BMC Health Services Research 2015, 15:527 (28 November 2015)

Research article

Survey of patient perceptions towards short-term mobile medical aid for those living in a medically underserved area of Swaziland

Yi-Hao Weng, Hung-Yi Chiou, Chi-Cheng Tu, Say-Tsung Liao, Patience Bhembe, Chun-Yuh Yang, Ya-Wen Chiu

BMC Health Services Research 2015, 15:524 (27 November 2015)

BMC Infectious Diseases

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

(Accessed 28 November 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Medical Ethics

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

(Accessed 28 November 2015)

[No new content]

BMC Medicine

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

(Accessed 28 November 2015)

Research article

[The 2014 Ebola virus disease outbreak in Pujehun, Sierra Leone: epidemiology and impact of interventions](#)

Marco Ajelli, Stefano Parlamento, David Bome, Atiba Kebbi, Andrea Atzori, Clara Frasson, Giovanni Putoto, Dante Carraro, Stefano Merler

BMC Medicine 2015, 13:281 (26 November 2015)

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

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

(Accessed 28 November 2015)

Research article

[Direct observation of respectful maternity care in five countries: a cross-sectional study of health facilities in East and Southern Africa](#)

Heather Rosen, Pamela Lynam, Catherine Carr, Veronica Reis, Jim Ricca, Eva Bazant, Linda Bartlett, on behalf of the Quality of Maternal and Newborn Care Study Group of the Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth 2015, 15:306 (23 November 2015)

Abstract

Background

Poor quality of care at health facilities is a barrier to pregnant women and their families accessing skilled care. Increasing evidence from low resource countries suggests care women receive during labor and childbirth is sometimes rude, disrespectful, abusive, and not responsive to their needs. However, little is known about how frequently women experience these behaviors. This study is one of the first to report prevalence of respectful maternity care and disrespectful and abusive behavior at facilities in multiple low resource countries.

Methods

Structured, standardized clinical observation checklists were used to directly observe quality of care at facilities in five countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, and the United Republic of Tanzania. Respectful care was represented by 10 items describing actions the provider should take to ensure the client was informed and able to make choices about her care, and that her dignity and privacy were respected. For each country, percentage of women receiving these practices and delivery room privacy conditions were calculated. Clinical observers' open-ended comments were also analyzed to identify examples of disrespect and abuse.

Results

A total of 2164 labor and delivery observations were conducted at hospitals and health centers. Encouragingly, women overall were treated with dignity and in a supportive manner by providers, but many women experienced poor interactions with providers and were not well-informed about their care. Both physical and verbal abuse of women were observed during the study. The most frequently mentioned form of disrespect and abuse in the open-ended comments was abandonment and neglect.

Conclusions

Efforts to increase use of facility-based maternity care in low income countries are unlikely to achieve desired gains if there is no improvement in quality of care provided, especially elements of respectful care. This analysis identified insufficient communication and information sharing by providers as well as delays in care and abandonment of laboring women as deficiencies in respectful care. Failure to adopt a patient-centered approach and a lack of health system resources are contributing structural factors. Further research is needed to understand these barriers and develop effective interventions to promote respectful care in this context.

BMC Public Health

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

(Accessed 28 November 2015)

Research article

Provider costs for prevention and treatment of cardiovascular and related conditions in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review

Elizabeth Brouwer, David Watkins, Zachary Olson, Jane Goett, Rachel Nugent, Carol Levin
BMC Public Health 2015, 15:1183 (26 November 2015)

Research article

Systematic review of structural interventions for intimate partner violence in low- and middle-income countries: organizing evidence for prevention

Christine Bourey, Whitney Williams, Erin Bernstein, Rob Stephenson
BMC Public Health 2015, 15:1165 (23 November 2015)

Research article

Health literacy and refugees' experiences of the health examination for asylum seekers – a Swedish cross-sectional study

Josefin Wångdahl, Per Lytsy, Lena Mårtensson, Ragnar Westerling
BMC Public Health 2015, 15:1162 (23 November 2015)

Research article

A systematic review of studies evaluating Australian indigenous community development projects: the extent of community participation, their methodological quality and their outcomes

Mieke Snijder, Anthony Shakeshaft, Annemarie Wagemakers, Anne Stephens, Bianca Calabria
BMC Public Health 2015, 15:1154 (21 November 2015)

BMC Research Notes

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

(Accessed 28 November 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMJ Open

2015, Volume 5, Issue 10

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

[Reviewed earlier]

British Medical Journal

28 November 2015 (vol 351, issue 8035)

<http://www.bmj.com/content/351/8035>

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Brown Journal of World Affairs

Volume XXI Issue 1 Fall–Winter 2014

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Bulletin of the World Health Organization

Volume 93, Number 11, November 2015, 741-816

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/93/11/en/>

[Reviewed earlier]

Complexity

November/December 2015 Volume 21, Issue 2 Pages C1–C1, 1–366

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/cplx.v21.2/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

Conflict and Health

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

[Accessed 28 November 2015]

[No new content]

Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation

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

(Accessed 28 November 2015)

[No new content]

Developing World Bioethics

December 2015 Volume 15, Issue 3 Pages iii–iii, 115–275

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Development in Practice

Volume 25, Issue 8, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology

Volume 10, Issue 6, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness

Volume 9 - Issue 06 - December 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Disasters

October 2015 Volume 39, Issue 4 Pages 611–810

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/disa.2015.39.issue-4/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

Emergency Medicine Journal

November 2015, Volume 32, Issue 11

<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 16 - December 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

The European Journal of Public Health

Volume 25, Issue 5, 1 October 2015

<http://eurpub.oxfordjournals.org/content/25/5>

[Reviewed earlier]

Eurosurveillance

Volume 20, Issue 47, 26 November 2015

<http://www.eurosurveillance.org/Public/Articles/Archives.aspx?PublicationId=11678>

Systematic review

[International travel and acquisition of multidrug-resistant Enterobacteriaceae: a systematic review](#)

by R Hassing, J Alisma, M Arcilla, P van Genderen, B Stricker, A Verbon

Food Policy

Volume 57, In Progress (November 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Food Security

Volume 7, Issue 5, October 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/12571/7/5/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

Forum for Development Studies

Volume 42, Issue 3, 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)

September 2015 | Volume 3 | Issue 3

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Global Health Governance

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

[Accessed 28 November 2015]

[No new content]

Global Public Health

Volume 10, Issue 10, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Globalization and Health

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

[Accessed 28 November 2015]

Research

Conceptual and institutional gaps: understanding how the WHO can become a more effective cross-sectoral collaborator

Gopinathan U, Watts N, Hougendobler D, Lefebvre A, Cheung A, Hoffman SJ and Røttingen JA
Globalization and Health 2015, 11:46 (24 November 2015)

Abstract

Background

Two themes consistently emerge from the broad range of academics, policymakers and opinion leaders who have proposed changes to the World Health Organization (WHO): that reform efforts are too slow, and that they do too little to strengthen WHO's capacity to facilitate cross-sectoral collaboration. This study seeks to identify possible explanations for the challenges WHO faces in addressing the broader determinants of health, and the potential opportunities for working across sectors.

Methods

This qualitative study used a mixed methods approach of semi-structured interviews and document review. Five interviewees were selected by stratified purposive sampling within a sampling frame of approximately 45 potential interviewees, and a targeted document review was conducted. All interviewees were senior WHO staff at the department director level or above. Thematic analysis was used to analyze data from interview transcripts, field notes, and the document review, and data coded during the analysis was analyzed against three central research questions. First, how does WHO conceptualize its mandate in global health? Second, what are the barriers and enablers to enhancing cross-sectoral collaboration between WHO and other intergovernmental organizations? Third, how do the dominant conceptual frames and the identified barriers and enablers to cross-sectoral collaboration interact?

Results

Analysis of the interviews and documents revealed three main themes: 1) WHO's role must evolve to meet the global challenges and societal changes of the 21st century; 2) WHO's cross-sectoral engagement is hampered internally by a dominant biomedical view of health, and the prevailing institutions and incentives that entrench this view; and 3) WHO's cross-sectoral engagement is hampered externally by siloed areas of focus for each intergovernmental organization, and the lack of adequate conceptual frameworks and institutional mechanisms to facilitate engagement across siloes.

Conclusion

There are a number of external and internal pressures on WHO which have created an organizational culture and operational structure that focuses on a narrow, technical approach to global health, prioritizing disease-based, siloed interventions over more complex approaches that span sectors. The broader approach to promoting human health and wellbeing, which is

conceptualized in WHO's constitution, requires cultural and institutional changes for it to be fully implemented.

Health Affairs

November 2015; Volume 34, Issue 11

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Health and Human Rights

Volume 17, Issue 1 June 2015

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

Special Section on Bioethics and the Right to Health

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Economics, Policy and Law

Volume 11 - Issue 01 - January 2016

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

Special Section

[Making fair choices on the path to universal health coverage: a précis](#)

Alex Voorhoeve¹ [c1](#), Trygve Ottersena² and Ole F. Norheim²

a1 Philosophy, Logic, and Scientific Method, London School of Economics, UK

a2 Department of Global Public Health and Primary Care, University of Bergen, Norway

Abstract

We outline key conclusions of the World Health Organisation's report 'Making Fair Choices on the Path to Universal Health Coverage (UHC)'. The Report argues that three principles should inform choices on the path to UHC: I. Coverage should be based on need, with extra weight given to the needs of the worse off; II. One aim should be to generate the greatest total improvement in health; III. Contributions should be based on ability to pay and not need. We describe how these principles determine which trade-offs are (un)acceptable. We also discuss which institutions contribute to fair and accountable choices.

Health Policy and Planning

Volume 30 Issue 10 December 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Research Policy and Systems

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

[Accessed 28 November 2015]

[No new content]

Human Rights Quarterly

Volume 37, Number 3, August 2015

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/human_rights_quarterly/toc/hrq.37.3.html

[Reviewed earlier]

Human Service Organizations Management, Leadership & Governance

Volume 39, Issue 5, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wasw21/current> [Reviewed earlier]

Humanitarian Exchange Magazine

Number 65 November 2015

http://odihpn.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/HE_65_web.pdf

Special Feature: The Crisis in Iraq

[Reviewed earlier]

Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics (formerly Human Vaccines)

Volume 11, Issue 11, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/khvi20/current>

Immunization of pregnant women: Future of early infant protection

pages 2549-2555

DOI:10.1080/21645515.2015.1070984

Azure N Faucette, Michael D Pawlitz, Bo Pei, Fayi Yao & Kang Chen

Abstract

Children in early infancy do not mount effective antibody responses to many vaccines against common infectious pathogens, which results in a window of increased susceptibility or severity infections. In addition, vaccine-preventable infections are among the leading causes of morbidity in pregnant women. Immunization during pregnancy can generate maternal immune protection as well as elicit the production and transfer of antibodies cross the placenta and via breastfeeding to provide early infant protection. Several successful vaccines are now recommended to all pregnant women worldwide. However, significant gaps exist in our understanding of the efficacy and safety of other vaccines and in women with conditions associated with increased susceptibility to high-risk pregnancies. Public acceptance of maternal immunization remained to be improved. Broader success of maternal immunization will rely on the integration of advances in basic science in vaccine design and evaluation and carefully planned clinical trials that are inclusive to pregnant women.

Vaccinations in prisons: A shot in the arm for community health

pages 2615-2626

Open access

DOI:10.1080/21645515.2015.1051269

Víctor-Guillermo Sequera, Salomé Valencia, Alberto L García-Basteiro, Andrés Marco & José M

Bayas

Abstract

From the first day of imprisonment, prisoners are exposed to and expose other prisoners to various communicable diseases, many of which are vaccine-preventable. The risk of acquiring these diseases during the prison sentence exceeds that of the general population. This excess risk may be explained by various causes; some due to the structural and logistical problems of prisons and others to habitual or acquired behaviors during imprisonment. Prison is, for many inmates, an opportunity to access health care, and is therefore an ideal opportunity to update adult vaccination schedules. The traditional idea that prisons are intended to ensure public safety should be complemented by the contribution they can make in improving community health, providing a more comprehensive vision of safety that includes public health.

Vaccine-preventable diseases in humanitarian emergencies among refugee and internally-displaced populations

pages 2627-2636

DOI:10.1080/21645515.2015.1096457

Eugene Lam, Amanda McCarthy & Muireann Brennan

Abstract

Humanitarian emergencies may result in breakdown of regular health services including routine vaccination programs. Displaced populations including refugees and internally displaced persons are particularly susceptible to outbreaks of communicable diseases such as vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs). Common VPDs encountered in humanitarian emergencies include measles, polio, and depending on geographical location, meningococcal meningitis, yellow fever, hepatitis A, and cholera. We conducted a review of 50 published articles from 2000 to 2015 concerning VPDs in humanitarian emergencies. This article provides an update on the available literature regarding vaccinations among this highly vulnerable population and describes the unique challenges of VPDs during humanitarian emergencies. Humanitarian emergencies place affected populations at risk for elevated morbidity and mortality from VPDs due to creation or exacerbation of factors associated with disease transmission such as mass population movements, overcrowding, malnutrition, and poor water and sanitation conditions. Vaccination is one of the most basic and critical health interventions for protecting vulnerable populations during emergencies. Growing insecurity, as seen in the increasing number of targeted attacks on health workers in recent years, as well as destruction of cold chain and infrastructure for transportation of supplies, are creating new challenges in provision of life saving vaccines in conflict settings. Population displacement can also threaten global VPD eradication and elimination efforts. While highly effective vaccines and guidelines to combat VPDs are available, the trend of increasing number of humanitarian emergencies globally poses new and emerging challenges in providing vaccination among displaced populations.

Research Paper

Immunizing nomadic children and livestock – Experience in North East Zone of Somalia

pages 2637-2639

DOI:10.1080/21645515.2015.1038682

Raoul Kamadjewa*, Abraham Mulugetab, Dhananjoy Guptac, Abdirisak Abshir Hirsid, Asalif Belaynehb, Marianne Clark-Hattinghc, Clement Adamsc, Payenda Abedc, Brenda Kyeyunec, Tajudin Ahmedb, Mohamed Salihe, Cyprien Biaooue & Brigitte Tourea

Abstract

Nomads and pastoralists represent around 30% of the population of North East zone of Somalia (Puntland) and have very limited access to basic health including immunization. During the

2013–2014 polio outbreak in Somalia, an increase number of polio cases notified health services among these underserved communities highlighted the urgent need to devise innovative strategies to reach them. Harnessing the high demand for veterinary services among pastoralist communities, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Livestock, with support from UNICEF, WHO and FAO launched an integrated human and animal vaccination campaign on 19 October 2014. Over 30 days, 20 social mobilizers conducted shelter to shelter social mobilization and interpersonal communication for nomadic/pastoralist hamlets, 20 human vaccination teams, accompanied by local community elders, traveled with animal vaccination teams to administer polio and measles vaccination to pastoralist communities in the 5 regions of Puntland. 26,393 children (0 to 10 years) received Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) out of which 34% for the first time ever; 23,099 were vaccinated against measles. and 12,556 Vitamin A. Despite various operational challenges and a significantly higher operational cost of \$6.2 per child reached with OPV, the integrated human and animal vaccination campaign was effective in reaching the unvaccinated children from nomadic and pastoralist communities of Somalia.

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.idpjournal.com/content>

[Accessed 28 November 2015]

[No new relevant content]

International Health

Volume 7 Issue 6 November 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Human Rights Law Review

Volume 4, Issue 2, 2015

<http://booksandjournals.brillonline.com/content/journals/22131035/4/2>

[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

November 2015 Volume 40, In Progress

<http://www.ijidonline.com/issue/S1201-9712%2815%29X0010-5>
[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology

Volume 22, Issue 6, 2015

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

International Migration Review

Fall 2015 Volume 49, Issue 3 Pages 555–839, e17–e32

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/imre.2015.49.issue-3/issuetoc>
[Reviewed earlier]

Intervention – Journal of Mental Health and Psychological Support in Conflict Affected Areas
November 2015 - Volume 13 - Issue 3 pp: 200-296

<http://journals.lww.com/interventionjnl/pages/currenttoc.aspx>
[Reviewed earlier]

JAMA

November 24, 2015, Vol 314, No. 20

<http://jama.jamanetwork.com/issue.aspx>
Viewpoint | November 24, 2015

Forced Migration - The Human Face of a Health Crisis

Lawrence O. Gostin, JD1; Anna E. Roberts, LLB, MIPH1

Extract

This Viewpoint discusses ways in which countries can help safeguard the rights and health of refugees, asylum-seekers, and forced migrants.

Addressing a joint session of Congress, Pope Francis said that migrants “travel for a better life....Is that not what we want for our own children?”¹ With that plea, the pontiff placed a human face on the modern migration crisis, with nearly 60 million refugees, asylum-seekers, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) fleeing predominantly from war-torn Syria, Afghanistan, and Somalia²; children comprise half the group. The global response is wholly incommensurate with the need: the European Union agreed to distribute only 120 000 asylum-seekers, and the United States will increase its annual refugee cap from 70 000 to 100 000 by 2017—neither of which will substantially affect the humanitarian crisis.

Original Investigation | November 24, 2015

Prevalence of Body Mass Index Lower Than 16 Among Women in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Fahad Razak, MD, MSc1,2,3; Daniel J. Corsi, PhD3,4; Arthur S. Slutsky, MD, MASc1,2;
Anura Kurpad, MD, PhD5; Lisa Berkman, PhD3; Andreas Laupacis, MD, MSc1,2; S.
V. Subramanian, PhD3

Abstract

Importance

Body mass index (BMI) lower than 16 is the most severe category of adult undernutrition and is associated with substantial morbidity, increased mortality, and poor maternal-fetal outcomes such as low-birth-weight newborns. Little is known about the prevalence and distribution of BMI lower than 16 in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC).

Objective

To determine the prevalence and distribution of BMI lower than 16 and its change in prevalence over time in women in LMIC.

Design, Settings, and Participants

Cross-sectional data analysis composed of nationally representative surveys from 1993 through 2012 from the Demographic and Health Surveys Program. Women aged 20 through 49 years from 60 LMIC (N = 500 761) and a subset of 40 countries with repeated surveys (N = 604 144) were examined.

Exposures

Wealth was measured using a validated asset index, age was categorized in deciles, education by highest completed level (none, primary, secondary, or greater), and place of residence as urban vs rural.

Main Outcomes and Measures

The primary outcome was BMI lower than 16. Analyses assessed the prevalence of BMI lower than 16, its association with sociodemographic factors, and change in prevalence. Logistic regression models were used to calculate odds ratios (ORs), adjusting for survey design and age structure.

Results

Among countries examined, the pooled, weighted, and age-standardized prevalence of BMI lower than 16 was 1.8% (95% CI, 1.7% to 1.8%) with the highest prevalence in India (6.2% [95% CI, 5.9% to 6.5%]), followed by Bangladesh (3.9% [95% CI, 3.4% to 4.3%]), Madagascar (3.4% [95% CI, 2.8% to 4.0%]), Timor-Leste (2.9% [95% CI, 2.4% to 3.2%]), Senegal (2.5% [95% CI, 1.9% to 3.2%]), and Sierra Leone (2.2% [95% CI, 1.3% to 3.0%]); and 6 countries had prevalences lower than 0.1% (Albania, Bolivia, Egypt, Peru, Swaziland, and Turkey). The prevalence of BMI lower than 16 in women with a secondary or higher education level was 0.51% (95% CI, 0.47% to 0.55%), and in mutually adjusted models, a less than primary education level was associated with an OR of 1.4 (95% CI, 1.2 to 1.6). The prevalence of BMI lower than 16 was 0.43% (95% CI, 0.37% to 0.48%) in the highest wealth quintile with an OR of 3.0 (95% CI, 2.4 to 3.7) in the lowest wealth quintile. Among the 24 of 39 countries with repeated surveys, there was no decrease in prevalence. In Bangladesh and India, rates were declining with an average absolute change annually of −0.52% (95% CI, −0.58% to −0.46%) in Bangladesh and −0.11% (95% CI, −0.12% to −0.10%) in India.

Conclusions and Relevance

Among women in 60 LMIC, the prevalence of BMI lower than 16 was 1.8%, and was associated with poverty and low education levels. Prevalence of BMI lower than 16 did not decrease over time in most countries studied.

JAMA Pediatrics

November 2015, Vol 169, No. 11

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Asian Development

Vol 1, No 1 (2015)

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Community Health

Volume 40, Issue 6, December 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Development Economics

Volume 117, Pages 1-170 (November 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health

November 2015, Volume 69, Issue 11

<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>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved (JHCPU)

Volume 26, Number 4, November 2015

https://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_health_care_for_the_poor_and_underserved/toc/hpu.26.4.html

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Management

Volume 5 Issue 2 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health

Volume 17, Issue 6, December 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10903/17/6/page/1>

Special issue : Mental Health and Substance Use

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies

Volume 13, Issue 3, 2015

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

Special Issue: Social Work and Migration in Europe [Reviewed earlier]

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Infectious Diseases

Volume 212 Issue 9 November 1, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of International Development

November 2015 Volume 27, Issue 8 Pages 1351–1545

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jid.v27.6/issuetoc>

Special Issue: AID, SOCIAL POLICY, AND DEVELOPMENT

Aid, Social Policy and Development (pages 1351–1365)

Tony Addison, Miguel Niño-Zarazúa and Finn Tarp

Article first published online: 10 NOV 2015 | DOI: 10.1002/jid.3187

Abstract

This paper discusses past and current social policy strategies in the international aid architecture as an introduction to the UNU-WIDER Special Issue. Beginning in the 1990s, aid strategy and policy shifted to put a stronger emphasis on human development. This accelerated with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and will continue under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which have even more ambitious targets. The paper also assesses some of the concerns associated with the 'Paris-style' aid modalities, and discusses major challenges for the future global development agenda.

[Donor Coordination for Effective Government Policies? \(pages 1422–1445\)](#)

Stefan Leiderer

Article first published online: 10 NOV 2015 | DOI: 10.1002/jid.3184

Abstract

New aid approaches devised under the Paris/Accra agenda for more effective aid are expected to make a particular difference in health and education as, arguably, in these sectors aid fragmentation is particularly prevalent. This article reviews evidence from recent in-depth country work on the extent to which the harmonisation and alignment principles, implemented through new aid modalities, have contributed to health and education outcomes in Zambia. Evidence suggests that even in a 'model' case for adopting Paris-style aid instruments such as Zambia, implementation of good aid principles has been insufficient to overcome the negative side effects of uncoordinated and fragmented aid. © 2015 UNU-WIDER.

How to Assess the Effectiveness of Development Aid Projects: Evaluation Ratings versus Project Indicators (pages 1496–1520)

Laura Metzger and Isabel Guenther

Article first published online: 10 NOV 2015 | DOI: 10.1002/jid.3189

Abstract

Most studies on project-based aid effectiveness rely on subjective evaluation ratings to measure projects' performance. Using the example of drinking water projects, this study compares evaluation ratings to objective, quantitative project indicators based on water supply to better understand the drivers of evaluation ratings. We find that evaluation ratings are only weakly correlated with improvements in water supply. Whereas the water supply-based project indicators are best explained by project design variables, evaluation ratings put more weight on project management and implementation.

The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics

Fall 2015 Volume 43, Issue 3 Pages 437–666

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jlme.2015.43.issue-3/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Medical Ethics

November 2015, Volume 41, Issue 11

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (JPIDS)

Volume 4 Issue 4 December 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Public Health Policy

Volume 36, Issue 4 (November 2015)

<http://www.palgrave-journals.com/jphp/journal/v36/n4/index.html>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of the Royal Society – Interface

06 August 2015; volume 12, issue 109

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Knowledge Management for Development Journal

Vol 11, No 1 (2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

The Lancet

Nov 28, 2015 Volume 386 Number 10009 p2117-2226 e45

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

Editorial

The Global Burden of Diseases: living with disability

The Lancet

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)01096-X](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)01096-X)

Summary

The UN observes the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on Dec 3, 2015. This year, three themes are highlighted in the agenda: making cities inclusive for all, improving disability data and statistics, and including those with invisible disabilities in society and development. These themes echo the specific mention of persons with disabilities in five of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): education; economic growth and employment; creation of inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities; reduction of inequalities; and data collection related to monitoring the SDGs.

Editorial

Ebola: lessons for future pandemics

The Lancet

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)01097-1](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)01097-1)

Summary

At the time of writing, hopes that the devastating west African Ebola outbreak was finally coming to its end were diminished by the recent confirmation of three new cases of the disease in Liberia. The country had previously been declared Ebola free on Sept 3—followed by Sierra Leone on Nov 7 and Guinea on Nov 19. The outbreak, which killed more than 11 000 people and infected at least 28 000, is the largest of its kind and a stark reminder of the fragility of health security in an interdependent world.

Global, regional, and national disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) for 306 diseases and injuries and healthy life expectancy (HALE) for 188 countries, 1990–2013: quantifying the epidemiological transition

GBD 2013 DALYs and HALE Collaborators Christopher J L Murray et al

Summary

Background

The Global Burden of Disease Study 2013 (GBD 2013) aims to bring together all available epidemiological data using a coherent measurement framework, standardised estimation methods, and transparent data sources to enable comparisons of health loss over time and across causes, age–sex groups, and countries. The GBD can be used to generate summary measures such as disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs) and healthy life expectancy (HALE) that make possible comparative assessments of broad epidemiological patterns across countries and time. These summary measures can also be used to quantify the component of variation in epidemiology that is related to sociodemographic development.

Methods

We used the published GBD 2013 data for age-specific mortality, years of life lost due to premature mortality (YLLs), and years lived with disability (YLDs) to calculate DALYs and HALE

for 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, and 2013 for 188 countries. We calculated HALE using the Sullivan method; 95% uncertainty intervals (UIs) represent uncertainty in age-specific death rates and YLDs per person for each country, age, sex, and year. We estimated DALYs for 306 causes for each country as the sum of YLLs and YLDs; 95% UIs represent uncertainty in YLL and YLD rates. We quantified patterns of the epidemiological transition with a composite indicator of sociodemographic status, which we constructed from income per person, average years of schooling after age 15 years, and the total fertility rate and mean age of the population. We applied hierarchical regression to DALY rates by cause across countries to decompose variance related to the sociodemographic status variable, country, and time.

Findings

Worldwide, from 1990 to 2013, life expectancy at birth rose by 6·2 years (95% UI 5·6–6·6), from 65·3 years (65·0–65·6) in 1990 to 71·5 years (71·0–71·9) in 2013, HALE at birth rose by 5·4 years (4·9–5·8), from 56·9 years (54·5–59·1) to 62·3 years (59·7–64·8), total DALYs fell by 3·6% (0·3–7·4), and age-standardised DALY rates per 100 000 people fell by 26·7% (24·6–29·1). For communicable, maternal, neonatal, and nutritional disorders, global DALY numbers, crude rates, and age-standardised rates have all declined between 1990 and 2013, whereas for non-communicable diseases, global DALYs have been increasing, DALY rates have remained nearly constant, and age-standardised DALY rates declined during the same period. From 2005 to 2013, the number of DALYs increased for most specific non-communicable diseases, including cardiovascular diseases and neoplasms, in addition to dengue, food-borne trematodes, and leishmaniasis; DALYs decreased for nearly all other causes. By 2013, the five leading causes of DALYs were ischaemic heart disease, lower respiratory infections, cerebrovascular disease, low back and neck pain, and road injuries. Sociodemographic status explained more than 50% of the variance between countries and over time for diarrhoea, lower respiratory infections, and other common infectious diseases; maternal disorders; neonatal disorders; nutritional deficiencies; other communicable, maternal, neonatal, and nutritional diseases; musculoskeletal disorders; and other non-communicable diseases. However, sociodemographic status explained less than 10% of the variance in DALY rates for cardiovascular diseases; chronic respiratory diseases; cirrhosis; diabetes, urogenital, blood, and endocrine diseases; unintentional injuries; and self-harm and interpersonal violence. Predictably, increased sociodemographic status was associated with a shift in burden from YLLs to YLDs, driven by declines in YLLs and increases in YLDs from musculoskeletal disorders, neurological disorders, and mental and substance use disorders. In most country-specific estimates, the increase in life expectancy was greater than that in HALE. Leading causes of DALYs are highly variable across countries.

Interpretation

Global health is improving. Population growth and ageing have driven up numbers of DALYs, but crude rates have remained relatively constant, showing that progress in health does not mean fewer demands on health systems. The notion of an epidemiological transition—in which increasing sociodemographic status brings structured change in disease burden—is useful, but there is tremendous variation in burden of disease that is not associated with sociodemographic status. This further underscores the need for country-specific assessments of DALYs and HALE to appropriately inform health policy decisions and attendant actions.

Funding

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Will Ebola change the game? Ten essential reforms before the next pandemic. The report of the Harvard-LSHTM Independent Panel on the Global Response to Ebola

Suerie Moon, Devi Sridhar, Muhammad A Pate, Ashish K Jha, Chelsea Clinton, Sophie Delaunay, Valnora Edwin, Mosoka Fallah, David P Fidler, Laurie Garrett, Eric Goosby, Lawrence O Gostin, David L Heymann, Kelley Lee, Gabriel M Leung, J Stephen Morrison, Jorge Saavedra, Marcel Tanner, Jennifer A Leigh, Benjamin Hawkins, Liana R Woskie, Peter Piot

Summary

The west African Ebola epidemic that began in 2013 exposed deep inadequacies in the national and international institutions responsible for protecting the public from the far-reaching human, social, economic, and political consequences of infectious disease outbreaks. The Ebola epidemic raised a crucial question: what reforms are needed to mend the fragile global system for outbreak prevention and response, rebuild confidence, and prevent future disasters? To address this question, the Harvard Global Health Institute and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine jointly launched the Independent Panel on the Global Response to Ebola.

Viewpoint

The International Health Regulations 10 years on: the governing framework for global health security

Prof Lawrence O Gostin, JD, Mary C DeBartolo, JD, Eric A Friedman, JD

Published Online: 22 November 2015

Summary

Fundamental revisions to the International Health Regulations in 2005 were meant to herald a new era of global health security and cooperation. Yet, 10 years later, the International Health Regulations face criticism, particularly after the west African Ebola epidemic. Several high-level panels¹ are reviewing the International Health Regulations' functions and urging reforms.² The Global Health Security Agenda, a multilateral partnership focused on preventing, detecting, and responding to natural, accidental, or intentional disease outbreaks, has similar capacity building aims, but operates largely outside the International Health Regulations.

The Lancet Infectious Diseases

Nov 2015 Volume 15 Number 11 p1243-1360

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Maternal and Child Health Journal

Volume 19, Issue 11, November 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10995/19/11/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

Medical Decision Making (MDM)

November 2015; 35 (8)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

The Milbank Quarterly

A Multidisciplinary Journal of Population Health and Health Policy

September 2015 Volume 93, Issue 3 Pages 447–649

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/milq.2015.93.issue-3/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

Nature

Volume 527 Number 7579 pp410-556 26 November 2015

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Nature Medicine

November 2015, Volume 21 No 11 pp1235-1371

<http://www.nature.com/nm/journal/v21/n11/index.html>

[Reviewed earlier]

New England Journal of Medicine

November 26, 2015 Vol. 373 No. 22

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly

December 2015; 44 (6)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration

OxMo Volume 5, No. 1 – August 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Pediatrics

November 2015, VOLUME 136 / ISSUE 5

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/136/5?current-issue=y>

[Reviewed earlier]

PharmacoEconomics

Volume 33, Issue 11, November 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/40273/33/10/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

PLOS Currents: Disasters

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

[Accessed 28 November 2015]

Criteria for Site Selection of Temporary Shelters after Earthquakes: a Delphi Panel

November 23, 2015 · Research article

Introduction: After a devastating earthquake, the site selection for the sheltering of earthquake victims is an important task. In order to generate a list of appropriate criteria for deciding on temporary sheltering site selection, we systematically combined the experience of experts and the findings of published documents in this study.

Methods: Having explored published papers, we generated a list of criteria for the selection of the best location for temporary sheltering. In the next step, all criteria were presented to a group of experts in Iran and after a scientific discussion, the list was updated. In the last step, the final list of criteria was developed using the Delphi method in three rounds.

Results: Based on our previous systematic review, 27 criteria were presented for sheltering site selection. Expert interviews added 12 more items to them. The Delphi process approved 21 criteria of all proposed ones. These items then grouped into four categories: land suitability, socio-cultural considerations, service availability and disaster risk reduction.

Discussion: After an earthquake, our list of criteria may help the disaster team to select the best locations for temporary sheltering with minimum confusion. The consent of the earthquake victims and cost reduction of the operation would be the minimum benefits of using the appropriate criteria. These criteria also could be used by researchers to make objective and reproducible assessments of temporary sheltering site selection.,

PLoS Currents: Outbreaks

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

(Accessed 28 November 2015)

[No new content]

PLoS Medicine

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

(Accessed 28 November 2015)

The HIV Treatment Gap: Estimates of the Financial Resources Needed versus Available for Scale-Up of Antiretroviral Therapy in 97 Countries from 2015 to 2020

Arin Dutta, Catherine Barker, Ashley Kallarakal

Research Article | published 24 Nov 2015 | PLOS Medicine

10.1371/journal.pmed.1001907

Conclusions

The projected number of people receiving ART across three scenarios suggests that countries are unlikely to meet the 90-90-90 treatment target (81% of people living with HIV on ART by 2020) unless they adopt a test-and-offer approach and increase ART coverage. Our results suggest that future resource needs for ART scale-up are smaller than stated elsewhere but still significantly threaten the sustainability of the global HIV response without additional resource mobilization from domestic or innovative financing sources or efficiency gains. As the world moves towards adopting the WHO 2015 guidelines, advances in technology, including the introduction of lower-cost, highly effective antiretroviral regimens, whose value are assessed

here, may prove to be “game changers” that allow more people to be on ART with the resources available.

PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases

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

(Accessed 28 November 2015)

Impact of the Neglected Tropical Diseases on Human Development in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Nations

Peter J. Hotez, Jennifer R. Herricks

Editorial | published 25 Nov 2015 | PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases

10.1371/journal.pntd.0003782

Extract

The employment of a new “worm index” of human development, together with additional published health information, confirms the important role neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) play in hindering the advancement of many of the world’s Muslim-majority countries.

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC, previously the Organisation of the Islamic Conference) is the major inter-governmental organization of 57 Muslim-majority countries, with a mission to promote human rights (especially those of children, women, and the elderly), education, trade, and good governance ([Fig 1](#)) [[1](#)]. Under the OIC charter, the advancement of science and technology through cooperative research is also a key component [[1,2](#)]. In 2009, one of us (PJH) reviewed the available data on the major NTDs and found that many of these diseases disproportionately affected OIC countries, particularly the poorest nations of the Sahel and elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia [[3](#)]. A previous survey of the 28 largest OIC nations—each with a population of at least 10 million people and comprising more than 90% of the populations of the OIC—found that they accounted for 35%–40% of the world’s soil-transmitted helminth infections and 46% of cases of schistosomiasis, in addition to approximately 20% of the cases of trachoma and leprosy [[3](#)]. Given the known impact of these NTDs on both public health and socioeconomic development, it was recommended that scale-up of mass treatment for these diseases should commence in the most affected OIC nations [[3](#)]. However, we find that it has been difficult to make progress against poverty and NTDs in the OIC nations...

PLoS One

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

[Accessed 28 November 2015]

[No new relevant content identified]

PLoS Pathogens

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

(Accessed 28 November 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 28 November 2015)
[No new relevant content identified]

Prehospital & Disaster Medicine

Volume 30 - Issue 05 - October 2015

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

Preventive Medicine

Volume 80, Pages 1-106 (November 2015)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/00917435/80>

Special Issue: Behavior change, health, and health disparities

[Reviewed earlier]

Public Health Ethics

Volume 8 Issue 3 November 2015

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

Special Symposium: Antimicrobial Resistance

[Reviewed earlier]

Qualitative Health Research

November 2015; 25 (11)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Refugee Survey Quarterly

Volume 34 Issue 4 December 2015

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

[A Continuum of Violence? Linking Sexual and Gender-based Violence during Conflict, Flight, and Encampment](#)

Ulrike Krause

Refugee Survey Quarterly (2015) 34 (4): 1-19 doi:10.1093/rsq/hdv014

Abstract

During the past years, scholars have studied sexual and gender-based violence during conflict and in refugee situations worldwide and produced a significant body of literature. However, little attention has been paid to connecting this type of violence during different phases, instead presenting it as different sets of cases. This article challenges this prevailing notion that violence during conflict, flight, and displacement are separate cases but suggests that it forms a continuum of violence. Based on a case study in Uganda, the article provides in-depth insights of scope, forms, and conditions of violence, and informs about factors impacting the violence. It is eventually argued, that the linearity of the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence during conflict, flight, and encampment reveals a continuum with widening patterns since

especially the forms, perpetrator structures, and conditions show a diachronic increase of complexity.

The Contribution of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to the Protection of Irregular Immigrants' Rights: Opportunities and Challenges

Ana Beduschi*

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Abstract

This article aims to re-evaluate and clarify the significance of the contribution of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to the protection of irregular immigrants' rights. It argues that this Court has placed itself at the forefront of a renewed approach to immigration, confirming its potential to promote an extended form of protection of irregular immigrants' rights in Latin America. However, the actual protection of irregular immigrants' rights promoted by the Court depends on Latin American countries' capability to overcome several important challenges, in particular with respect to the compliance with judicial decisions and the effectiveness of the protection of rights. These challenges, which are not purely legal or institutional, are strongly dependent on the Latin American cultural, political, and societal context. They may, therefore, hinder the impact of a stronger human rights-based approach to the protection of irregular immigrants' rights in Latin America.

Reproductive Health

<http://www.reproductive-health-journal.com/content>

[Accessed 28 November 2015]

Research

Predictors of skilled assistance seeking behavior to pregnancy complications among women at southwest Ethiopia: a cross-sectional community based study

Serawit Lakew, Erdaw Tachbele, Terefe Gelibo

Reproductive Health 2015, 12:109 (28 November 2015)

Resilience: International Policies, Practices and Discourses

Volume 3, Issue 3, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/resi20/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

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

September 2015 Vol. 38, No. 3

<http://www.paho.org/journal/>

[Reviewed earlier]

Risk Analysis

November 2015 Volume 35, Issue 11 Pages 1957–2119

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/risa.2015.35.issue-10/issuetoc>

Original Research Article

Building a Human Health Risk Assessment Ontology (RsO): A Proposed Framework

Thomas E. McKone^{1,2,*} and Lydia Feng¹

Article first published online: 15 MAY 2015

DOI: 10.1111/risa.12414

Abstract

Over the last decade the health and environmental research communities have made significant progress in collecting and improving access to genomic, toxicology, exposure, health, and disease data useful to health risk assessment. One of the barriers to applying these growing volumes of information in fields such as risk assessment is the lack of informatics tools to organize, curate, and evaluate thousands of journal publications and hundreds of databases to provide new insights on relationships among exposure, hazard, and disease burden. Many fields are developing ontologies as a way of organizing and analyzing large amounts of complex information from multiple scientific disciplines. Ontologies include a vocabulary of terms and concepts with defined logical relationships to each other. Building from the recently published exposure ontology and other relevant health and environmental ontologies, this article proposes an ontology for health risk assessment (RsO) that provides a structural framework for organizing risk assessment information and methods. The RsO is anchored by eight major concepts that were either identified by exploratory curations of the risk literature or the exposure-ontology working group as key for describing the risk assessment domain. These concepts are: (1) stressor, (2) receptor, (3) outcome, (4) exposure event, (5) dose-response approach, (6) dose-response metric, (7) uncertainty, and (8) measure of risk. We illustrate the utility of these concepts for the RsO with example curations of published risk assessments for ionizing radiation, arsenic in drinking water, and persistent pollutants in salmon.

Science

27 November 2015 vol 350, issue 6264, pages 1001-1124

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

Policy Forum

Energy and Environment

Understanding China's non-fossil energy targets

Joanna I. Lewis, David G. Fridley, Lynn K. Price, Hongyou Lu, and John P. Romankiewicz

Science 27 November 2015: 1034-1036.

Methodology standardization will improve comparability

Summary

More than 130 countries have targets for increasing their share of renewable or nonfossil energy (1). These shares and targets are often reported without clear articulation of which energy accounting method was used to convert nonfossil electricity into units that allow comparison with other energy sources (2–4). Three commonly used conversion methods are well documented by organizations dealing in energy statistics, but often, the method is not clearly stated when countries translate national targets into international pledges or when organizations track and compare targets across nations. China—the world's largest energy producer, energy consumer, and emitter of energy-related carbon dioxide (CO₂)—uses a distinct fourth method that is unique, not well documented in the literature, and not transparent in policy documents. A single, standardized, and transparent methodology for any targets that are pledged as part of an international agreement is essential.

Report

Predicting poverty and wealth from mobile phone metadata

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Abstract

Accurate and timely estimates of population characteristics are a critical input to social and economic research and policy. In industrialized economies, novel sources of data are enabling new approaches to demographic profiling, but in developing countries, fewer sources of big data exist. We show that an individual's past history of mobile phone use can be used to infer his or her socioeconomic status. Furthermore, we demonstrate that the predicted attributes of millions of individuals can, in turn, accurately reconstruct the distribution of wealth of an entire nation or to infer the asset distribution of microregions composed of just a few households. In resource-constrained environments where censuses and household surveys are rare, this approach creates an option for gathering localized and timely information at a fraction of the cost of traditional methods.

Social Science & Medicine

Volume 144, Pages 1-148 (November 2015)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/02779536/144>

[Reviewed earlier]

Stability: International Journal of Security & Development

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

[accessed 28 November 2015]

[No new relevant content identified]

Sustainability

Volume 7, Issue 9 (September 2015), Pages 11360-12973

<http://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/7/9>

[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. 3 Sep

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Tropical Medicine & International Health

November 2015 Volume 20, Issue 11 Pages 1405–1589

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/tmi.2015.20.issue-11/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

UN Chronicle

Vol. LII Nos. 1 & 2 2015 September 2015

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

Website not functioning at review.

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#.Uzq2bFcWNdc>

[Reviewed earlier]

World Heritage Review

n°77 - October 2015

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/review/77>

Climate Change

The network of World Heritage properties was inter alia intended to ensure the proper preservation of the natural and cultural values of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List. Today, as the planet finds itself confronted with the impact of climate change, the existence of this network is proving to be of the highest importance in monitoring changing conditions and advancing solutions on the ground....

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