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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 31 October 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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***Contents*** [click on link below to move to associated content]

:: [Week in Review](#)

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

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

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

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

#### ***:: Week in Review***

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

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#### **[World Migration Report 2015 – Migrants and Cities: New Partnerships to Manage Mobility](#)**

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

October 2015 :: 227 pages

ISBN 978-92-9068-709-2 ISSN 1561-5502

*The Report can be downloaded in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#)*

Foreword [excerpt]

The eighth report in IOM's World Migration Report (WMR) series— focuses on migrants and how migration is shaping cities and the situation of migrants in cities.

While much of the current international discussion about migration trends and migration policy tends to focus on the national level, this report takes migration enquiries to the city level and aims to raise understanding of the local socioeconomic dynamics of migration and the close connection between migration and urban development.

The main chapters of the World Migration Report 2015 investigate both the challenges and opportunities arising from increasing migration to diverse urban settings. They present findings on the potential benefits of all forms of migration and mobility for city growth and development. The report showcases innovative ways in which migration and urbanization policies can be better designed for the benefit of migrants and cities.

The report particularly focuses on migrants' situations in the cities of the Global South, broadening the current focus on the cities of the Global North. It highlights how cities and migrants can work together in order to reduce the risks of migration to cities and take advantage of growing urban diversity in such areas as community resilience building and local economic, social and cultural development through migrants' connections between origin and host communities.

The report concludes with a set of recommendations for future city initiatives to include migrants as partners and migrants' issues in the discussion on urbanization and the post-2015 global development framework...

*Press Release*

[IOM Launches 2015 World Migration Report](#)

10/28/15

Geneva - IOM yesterday (27/10) launched its flagship World Migration Report 2015 – Migrants and Cities: New Partnerships to Manage Mobility, during the second day of the two-day high-level Conference on Migrants and Cities in Geneva.

The report, the eighth in IOM's World Migration Report series, focuses on how migration and migrants are shaping cities and how the life of migrants is shaped by cities, their people, organizations and rules.

Speaking at the launch, Dr. June Lee, the report's editor-in-chief, noted that while much of the current international discussion about migration trends and policy is at national level, this report takes the migration debate to the city level.

"The report focuses on how migration is shaping cities and how the situation of migrants in cities – how they live, work and shape their habitat – helps to reveal the close connection between human mobility and urban development," she said.

The report reveals that nearly one in five of all migrants live in the world's 20 largest cities and in many of these cities migrants represent over a third or more of the population.

According to the report, over 54 per cent of people across the globe were living in urban areas in 2014. The current urban population of 3.9 billion is expected to grow to some 6.4 billion by 2050.

Migration is driving much of the increase in urbanization, making cities much more diverse places in which to live.

Addressing the notion that existing discussions on migrants and cities tend to focus primarily on the Global North and the integration of international migrants, Lee told the conference that the report takes a global perspective, with particular attention to the situation of migrants in the cities of the Global South. As a result, and for the first time in the WMR series, the 2015 report examines both internal and international migration.

A key finding of the report is that human mobility is growing and will continue to be overwhelmingly urban. "At the same time, the geography of migration flows is changing in line with changes in the global economy. For example, migrants are increasingly attracted to the cities in the countries experiencing higher economic growth in East Asia, Brazil, southern Africa and western India," said Lee.

Increasingly, the cities of developing countries have become places of both immigration and emigration, given the growing South-South migration – population movements among low- and middle-income countries, the report shows.

Another key finding emerging from the report is that rising migration to cities brings both risks and opportunities for the migrants, communities and governments concerned. "Super-diversity brings challenges, such as residential segregation when certain ethnicities, nationalities or a socioeconomic status concentrate in particular neighborhoods of a city or metropolitan area. Although there are some positive effects of ethnic clustering, policy makers try to combat residential segregation becoming generational," said Lee.

The report points out that multi-ethnic make-up is the normal condition of many cities in the less developed world and such cities often face mixed migration flows, with a particularly high concentration of internally displaced people and migrants stranded in transit.

Noting the reality that many cities are insufficiently resourced and motivated to become truly inclusive, the report calls for a platform for migration and urbanization to discuss how to balance knowledge, capacities and commitments towards good policymaking and practice for inclusive urban governance across countries.

"We need to consider what roles international communities and organizations play, while bearing in mind that the good practices of more advanced countries might not be globally applicable," said Lee.

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### **[Refugee crisis in Europe and rights of children](#)**

*Statement from ECPAT*

20 October 2015

Recent crises and war in several countries, including Syria, Afghanistan and Eritrea among others, have led to tens of thousands of refugees arriving in the European Union via southern Europe and across the Mediterranean Sea. Among them are a significant number of children, some of whom are separated from their families.

All of these children are extremely vulnerable to a range of abuses and may arrive already as victims of trafficking. It is vital that these children are identified early and afforded the protection they need to prevent further abuse and to stop them going missing. Other children arriving in

Europe, with or without their families, are also extremely vulnerable to exploitation and require protection to prevent this risk becoming a reality.

In the face of this huge crisis, the importance for a robust child protection response cannot be underestimated. Whether it is criminal records checks for volunteers working with refugees or resourcing investigations to dismantle trafficking groups, whether organised or not, the necessary levels of child protection at all stages must not be diluted. The need to maintain and uphold children's rights and child protection laws is more important now than ever in order to create a protective environment for these children on arrival, as well as working to find durable solutions for each and every one of them.

Key reports by the Fundamental Rights Agency on guardianship for children deprived of parental care in the EU highlight the need for functioning guardianship systems in order to protect children who are victims of trafficking or those who are at risk of exploitation – in line with the EU's Strategy Towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2016. It acknowledges the vulnerability of these children and identifies guardianship systems as an effective measure to identify victims and to prevent abuse. Yet the way in which individual Member States enforce child protection laws and operate systems of guardianship vary massively, which may mean children are put at risk.

ECPAT urges the European Commission to ensure all children affected in the refugee crisis are prioritised and protected effectively by a well-planned and resourced strategic response. Protection systems in all Member States and neighbouring countries must be consistent and work together, cross-border, to safeguard children. The European Commission must lead the way in promoting the rights of refugee and migrant children who are arriving or who are already in Europe, ensuring that - despite the challenges they face in their young lives - they are able to exercise their rights and live their lives free from the threat of abuse.

*Signatories to the statement: Children's Human Rights Center of Albania, Defence for Children-ECPAT Netherlands, ECPAT Austria, ECPAT Belgium, ECPAT France, ECPAT International, ECPAT Luxembourg, ECPAT Sweden, ECPAT UK, FAPMI-ECPAT Spain, Neglected Children's Society-ECPAT Bulgaria, Nobody's Children Foundation.*



## **[11 major companies to promote inclusion of persons with disabilities in the workplace](#)**

*The new Global Business and Disability Network Charter is a global tool for businesses to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the world of work*

International Labour Organization News | 28 October 2015

GENEVA (ILO News): Eleven major international companies have become the first signatories of the newly-created "[ILO Global Business & Disability Network Charter](#)" in a ceremony held at ILO headquarters in Geneva.

The Charter expresses their commitment to promoting and including persons with disabilities throughout their operations worldwide.

It covers a wide range of areas, from protecting staff with disabilities from any kind of discrimination to making the company premises and communication to staff progressively

All signatories are members of the [ILO Global Business and Disability Network](#), which brings businesses together to promote disability inclusion by highlighting the business advantages of employing people with disabilities. It also facilitates the exchange of knowledge and good practices between companies, company networks and the ILO.

Created in 2010, the Network acts as a facilitator and responds to requests from members to

develop tools, share knowledge, and facilitate business-to-business meetings and dialogues around disability issues. It combines the interests of the ILO employer constituents and of multinational enterprises.

*The signing companies are: Accenture, AccorHotels, Adecco Group, AXA Group, Carrefour Group, Dow Chemical, Groupe Casino, L'Oréal, Orange, the Standard Bank Group, and Michelin.*

### Charter Principles

As a member of the ILO Global Business and Disability Network, the signatory multinational enterprises support the following principles and commits to work towards their company-wide implementation:

1. Promote and respect the rights of persons with disabilities by raising awareness and combating stigma and stereotypes faced by persons with disabilities.
2. Develop policies and practices that protect persons with disabilities from all types of discrimination.
3. Promote equal treatment and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities by providing reasonable accommodation in the recruitment process, on-the-job, apprenticeships, training, job retention, career development and other relevant terms and conditions of employment.
4. Progressively make the company premises and communication to staff accessible for all employees with disabilities.
5. Undertake appropriate measures to enable current employees who acquire a disability to retain or return to their employment.
6. Respect confidentiality of personal information regarding disability.
7. Consider the needs of those persons with disabilities who face particular challenges accessing the labour market, including persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.
8. Promote employment of persons with disabilities among business partners and other companies and collaborate with national employer and business networks on disability as well as with organizations working to advance the rights of persons with disabilities.
9. Review regularly the company disability inclusion policies and practices for their effectiveness.
10. Report on company efforts to promote the employment of persons with disabilities to all relevant stakeholders and share information and experiences with the members of the ILO Global Business and Disability Network. The ILO will utilize the company reports and practices in its own communication, wherever relevant.

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### **Doing Business 2016- Measuring Regulatory Quality and Efficiency**

World Bank Group

October 27, 2015 :: 348 pages

Pdf: <http://www.doingbusiness.org/~media/GIAWB/Doing%20Business/Documents/Annual-Reports/English/DB16-Full-Report.pdf> Also available as mini book (PDF, 2.4MB) (15460.3 KB PDF)

#### *Overview*

*Doing Business 2016: Measuring Regulatory Quality and Efficiency*, a World Bank Group flagship publication, is the 13th in a series of annual reports measuring the regulations that enhance business activity and those that constrain it. Doing Business presents quantitative indicators on business regulations and the protection of property rights that can be compared across 189 economies—from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe—and over time.

*Doing Business* measures regulations affecting 11 areas of the life of a business. Ten of these areas are included in this year's ranking on the ease of doing business: starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority

investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency. *Doing Business* also measures labor market regulation, which is not included in this year's ranking.

Data in *Doing Business 2016* are current as of June 1, 2015. The indicators are used to analyze economic outcomes and identify what reforms of business regulation have worked, where and why. This year's *Doing Business* report continues a two-year process of introducing improvements in 8 of 10 *Doing Business* indicator sets—to complement the emphasis on the efficiency of regulation with a greater focus on its quality.

### *Main Findings*

:: *Doing Business 2016: Measuring Regulatory Quality and Efficiency* finds that entrepreneurs in 122 economies saw improvements in their local regulatory framework last year. Between June 2014 and June 2015, the report, which measures 189 economies worldwide, documented 231 business reforms. Among reforms to reduce the complexity and cost of regulatory processes, those in the area of starting a business were the most common in 2014/15, as in the previous year. The next most common were reforms in the areas of paying taxes, getting electricity and registering property. [Read about business reforms.](#)

:: [Costa Rica](#), [Uganda](#), [Kenya](#), [Cyprus](#), [Mauritania](#), [Uzbekistan](#), [Kazakhstan](#), [Jamaica](#), [Senegal](#) and [Benin](#) are among the economies that improved the most in 2014/2015 in areas tracked by *Doing Business*. Together, these 10 top improvers implemented 39 regulatory reforms making it easier to do business.

:: Sub-Saharan Africa alone accounted for about 30% of the regulatory reforms making it easier to do business in 2014/15, followed closely by Europe and Central Asia. Members of the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa were particularly active: 14 of the 17 economies implemented business regulation reforms in the past year—29 in total. Twenty-four of these reforms reduced the complexity and cost of regulatory processes, while the other five strengthened legal institutions.

:: This year's report adds indicators of quality to four indicator sets: registering property, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity and enforcing contracts. In addition, the trading across borders indicators have been revised to increase their relevance. The underlying case study now focuses on the top export product for each economy, on a very common manufactured product (auto parts) as its import product and on its largest trading partner for the export and import products.

:: Seven case studies featured in the report: Five focus on legal and regulatory features covered by new or expanded indicators being introduced this year—in the areas of dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, trading across borders and enforcing contracts. The other two analyze other areas of interest in the historical data set. [See all case studies.](#)



### [UNAIDS 2016–2021 Strategy - On the Fast-Track to end AIDS](#) [by 2030]

Issue date: 27 October 2015 :: 130 pages

UNAIDS PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD

UNAIDS/PCB (37)/15.18.rev1

THIRTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Date: 26 – 28 October 2015

WHO, Geneva

[Executive summary](#) [*excerpt*]

### *A defining moment*

1. The UNAIDS 2016–2021 Strategy comes at a critical moment in the history of the HIV epidemic and response. Evidence demonstrates that if the current, unprecedented level of HIV service coverage is simply maintained, progress will slip backwards with rising numbers of people newly infected, and more people dying from AIDS-related causes. Nevertheless, we have never had more opportunities to leverage our momentum to accelerate the response over the next five years: a new sustainable development agenda; fresh, innovative solutions; and the rise of regional, national and local leadership and institutions – including strong political commitment to the 90–90–90 treatment target. By seizing this moment, we can end the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030. The next five years provide a fragile window of opportunity to Fast-Track the AIDS response and empower people to lead dignified and rewarding lives....

### *Press Release*

#### [UNAIDS Board adopts bold and ambitious strategy to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030](#)

GENEVA, 30 October 2015—At its 37th meeting, the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board adopted a new strategy to end the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030. The [UNAIDS 2016–2021 Strategy](#) is one of the first in the United Nations system to be aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals, which set the framework for global development policy over the next 15 years, including ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

With a universal agenda, firmly grounded in evidence and rights-based approaches, the strategy maps out the [UNAIDS Fast-Track](#) approach to accelerate the AIDS response over the next five years to reach critical HIV prevention and treatment targets and achieve zero discrimination. Members of the Board from across all regions called the strategy bold, ambitious, yet achievable, and praised the highly inclusive and consultative process to develop it.

In his [opening address](#), the Executive Director of UNAIDS, Michel Sidibé, described the strategy as an urgent call to front-load investment, to close the testing gap, to increase focus and financing for HIV prevention and to protect the health of the 22 million people living with HIV who are not yet accessing treatment. He said that the strategy would be an instrument for social justice and dignity...

...During the dedicated thematic day, the Board discussed the importance of shared responsibility and global solidarity for an effective, equitable and sustainable HIV response. It was agreed that the most critical next step for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals will be to have clarity on the means of implementation. Participants emphasized that multisectorality and equitable, transparent and inclusive governance are central bases for effective shared responsibility and global solidarity, and that the AIDS response—and in particular UNAIDS—provides an important model to be replicated for other health, development, gender and rights outcomes...



#### [World Health Organisation right to be wary about first malaria vaccine](#)

By Seth Berkley, Gavi and Mark Dybul, Global Fund

*Voices on 29 October 2015*

Mosquirix is one of the most widely anticipated vaccines to have been developed. It is the first vaccine for malaria – a disease that kills more than 1,200 children every day– and has been clinically proven to provide protection against the disease. So, given that it has passed the toughest regulatory hurdles required of it, why is it only being made available in a handful of countries?

Demand for the vaccine is likely to be high. With more than 200m cases a year, malaria is endemic in almost every country in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as large parts of Asia and Latin America. Last week, two advisory bodies to the World Health Organisation, the strategic advisory group of

experts on immunisation and the malaria policy advisory committee, recommended against its immediate widespread use, and many people may have been left wondering why.

But it was a smart call. While there is a potential to save many lives with this vaccine, we have reason to tread carefully. Rather than being a simple solution, Mosquirix comes with complex caveats and some outstanding questions that the clinical studies were not able to address. While some may argue that any delay in getting the vaccine out to people could end up costing lives, experts first want certainty that, in a real-life setting, it indeed brings the benefits we expect, based on what was shown in the trials.

Clinical trials found Mosquirix to be both safe and effective, providing 39% efficacy at preventing clinical cases of malaria over the course of a four-year trial. While this is low for a vaccine, it is worth remembering that given the large number of people at risk, providing protection in just four out of 10 cases could still go a very long way. Moreover, since there can be more than one episode per child, the trials found that the vaccine prevented on average 1,774 cases of malaria per 1,000 children.

However, what happens during the controlled setting of a clinical trial does not necessarily translate into a real-world situation, and here lies the concern.

To begin with, Mosquirix requires four doses. That's a lot for a vaccine. What's more, trials suggest that its already low efficacy is further reduced if the fourth dose is not administered, down to about 28% protection against clinical malaria and reducing its impact on severe cases of malaria to nearly zero. That is worrying because, typically, the more doses required of a vaccine the higher the dropout rate.

It then becomes a question of how reliably the vaccine can be administered – and, again, Mosquirix presents challenges. To achieve maximum effect, it should be given to children from five months, with the fourth dose given around the age of two. This is out of sync with the typical immunisation schedule for children in poorer countries, who are brought in for routine vaccination when they are six to 14 weeks old.

Delivering the vaccine will require unprecedented efforts to inform and mobilise people to bring their children to health clinics at the prescribed time to complete all four doses. But, with many of the countries in question already struggling to improve routine immunisation rates, it remains to be seen how reliably four doses of Mosquirix can be deployed.

That doesn't mean it can't be done. In light of how big a priority malaria is for these countries they may well indeed make it work. After all, we have seen this happen with the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, another much sought after vaccine for developing countries, which is given to school-age girls to prevent cervical cancer.

But even if high coverage can be achieved, there is still a danger that news of the vaccine will give people a false sense of security and lead to a reduction in the use of other malaria interventions, which would be tragic. Insecticide treated bednets and anti-malarial medicine have already led to a 37% global decrease in malaria cases since 2000, and a 60% decline in the malaria mortality rate.

Mosquirix is no magic bullet and at best may prove to be a useful complementary tool in reducing malaria, but only one of many already being used.

All this combined is why the WHO has been so cautious, recommending that we proceed with just a few demonstration projects in three to five settings, and involving around 1 million children. This is a sensible approach; it is due diligence. With so many lives at stake, it is critical that we shed more

light on these unknowns, so that we fully understand the impact of this vaccine before, or even if, we should make it more widely available.

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

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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 31 October 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases/Meetings Coverage*

28 October 2015

SC/12101

[Security Council Presidential Statement Voices Deep Concerns about Growing Insecurity, Increasing Violence, Persisting Political Impasse in Burundi](#)

The Security Council today voiced its deep concerns about the growing insecurity, the continued rise in violence, and the persisting political impasse in Burundi, marked by a lack of dialogue among Burundian stakeholders.

28 October 2015

GA/11714

[General Assembly Elects 18 Members to Human Rights Council, Confirms Six States Nominated to Programme and Coordination Committee](#)

The General Assembly today elected 18 States to serve on the Human Rights Council, the United Nations body responsible for the promotion and protection of all human rights around the globe.

27 October 2015

GA/SHC/4144

[Disability Is Not Inability, Special Rapporteurs Tell Third Committee, Urging National Reforms to Ensure Social Inclusion, Human Rights Protection](#)

Legislative and institutional reforms must be undertaken by States to ensure coherent social systems that include - and recognize the rights of - persons with disabilities, the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) heard today as it continued its consideration of the promotion and protection of human rights.

27 October 2015

SC/12098

[Briefing Security Council on Syria, Relief Chief Urges Political Solution Addressing Root Causes of Conflict, Increase in Humanitarian Aid](#)

The failure of the parties to the Syrian conflict to uphold the basic tenets of international humanitarian and human rights law had propelled the Syrian people to levels of tragedy and despair that could barely have been imagined five years ago, Stephen O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, told the Security Council this morning.

**UN OHCHR** Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 31 October 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases/Announcements*

[Human Rights Committee discusses draft general comment on the right to life](#)

30 October 2015

[General Assembly Elects 18 Members to Human Rights Council, Confirms Six States Nominated to Programme and Coordination Committee](#)

28 October 2015

[Palestinian President urges the Security Council to set up a special regime for the International Protection of the Palestinian People](#)

28 October 2015

[Statement by the High Commissioner at the Special Meeting of the Human Rights Council on the occasion of the visit of the President of the State of Palestine](#)

28 October 2015

**Committee on the Rights of the Child** [to 31 October 2015]

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

[End of mission statement of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, on her visit to Japan](#)

26 October 2015

**Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography** [to 31 October 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 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**SRSG/SVC** Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**UN OCHA** [to 31 October 2015]

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

29 Oct 2015

[Somalia: OCHA Operations Director: More help needed for people in protracted crises in Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia](#)

28 Oct 2015

[World: Pacific Humanitarian Partnership Meeting Puts Focus on Women and Children in Disasters](#)

Fiji, 29 October 2015 Two hundred people involved in disaster response across the region are gathered in Suva for the annual Pacific Humanitarian Partnership meeting where the impact of disasters on women and children has been on the agenda today. The meeting was addressed by HRH Princess Sarah Zeid of Jordan on the role of reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH)...

27 Oct 2015

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

26 Oct 2015

[Cameroon: Violence, refugees pile pressure on Cameroonian communities - U.N.](#)

DAKAR, Oct 26 (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Escalating violence in northern Cameroon combined with an influx of refugees from Nigeria and Central African Republic is placing immense strain on local communities already struggling to survive, the United Nations' aid chief said on Monday...

**UNICEF** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*Selected press releases*

[Violence denies millions of children across Iraq access to education](#)

BAGHDAD, Iraq 30 October 2015– The staggered start of the academic year in Iraq concludes this week with close to two million children nationwide out of school. An additional 1.2 million children age 5 to 14 years old are at risk of dropping out.

[UNICEF and WFP launch mass nutrition screening as hunger threatens lives of children in South Sudan](#)

JUBA, South Sudan, 29 October 2015 — UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP) launched a mass mobilization campaign today that will screen more than a quarter of a million children for acute malnutrition in Warrap state.

[Attack in Yemen: UNICEF appeals to those involved to respect international humanitarian law](#)

NEW YORK, 27 October 2015 – “The health facility reportedly attacked today in Saada, Yemen, is the 39th health centre hit since the violence escalated in March. Critical shortages of fuel, medications, electricity, petrol and water threaten to stop many more from operating.

[Afghanistan and Pakistan Earthquake: Children cut off from aid - UNICEF](#)

KABUL, Afghanistan/ ISLAMABAD, Pakistan ,27 October 2015 – Children in earthquake-hit areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan are facing further deadly threats as extreme conditions and insecurity cut off communities from aid - warns UNICEF.

[45,000 children reached with early childhood development support through UNICEF/H&M Conscious Foundation partnership](#)

NEW YORK/GENEVA, 26 October 2015 – More than 45,000 children have benefited from early childhood development (ECD) and education programmes during the first year of the UNICEF/H&M Conscious Foundation partnership.

**UNHCR** Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [to 31 October 2015]

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

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

[UNHCR statement on today's attack on vicinity of Baghdad International Airport, including Camp Liberty, in Iraq](#)

30 October 2015

[Worsening weather brings more tragedy to eastern Aegean as influx continues in Greece](#)

29 October 2015

[UNHCR warns of looming refugee crisis as women flee Central America and Mexico](#)

Washington, D.C., 28 October 2015 (UNHCR) – Women in Central America and Mexico are fleeing their countries in rising numbers to escape a surge in deadly, unchecked gang violence, fueling a looming refugee crisis in the Americas that demands urgent and concerted action by the states of the region, the United Nations refugee agency warned Wednesday.

"The violence being perpetrated by organized, transnational criminal groups in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and certain parts of Mexico has become pervasive," UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres said in Washington as he issued a new report on the situation entitled "Women on the Run."

"The dramatic refugee crises we are witnessing in the world today are not confined to the Middle East or Africa," Guterres said. "We are seeing another refugee situation unfolding in the Americas. This report is an early warning to raise awareness of the challenges refugee women face and a call to action to respond regionally to a looming refugee crisis."...

**IOM / International Organization for Migration [to 31 October 2015]**

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

*Selected Press Releases*

[IOM Launches Updated Response Plan for Mediterranean and Beyond](#)

10/30/15

Switzerland - IOM has released an update to its June 2015 response plan "Addressing Complex Migration Flows in the Mediterranean."

[Mediterranean Update – Migrant Deaths Rise to 3,329 in 2015](#)

10/30/15

Italy - IOM now estimates that the total number of migrant deaths on Mediterranean sea routes to Europe have surpassed 3,329 in the first ten months of 2015.

[IOM Ramps Up Winter Assistance for Displaced in Syria, Iraq](#)

10/30/15

Syria, Iraq - In anticipation of upcoming winter months in the Middle East and North Africa, IOM has begun the implementation of its 2015-2016 'Winter Assistance Plans for Populations Affected by the Syrian and Iraqi Crises.'

[Erbil Job and Training Fair Targets Returnees from Europe](#)

10/30/15

Iraq - IOM this week (28/10) hosted a job and training fair for Iraqi nationals returning voluntarily to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) from Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The event was held in Erbil, organized under the framework of IOM's MAGNET II Project.

[Conference on Migrants and Cities Brings Mayors, Local Actors to Centre of Migration Debate](#)

10/30/15

Switzerland - IOM's Conference on Migrants and Cities, which took place 26-27 October at the UN in Geneva, brought mayors and other local actors to the centre of the migration debate. It followed IOM's milestone Diaspora Ministerial Conference held in 2013.

[U.S. Supports IOM and Partners' Efforts to Address Child Sex Trafficking and Forced Child Labour within Ghana](#)

10/30/15

Accra, Ghana – The U.S. Embassy in Accra and U.S. government's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons have announced the award of \$5 million to the International Organization on Migration (IOM) and Free the Slaves (FTS), an international NGO working in Ghana, for activities that will support the recently signed U.S.-Ghana Child Protection Compact (CPC) Partnership.

#### [IOM Launches 2015 World Migration Report](#)

10/28/15

Geneva - IOM yesterday (27/10) launched its flagship World Migration Report 2015 – Migrants and Cities: New Partnerships to Manage Mobility.

#### [IOM Responds to Massive Earthquake in Afghanistan, Pakistan](#)

10/27/15

Afghanistan - IOM is responding to a massive earthquake that struck the mountainous border region between Afghanistan and Pakistan on Monday.

#### [Mediterranean Update: Shipwrecks off Libya, Greece](#)

10/27/15

Italy - The Libyan Red Crescent has reported another tragedy at sea, with the recovery of over 40 corpses on Libyan beaches.

#### [IOM Yemen Responds to Sudden Influx of Internally Displaced into Lawdar District](#)

10/27/15

Yemen - Fighting between Houthi and government-aligned armed groups near villages on the border of the Mukayras and Lawdar district earlier this month displaced hundreds of families from the area, pushing them further south into the Lawdar district in Yemen.

#### [Ghana's Frontline Border Officials Improve Ebola Preparedness](#)

10/27/15

Ghana - IOM Ghana, under its Ebola (EVD) preparedness project, has organized a series of training workshops at eight points of entry across the country aimed at building the capacity of frontline officers to detect and manage potential cases of Ebola at borders.

#### [IOM Guinea Participates in Public Health Surveillance of Village Hit by Recent Ebola Death](#)

10/27/15

Guinea - IOM has taken part in efforts to prevent the potential spread of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) following the death of a 35-year old woman who succumbed to the virus at Kindoyah, near Tana village in Guinea.

#### [IOM, SURA Combat Human Trafficking in Peru](#)

10/27/15

Peru - To improve awareness of human trafficking among Peruvian young people and the general public, IOM in Peru and financial services company SURA Peru, have joined forces to combat the problem. Some 2,241 victims of trafficking, mostly young women, have been identified in Peru over the past five years – 782 of them in 2014.

#### [IOM Builds Honduran Migration Management Capacity](#)

10/27/15

Honduras - IOM has opened two fully equipped training units to build the capacity of some 600 Honduran officials working with migrants at the National Institute of Migration (INM) and the Directorate for Children, Youth and Family (DINAF).

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

*Selected Press Releases*

["Our focus should not just be on what women can do. It is also on what men can do" — Executive Director](#)

Date: 29 October 2015

Address by UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka at the "Men on the Stand: Men's roles in implementing UN Security Council resolution 1325" event in New York on 28 October.

[Yemeni women call for their inclusion in peace efforts](#)

Date: 27 October 2015

When the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, briefed the UN Security Council on 23 October, he outlined the specific impact the civil conflict is having on women and mentioned UN Women's efforts in the region. He also presented a letter prepared by Yemeni women, in which they call for an end to the violence and the inclusion of women voices in all peace efforts.

**WHO & Regionals** [to 24 October 2015]

[WHO mobilizes 510,000 doses of oral cholera vaccine in Iraq](#)

27 October 2015 – Iraq declared an outbreak of cholera on 15 September 2015. The current number of laboratory confirmed cases is 2055. As an integrated part of the current outbreak response strategy oral cholera vaccines (OCV) have been mobilized through the international coordination group based in Geneva. Based on a public health risk assessment, it has been determined that a number of displacement camps housing Syrian refugees and internally displaced Iraqis are at high risk for further spread of the cholera outbreak.

[WHO call for stronger parliamentary engagement on health](#)

29 OCTOBER 2015

IPU - Inter-Parliamentary Union

World Health Organization (WHO) Director General Dr Margaret Chan has urged MPs around the world to step up their efforts to improve the health of their citizens, stressing the importance of political solutions in a new generation of complex challenges. In her first [address](#) to an IPU assembly, Dr Chan stressed the vital role of MPs in a wide range of strategies including delivering universal health coverage, taxing tobacco, improving food labelling and fighting tax, trade and insurance policies which impacted on the poor. She warned of new threats including drug-resistant pathogens, the globalized marketing of unhealthy products, and the growing rates of chronic non-communicable diseases such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes – which have overtaken infectious diseases as the world's biggest killers. Dr Chan also offered to strengthen WHO's collaboration with IPU through structured technical support to IPU's advisory bodies and confirmed a new role for parliamentarians in jointly organized side events at WHO assemblies, the organization's supreme decision-making body. Her address builds on the existing cooperation between WHO and IPU in fields including women's and children's health, family planning, violence against women and girls and harmful traditional practices.

[World Antibiotic Awareness Week](#)

30 October 2015 -- The first World Antibiotic Awareness Week 16 to 22 November 2015 encourages best practices among the general public, health workers, policy-makers and the agriculture sector to avoid further emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance. The campaign urges people to "handle antibiotics with care", because when antibiotics are misused or over prescribed bacteria become resistant to their effects, making some infectious diseases difficult - sometimes impossible - to treat

[Typhoon-affected communities in the Philippines vulnerable to disease outbreaks](#)

October 2015 -- WHO and partners are assisting the Government of the Philippines by providing

targeted support using in-country resources. WHO has assisted with logistics, information management, provision of emergency kits, disease surveillance and is set to deploy more national experts and medical supplies.

#### [Earthquake response in Afghanistan and Pakistan](#)

October 2015 -- An earthquake with magnitude 7.7 occurred in north-eastern Afghanistan on 26 October, 2015 affecting both Afghanistan and Pakistan. WHO is assessing the public health impact of the earthquake and responding to the region's health needs.

#### [Globally, an estimated two-thirds of the population under 50 are infected with herpes simplex virus type 1](#)

28 October 2015

:: [WHO Regional Offices](#)

[WHO African Region AFRO](#)

*No new digest content identified.*

[WHO Region of the Americas PAHO](#)

:: [Wider access to ultrasound would save maternal and neonatal lives in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (10/29/2015)

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

:: [Reconstruction of health systems should remain top priority in Nepal](#)

Media statement from Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region on six month anniversary of the Nepal earthquake

*[undated]*

[WHO European Region EURO](#)

:: [Statement - The challenges of migration require migrant-sensitive health systems for today and for the future](#) 29-10-2015

:: ["No" to influenza vaccination costs thousands of lives](#) 28-10-2015

:: [WHO/Europe and the Ministry of Health of Hungary conduct a joint assessment of refugee and migrant health in Hungary](#) 27-10-2015

:: [Good prison health involves empowering prisoners](#) 26-10-2015

[WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO](#)

:: [WHO pre-positions emergency supplies in Somalia in preparation for El Niño](#)

30 October 2015, Mogadishu – WHO is working closely with the Federal Ministry of Health of Somalia in order to prepare for any possible health emergencies resulting from the El Niño climate phenomenon expected to hit some countries of the Region in 2015, including Somalia. WHO and partner United Nations agencies have developed contingency plans and are scaling up preparedness activities, including pre-positioning of aid supplies in areas most likely to be affected by flooding

[WHO Western Pacific Region](#)

*No new digest content identified.*

**UNAIDS** [to 31 October 2015]

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

[UNAIDS Board adopts bold and ambitious strategy to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030](#)

30 October 2015

*[see Week in Review above]*

**UNFPA** United Nations Population Fund [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**UNDP** United Nations Development Programme [to 31 October 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

[Eco-friendly toilets in India improve the health and dignity of the poor](#)

Oct 30, 2015

Banka BioLoo, an Indian company that provides innovative solutions for human waste treatment, has joined the Business Call to Action (BCTA) in distributing environmentally-friendly toilets to low-income families across India. Banka BioLoo's plans to install 300,000 innovative sanitation systems, or bio-loos, across the country by 2020. Bio-loos will also be installed in 3,000 schools, reaching an additional 120,000 girls. The company estimates that 94,000 temporary jobs will be created as a result of this expansion.

[Engagement with civil society and partnerships critical for the post-2015 development framework](#)

Oct 28, 2015

The 12th annual meeting of the UNDP Civil Society Advisory Committee concluded yesterday after two days of discussions on how to strengthen UNDP's engagement with civil society, including in relation to the implementation of the SDGs.

[Helen Clark: Speech at the Open Government Partnership \(OGP\) Summit 2015 Event "Openness for All: The Role for OGP in the 2030 Development Agenda"](#)

Oct 28, 2015 Palacio de Bellas Artes - Mexico City, Mexico

[UNDP announces winners of climate change storytelling contest for aspiring journalists](#) Oct 27,

2015 Five young journalists have been selected to join the upcoming climate change conference (COP21) in Paris in December.

[Helen Clark: Speech presenting Sir Richard Branson with the International Crisis Group Chairman's Award "In Pursuit of Peace" Awards Dinner](#)

Oct 26, 2015 Pier Sixty, Chelsea Piers - New York, USA

**UN Division for Sustainable Development** [to 31 October 2015]

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

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**UN Statistical Commission :: UN Statistics Division** [to 31 October 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 31 October 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

[Global Response to Climate Change Keeps Door Open to 2 Degree C Temperature Limit](#)

New UN Report Synthesizes National Climate Plans from 146 Countries in Advance of Paris.  
30/10/2015

[New UN-Supported Rice Management Standard Sets Benchmark for Environmentally Sustainable and Socially Responsible Rice Cultivation](#)

The Standard for Sustainable Rice Cultivation uses environmental and socio-economic benchmarks to maintain yields for rice smallholders, reduce the environmental footprint of rice cultivation and meet consumer needs for food safety and quality.  
27/10/2015

**UNISDR** UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 31 October 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

[Pacific moves on targets and indicators](#)

27 Oct 2015

The Pacific region today recommended the development of national and regional targets and indicators as a key element to the successful implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

**UN DESA** United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 31 October 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

[Disaster risk reduction 'core development priority' of Asia and the Pacific](#)

30 October 2015, New York

Building resilience in the face of natural disasters is "not a choice, but rather a collective imperative," the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) declared today, as it called on all government agencies to take on disaster risk reduction as a priority and make it an integral part of sustainable development in the region.

**UNESCO** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

[World Trends in Freedom of Expression report launched to mark International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists](#)

27 October 2015

UNESCO will release a report on World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development, with a special focus on digital communication and safety at events in Paris, London and New York on the occasion of [International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists](#), celebrated on 2 November since 2014.

The report\* takes stock of the voluntary response rate of Member States to the request by the Director-General of UNESCO for information about actions taken to prevent the impunity of those responsible for the killing of journalists and media workers...

**UNODC** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 31 October 2015]

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

30/10/2015 - [World's biggest anti-corruption conference takes place in Russia](#)

28/10/2015 - [UNODC Chief underlines rule of law's role in shielding development at meeting with Italian President](#)

**UN-HABITAT** United Nations Human Settlements Programme [to 31 October 2015]

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

[UN-Habitat goes live with global website in Spanish and Chinese](#)

Nairobi, 29 October 2015: As part of its advocacy, outreach and communications strategy started in 2012, UN-Habitat today launched its global website in Spanish, es.unhabitat.org and in Chinese, cn.unhabitat.org.

Posted October 29, 2015

[UN to promote more accessible and inclusive cities for persons with disabilities](#)

Nairobi 28 October 2015– A global United Nations meeting bringing together more than 60 urban planning and disability experts opens today at the UN Office in Nairobi. ]

Posted October 28, 2015

[UN-Habitat goes open](#)

Nairobi, 28 October 2015 – UN-Habitat has today launched the integration of its transparency web portal Open.unhabitat.org into its corporate website. Open UN-Habitat forms part of UN-Habitat's reporting to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI).

Posted October 28, 2015

[Premier Asia-Pacific Urban Youth Assembly \(APUFY\) launched in Jakarta](#)

Jakarta, 26 October 2015 —Some 300 young leaders selected from across the region gathered in Jakarta last week to launch the first ever Asia-Pacific Urban Youth Assembly, better known as APUFY.

Posted October 26, 2015

**FAO** Food & Agriculture Organization [to 31 October 2015]

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

[Homestead gardening brings hope as Lesotho seeks to adapt to climate change](#)

In Lesotho, FAO is distributing a series of illustrated guides, in English and Sesotho, to encourage and facilitate the construction of homestead gardens. The gardens are easily built using locally available material and are specially designed to improve soil fertility and capture moisture. With minimum maintenance, they can provide vegetables all year round.

27-10-2015

[Vatican calls for urgent action on climate change and hunger](#)

Hunger eradication and sustainable development will not be achieved if we do not take urgent action on climate change, said FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva, calling on the global community to put food security and agriculture at the center of the debates on climate change.

26-10-2015

**IFAD** International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 31 October 2015]

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

26 October 2015

[President of Kiribati and ministers from across Asia and the Pacific gather in Indonesia to shape rural development policies](#)

**ILO** International Labour Organization [to 31 October 2015]

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

*Business and persons with disabilities*

## [11 major companies to promote inclusion of persons with disabilities in the workplace](#)

*The new Global Business and Disability Network Charter is a global tool for businesses to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the world of work*

News | 28 October 2015

GENEVA (ILO News): Eleven major international companies \* have become the first signatories of the newly-created "ILO Global Business & Disability Network Charter " in a ceremony held at ILO headquarters in Geneva.

The Charter expresses their commitment to promoting and including persons with disabilities throughout their operations worldwide...

*[see Week in Review above]*

**ICAO** International Civil Aviation Organization [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**IMO** International Maritime Organization [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**WMO** World Meteorological Organization [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**UNIDO** United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 31 October 2015]

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

[Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency inaugurated in Barbados](#)

BRIDGETOWN, 28 October 2015 - The Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE) was today inaugurated during a ceremony held in the capital of Barbados. This follows the decision of the 36th Regular meeting of the heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to establish the centre as a regional implementation hub, with Barbados as the host country.

The regional centre was developed and promoted by the CARICOM Secretariat in close partnership with the Small Island Developing States Sustainable Energy and Climate Resilience Initiative (SIDS DOCK) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

Financial support is being provided by the governments of Austria and Germany. CCREEE will be part of a wider network of regional sustainable energy centres for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Africa, the Caribbean, Pacific and Indian Ocean...

**UNWTO** World Tourism Organization [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**ITU** International Telecommunications Union [to 31 October 2015]

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

[ITU Assembly endorses IMT process for timely development of 5G mobile systems](#)

*IMT-2020 to provide lightning speed, omnipresent, ultra-reliable mobile communications*

Geneva, 29 October 2015 – The Radiocommunication Assembly today endorsed a Resolution that establishes the roadmap for the development of 5G mobile and the term that will apply to it: "IMT-

2020". The overall "Vision" for 5G systems, along with the goals, process and timeline for its development, is now in place.

The detailed technical performance requirements for the radio systems to support 5G will be developed, in close collaboration with industry and national and regional standards organizations, following the stringent timelines defined by ITU...

**WIPO** World Intellectual Property Organization [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**CBD** Convention on Biological Diversity [to 31 October 2015]

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

[Biodiversity meeting to examine effectiveness of measures to implement global biodiversity plan](#)

Montreal, 30 October 2015 – Some 600 delegates from around the world will gather together in Montreal, Canada, next week to examine the effectiveness of measures taken by Governments to implement the global biodiversity agenda and mainstream biodiversity into sustainable development through implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Discussions will focus on policy coherence and the monitoring of progress in achieving the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

.....

**US Department of State** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*Selected Announcements*

10/28/15 [Remarks at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#); U.S. Policy Towards the Middle East; Secretary of State John Kerry; Washington, DC/15

10/26/15 [Dr. Jane Goodall to Discuss "The Intersection between Gender, Health and Conservation" at the U.S. Department of State's Marshall Center](#); Office of the Spokesperson; Washington, DC

**USAID** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*Selected Announcements*

[USAID Hosts Global Education Summit](#)

October 28, 2015

Media Advisory

On November 2 - 4, 2015 the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) will host its 2015 Global Education Summit. The objectives of this Summit are to review lessons learned and to apply those lessons to future programs. The event will be attended by USAID education officers and partners as well as a number of high-level ministry of education leaders from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

[U.S. Announces Additional Humanitarian Aid to Help Indonesia Fight El Niño's Effects](#)

October 26, 2015

Today President Obama announced nearly \$3 million in humanitarian assistance to help Indonesia fight forest fires and address the negative impacts that the fires and resulting haze are having on people's health.

**DFID** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*Selected Announcements*

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

Updated 30 October 2015 Official Statistics DFID

[Early childhood development and cognitive development in developing countries: Evidence brief](#)

Published 30 October 2015 Research and analysis DFID Part of a collection: [DFID Education Rigorous Literature Review](#)

[Pedagogy, curriculum, teaching practices and teacher education in developing countries: Evidence brief](#)

Published 30 October 2015 Research and analysis DFID Part of a collection: [DFID Education Rigorous Literature Review](#)

[Syrian vulnerable person resettlement programme fact sheet](#)

Published 28 October 2015 Guidance DCLG, DFID and Home Office

[Land tenure and property rights: rapid evidence assessment](#)

Published 27 October 2015 Research and analysis DFID

**ECHO** [to 31 October 2015]

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

[EU Commission increases co-financing for assistance via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism to help in the refugee crisis](#)

28/10/2015

The European Commission has decided to increase the level of co-financing for transport of the assistance delivered via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism for the countries needing help in the current refugee crisis from 55% to 85%."This new...

[EU brings relief to the victims of Typhoon Koppu](#)

28/10/2015

In response to Typhoon Koppu that hit the Philippines on 18 October 2015, the European Commission is providing €124 000 in humanitarian funding to assist the most affected populations. This funding will support the Philippines Red Cross...

.....

**African Union** [to 31 October 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]*

Oct.27.2015 [The African Union Releases the Report of the AU Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan](#)

Oct.30.2015 [Opening of the Third Africa–India Forum Summit \(AIFS-III\) : Both Sides Commit to Open More Investment Opportunities to Enhance the Socio-Economic Development of their Populations](#)

**The African Development Bank Group** [to 31 October 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]*

[AfDB Approves US\\$ 285 million for infrastructure, SMEs and Youth Employment projects in Tunisia, Kenya and Togo](#)

29/10/2015 - The Board of Directors of the Africa Development Bank Group (AfDB) on Wednesday, October 28, 2015 approved combined funding amounting to US \$284.97 million in support of road infrastructure projects in Tunisia, an SMEs development project in Kenya, and a youth employability and integration in growth sectors project in Togo.

[AfDB unveils plan to empower Nigerian women in agriculture](#)

28/10/2015 - The office of the Special Envoy on Gender (SEOG) and the Department for Agriculture and Agro-industry (OSAN) of the African Development Bank (AfDB) commissioned a report, "Economic Empowerment of African Women through Equitable Participation in Agricultural Value Chains". The study, which was launched in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in August 2015, identifies opportunities for women in four subsectors including cocoa, coffee, cotton and cassava sectors in Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso and Nigeria, respectively.

[AfDB and KfW announce broad collaboration that aims to advance agricultural transformation agenda across the African continent](#)

26/10/2015 - On Thursday, October 22, at the "Feeding Africa" conference in Dakar, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and KfW in its role as Germany's development bank, announced a broad collaboration that aims to advance the agricultural transformation agenda across the African continent. The collaboration seeks to develop solutions that drive inclusive growth in Africa by expanding access to financial services in the agricultural sector.

**ASEAN** Association of Southeast Asian Nations [to 31 October 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]*

[11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution](#)

on Friday, 30 October 2015.

HA NOI, 29 October 2015 - Ministers responsible for the environment from ASEAN Member States (AMS) held their 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution on 29 October 2015 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. The Ministers reviewed regional cooperation on a number of haze-related issues, in particular actions taken under the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution...

**European Union** [to 31 October 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](#)

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 30 October 2015

The [European Agenda on Migration](#) adopted by the Commission in May 2015 set out the need for a comprehensive approach to migration management. Since then, a number of measures have been introduced – including the adoption of two emergency schemes to relocate 160,000 people in clear need of international protection from the Member States most affected to other EU Member States, and the endorsement of the Commission Action Plan on Return.

On 23 September, the European Commission presented a set of [priority actions](#) to implement the European Agenda on Migration to be taken within the next six months. This included both short term actions to stabilise the current situation as well as longer term measures to establish a robust system that will bear the test of time.

The list of priority actions set out the key measures immediately required in terms of: (i) operational measures; (ii) budgetary support and (iii) implementation of EU law.

The list was endorsed by the informal meeting of Heads of State and Government of 23 September 2015 and again on 15 October 2015.

These measures now need to be swiftly and effectively implemented at all levels.

For a state of play of the commitments made at the Western Balkans Route Leaders' Meeting, see [here](#).

[Speech of Commissioner Jourová at the Amsterdam Privacy conference - The protection of personal data: More than a "European" fundamental right, it is a right for "everyone"](#)

Date: 29/10/2015

[EU Commission increases co-financing for assistance via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism](#)

Date: 27/10/2015

European Commission - Announcement Brussels, 27 October 2015 The European Commission has today decided to increase the level of co-financing for transport of the assistance delivered via the EU Civil protection Mechanism for the countries needing help in the refugee crisis from 55% to 85%.

[Conclusions of the European Council meeting of 15 October 2015 and the Leaders' Meeting on refugee flows along the Western Balkan route of 25 October 2015 - speech by President Juncker at the European Parliament plenary session](#)

Date: 27/10/2015

[Meeting on the Western Balkans Migration Route: Leaders Agree on 17-point plan of action](#) 

Date: 25/10/2015

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 25 October 2015 Meeting on the Western Balkans Migration Route: Leaders Agree on 17-point plan of action

**OECD** [to 31 October 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]*

[New G20/OECD Principles of Corporate Governance to promote trust and improve the functioning of capital markets in Asia](#)

As part of continuing efforts to support market confidence and business integrity, the OECD has launched in Asia a new set of corporate governance principles that were endorsed at the G20 Finance Ministers meeting in September 2015.

29-October-2015

**Organization of American States (OAS)** [to 31 October 2015]

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

[Spain to Contribute \\$2.7 million in 2016 to OAS Programs on Peace, Democracy, Human Rights, Security, and Development](#)

E-326 October 29, 2015

[Open Government: Building Together the Public Sector that we Want](#)

E-325 October 28, 2015

:: Citizen's participation must be key in the creation and improvement of public services and in strengthening transparency and accountability.

:: Through its Fellowship on Open Government, the OAS creates spaces for young people to develop their own initiatives for the benefit of the Americas.

[OAS Electoral Observation Mission to Haiti Recognizes Efforts of Authorities in General Elections E-322 October 26, 2015](#)

The Electoral Observation Mission of the Organization of American States (OAS/EOM) to Haiti, led by Brazil's former Foreign and Defense Minister Celso Amorim, recognized the efforts put forth by electoral and security authorities during Sunday's presidential and parliamentary elections.

The Chief of Mission highlighted that "The OAS Mission witnessed a significant improvement yesterday from the August 9th elections."

On Election Day, the OAS/EOM team of 125 observers from 27 countries was present from the opening of the polls up to the counting of the votes in all 10 departments of the country, visiting 487 voting centers.

The Mission was aware of the obstacles and challenges leading up to and during election day. In spite of some isolated instances, Haitian citizens with the will to vote were able to cast their ballots.

In its preliminary report, the OAS/EOM observed a higher turnout than during the August 9 elections, a positive tendency the OAS would like to see increase in future elections although isolated incidents of violence occurred on polling day. However, they did not affect the overall course of the election. The OAS/EOM commended the determination and patience of the voters and urged all actors in the electoral process to act responsibly in the coming days...

**Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

[The Secretary General seeks for increased ownership of OIC policies on labour, employment and social protection](#)

The Secretary General has emphasized the significance of giving effect to the various programmes and projects on intra-OIC cooperation on labour, employment and productivity in order to address the current challenges of unemployment, low productivity and macro-economic instability prevalent in OIC countries. This declaration was contained in the speech delivered by H.E. Iyad Ameen Madani, the Secretary General of the OIC, at the opening of the 3rd Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers (ICLM), which began its proceedings in Jakarta, Indonesia yesterday, on 29 October 2015...

29/10/2015

**Group of 77** [to 31 October 2015]

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

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

[Statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by H.E. Ambassador Kingsley Mamabolo, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations, Chair of the Group of 77, at the plenary meeting in consideration of a draft resolution entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba" at the seventieth session of the United Nations General Assembly \(New York, 27 October 2015\)](#)

**UNCTAD** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**World Trade Organisation** [to 31 October 2015]

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

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

[DG Azevêdo: More flexibility needed to achieve outcomes in Nairobi](#)

At a meeting of all WTO members in Geneva today (29 October), looking ahead to the WTO's 10th Ministerial Conference in Nairobi in December, Director-General Roberto Azevêdo warned members that insufficient progress was being made...

[DG Azevêdo: WTO rules help to support better public health](#)

Opening a symposium on "Public Health, Intellectual Property and TRIPS at 20" at the WTO's headquarters on 28 October 2015, Director-General Roberto Azevêdo emphasized that the TRIPS (trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights) Agreement can be part of the solution in tackling public health challenges in developing countries. He also recognized that enhanced cooperation and dialogue between the WTO, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) is a vital contribution to creating a stronger and more stable global framework that helps people lead better and healthier lives. > [Speech](#)

**IMF** [to 31 October 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]*

[Press Release: IMF Sees Lower Growth Ahead for Sub Saharan Africa; Calls for Economic Policies to Adjust to New Environment](#)

October 27, 2015

Economic activity in Sub-Saharan Africa has weakened markedly although growth remains stronger than in many other regions, with growth expected at 3.75 percent in 2015 and 4.25 percent in 2016, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said today. In its October 2015 Regional Economic Outlook for Sub-Saharan Africa, titled [Dealing with the Gathering Clouds](#), the IMF attributed the slowdown to the combination of the sharp fall of commodity prices and more difficult financing conditions...

**World Bank** [to 31 October 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]*

[Central Asian Countries among Top Improvers in Doing Business 2016 report](#)

ALMATY, October 30, 2015 – Today, the World Bank Group hosted the regional launch of Doing Business 2016: Measuring Regulatory Quality and Efficiency in Central Asia. In this year's report, Kazakhstan,...

Date: October 30, 2015 Type: Press Release

[Ending Poverty: How health and innovation can lead the way](#)

Global Development and Poverty Initiative Conference on Shared Prosperity and Health: Advancing Global Development through Innovation and Institutions, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

Date: October 29, 2015 Type: Speeches and Transcripts

[Doing Business Report Finds More than 60% of World's Economies Improved Their Business Rules in Past Year](#)

WASHINGTON, October 27, 2015 – Developing economies quickened the pace of their business reforms during the last 12 months to make it easier for local businesses to start and operate, says the World Bank Group's annual ease of doing business measurement.

[Doing Business 2016: Measuring Regulatory Quality and Efficiency](#) finds that 85 developing economies implemented 169 business reforms during the past year, compared with 154 reforms

the previous year. High-income economies carried out an additional 62 reforms, bringing the total for the past year to 231 reforms in 122 economies around the world...

*[see Week in Review above]*

### **IPU Inter-Parliamentary Union** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases/Briefings*

#### [MPs propose action to boost peace and security through gender equality](#)

29 OCTOBER 2015

MPs have called for fresh action to help ensure that UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security is more widely implemented and respected as they marked its 15th anniversary. Their recommendations, aimed at boosting parliamentary involvement in promoting the women, peace and security agenda, include speeding up the adoption of National Action Plans on 1325; increasing the participation and leadership of women in parliaments, particularly in work relating to peace and security; and ensuring that 15 per cent of peace and security funding is dedicated to gender-related issues such as boosting women's political participation and protecting women and girls from violence. The recommendations followed a discussion by IPU's Meeting of Women MPs on gender equality as an indispensable element of sustainable peace and security. The Meeting of Women MPs, a permanent fixture of IPU Assemblies, works to advance gender equality and women's rights. This includes promoting the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and working alongside the CEDAW Committee.

#### [WHO call for stronger parliamentary engagement on health](#)

29 OCTOBER 2015

World Health Organization (WHO) Director General Dr Margaret Chan has urged MPs around the world to step up their efforts to improve the health of their citizens, stressing the importance of political solutions in a new generation of complex challenges. In her first address to an IPU assembly, Dr Chan stressed the vital role of MPs in a wide range of strategies including delivering universal health coverage, taxing tobacco, improving food labelling and fighting tax, trade and insurance policies which impacted on the poor. She warned of new threats including drug-resistant pathogens, the globalized marketing of unhealthy products, and the growing rates of chronic non-communicable diseases such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes – which have overtaken infectious diseases as the world's biggest killers. Dr Chan also offered to strengthen WHO's collaboration with IPU through structured technical support to IPU's advisory bodies and confirmed a new role for parliamentarians in jointly organized side events at WHO assemblies, the organization's supreme decision-making body. Her address builds on the existing cooperation between WHO and IPU in fields including women's and children's health, family planning, violence against women and girls and harmful traditional practices.

#### [New guidelines help MPs step up HIV action](#)

29 OCTOBER 2015

New guidelines on how parliamentarians can speed up HIV treatment have been published by IPU and UNAIDS. Fast-tracking HIV treatment: Parliamentary action and policy options defines a range of measures parliaments can take to try and ensure all citizens with HIV have access to treatment. HIV treatment is a cornerstone of the AIDS response - helping prevent deaths and new infections – but is still not accessible to all who need it. Vital agents of change, MPs have a pivotal role in delivering social justice and human rights, including access to HIV treatment. The guidelines provide examples of good practice by parliaments and individual members on the issue. The wealth of information in the publication includes details of the fast-track targets the world must meet to end the AIDS epidemic as a global health threat by 2030, the human rights-based approach to HIV, the patenting of drugs and ensuring it does not restrict access to treatment, and how to mobilize resources and finance treatment of the disease.

### [Crucial tool for MPs to tackle migration issues](#)

29 OCTOBER 2015

A new Handbook for Parliamentarians giving vital guidance to MPs and parliaments on migration has been published by IPU and partners, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the UN's Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). [Handbook no.24 "Migration, human rights and governance](#) covers the issues and provides the tools and policy responses to the international movement of people. A complex and highly divisive issue, international migration is motivated by a range of economic, political and social factors. With xenophobia growing and the migration debate predominantly negative, parliamentarians must help ensure there is a meaningful, balanced and informed response to migration through fair and effective policies that maximize the benefits of human mobility whilst addressing the challenges that origin, transit and destination countries and migrants face. This latest Handbook for Parliamentarians offers policy responses to questions such as root causes for migration, social cohesion and migration governance.

### [Action pledge follows nutrition seminar](#)

29 OCTOBER 2015

MPs from nine countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) [pledged parliamentary action](#) to tackle malnutrition, which affects more than 180 million of the world's under-fives, during a meeting in Namibia earlier this month. The MPs examined issues such as the stubbornly high rates of malnutrition as well as the emerging challenge of obesity in their region. They recognized the critical importance of food and nutrition security to economic development, the survival and healthy growth of children, and breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty. The MPs made a commitment to ensure that the necessary laws and budgets on nutrition were in place, to scrutinize government policies, galvanize action by raising awareness of the unacceptably high malnutrition rates, and work in cooperation with other groups and bodies. The meeting, hosted by the Namibian Parliament, was organized by IPU and UNICEF.

### [Conference to focus on answers to statelessness](#)

29 OCTOBER 2015

A [conference in South Africa](#) will explore how parliaments can combat statelessness, which deprives many people of basic rights but which can be solved with relatively simple changes to laws and practices. Statelessness, caused by a variety of factors including discrimination and the redrawing of national boundaries, affects some 10 million people around the world. MPs attending the conference on 26-27 November in Cape Town, organized by IPU, the South African Parliament and the UN refugee agency, UNHCR, will learn more about the impact of legal reforms such as changes to the law in Senegal and Algeria that have enabled women to transfer their nationality to their children and end a major cause of statelessness. They will also learn more about promoting accession by their States to two UN conventions on statelessness which provide the framework for a united international response. The conference is expected to result in a parliamentary action plan to end statelessness.

### **International Criminal Court (ICC)** [to 31 October 2015]

[http://www.icc-cpi.int/en\\_menus/icc/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.icc-cpi.int/en_menus/icc/Pages/default.aspx)

30/10/2015

#### [President of Palestine, H.E. Mr Mahmoud Abbas visits the ICC Prosecutor](#)

Today, Friday 30 October 2015, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal ("ICC" or the "Court"), Mrs Fatou Bensouda and representatives of her Office received H.E. Mr Mahmoud Abbas, the President of Palestine and his delegation at the Seat of the Court in The Hague, Netherlands. The meeting was held in the margins of President Abbas' official visit to the Kingdom of The Netherlands.

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

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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 announcement, programs or appeals.*

#### **Amref Health Africa** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

#### **Aravind Eye Care System** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

#### **BRAC** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

#### **CARE International** [to 31 October 2015]

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

[Koppu Leaves Huge Damage in Northern Philippines, CARE Immediately Responds](#)

PHILIPPINES

26 OCTOBER 2015

CARE immediately deployed an emergency response team in Nueva Ecija and Aurora provinces to conduct damage and needs assessment, as well as provide immediate food assistance to severely affected families in the province of Nueva Ecija.

[CARE: Europe Still Failing to Prevent Humanitarian Crisis in the Balkans](#)

BALKANS

26 OCTOBER 2015

CARE welcomes new EU commitment to provide shelter to an additional 100,000 migrants and asylum-seekers arriving in the Balkans. However, with winter approaching and increasing numbers of women and children travelling to and through Europe, these commitments are completely insufficient to prevent suffering and fear on Europe's borders.

#### **Casa Alianza** [to 31 October 2015]

#### **Covenant House** [to 31 October 2015]

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

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

*No new digest content identified.*

#### **Danish Refugee Council** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**ECPAT** [to 31 October 2015]

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

[NEW THEMATIC REPORT: Unrecognized Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children in Child, Early and Forced Marriage](#)

Posted on 10/28/2015, 14:18

The 10th Asia Pacific Regional Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect (APCCAN2015) took place from 25-28 October 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, with the theme of 'Investing in Children: Every Child Counts'.

ECPAT, Plan International and APCCAN co-hosted a Panel on Child Marriage during the conference, and a new Thematic Report supported by Plan International was launched, titled, '[Unrecognised Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children in Child, Early and Forced Marriage](#)'. The paper aims to contribute to examining the broadly unexplored, yet critical links existing between two kinds of severe violations of children's rights - Child, Early and Forced Marriage and Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children.

As a joint effort of ECPAT International and Plan International, the paper argues that early marriage acts as a major channel to child sexual exploitation, and can also amount to a form of sexual exploitation of children in itself. It investigates, in particular, the impact of early marriage on child protection, focusing on ways by which, in most regions of the world where this traditional harmful practice is perpetuated, it exposes child brides to early forced sexual initiation and activity, non-consensual sex, unwanted pregnancies, trafficking, forced child labour, and being exchanged for the payment of a bride price...

The full Thematic Report is available [here](#).

[Refugee crisis in Europe and rights of children](#)

ECPAST Statement

Posted on 10/28/2015, 13:54

*[see Week in Review above]*

**Fountain House** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Handicap International** [to 31 October 2015]

[http://www.handicap-international.us/press\\_releases](http://www.handicap-international.us/press_releases)

*No new digest content identified.*

**Heifer International** [to 31 October 2015]

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

[Heifer International Weekly](#)

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2015

[Six Months After Earthquake, Heifer Participants and Communities Recovering](#)

25 Oct 2015

Six months ago, [a 7.8-magnitude earthquake devastated Nepal](#). Heifer International and Heifer Nepal immediately acted to provide temporary shelter supplies to nearly 23,000 families in 97 Village Development Committees (VDCs) and across 13 districts who lost their homes and livelihoods.

Members of Heifer's Self-Help Groups and Cooperatives played a key role in immediate relief support before government or other assistance arrived, ensuring distributions went smoothly and each family received some support.

After those immediate needs were met by Heifer and other relief organizations working in the country, and because it was clear the rebuilding and recovery would require a long-term approach, Heifer established a revolving fund for communities that saw the worst damage. Participants advocated for this approach and felt it would allow the communities to make joint decisions about how to best distribute and utilize funds...

**HelpAge International** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**IRC International Rescue Committee** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*Press Release*

30 Oct 2015

[IRC: Refugees Continue to Surge into Lesbos Despite Onset of Winter; Lack of European Support Hindering Overall Response](#)

[Remembering Bob DeVecchi, former IRC President and champion of refugees](#)

Posted by The IRC on October 30, 2015

The Board of Directors, Overseers and staff of the International Rescue Committee are deeply saddened by the loss of Bob DeVecchi, our former President and CEO

**ICRC** [to 31 October 2015]

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

[Philippines: Farmers in Negros enjoy benefits of new corn mill](#)

Farmers Segundo Cañafuego and Cenona Estrada used to grind corn manually – a process that takes long hours with very little output.

30-10-2015 | Video

[Israel: Access to health care is non-negotiable](#)

Jerusalem (ICRC): The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is concerned about the difficulties faced by hospitals to provide medical and health care services in light of the current situation.

30-10-2015 | Article

[Ukraine: 80,000 receive help in Lugansk as winter approaches](#)

With winter looming people living close to the front line are even more vulnerable.

29-10-2015 | Video

[Philippines: Improving lives in conflict-affected communities](#)

In parts of Luzon and the Visayas, communities suffer from the effects of a protracted armed conflict between government security forces and the New People's Army.

29-10-2015 | Article

[Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas visits ICRC Headquarters](#)

The Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Christine Beerli, met with an official delegation from Palestine today led by President Mahmoud Abbas, to discuss the humanitarian situation in Israel and the occupied Palesti

28-10-2015 | Statement

[Afghanistan / Pakistan: Earthquake injures over 2,000 people](#)

Afghan and Pakistan Red Crescent Societies are helping people affected by Monday's M7.5 earthquake whose epicentre was in Jerm district in the Afghan province of Badakhshan close to the border with Pakistan.

28-10-2015 | News release

[Iraq: Food and relief aid for tens of thousands in Abu Ajil](#)

Over a year of heavy fighting in the town of Abu Ajil, Salahuddin province in Iraq resulted in massive displacement of people and destruction of houses and infrastructure.

27-10-2015 | Video

[Lebanon: New diploma offers specialized training for weapon-wounded](#)

The ICRC and the Lebanese University have launched a new "diplôme universitaire" on the clinical management of weapon-wounded patients. The new Module is integrated in the curriculum of the Faculty of Medical Sciences of the Lebanese University duri

26-10-2015 | Article

[Jordan: ICRC continues to assist Syrians at the northeastern border](#)

With the Syrian crisis showing no signs of abating, people continue to cross into Jordan through the northeastern border seeking safety and international protection.

26-10-2015 | Article

**IRCT** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Islamic Relief** [to 31 October 2015]

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

[Health care for refugees](#)

October 28, 2015

Mobile clinics are being used in Jordan to help Syrian refugees and poor Jordanians access free health care.

[Disaster experts travel to remote areas](#)

October 27, 2015

Experts from our Afghanistan and Pakistan offices have travelled to areas affected by the earthquake to assess the needs of the local communities.

**MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières** [to 31 October 2015]

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

Press release

[South Sudan: Rising Violence in Southern Unity State Creates Unprecedented Crisis](#)

October 30, 2015

JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN/NEW YORK—Rising violence against civilians in southern Unity State, South Sudan, is creating an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, depriving the population of shelter, food, and medical care, the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) warned today, calling for increased protection of civilians and safe access for humanitarian organizations.

*Press release*

[Yemen: Denial of Hospital Bombing by Saudi-Led Coalition Contradicts All Facts](#)

October 29, 2015

PARIS/NEW YORK—Despite denials by the Saudi-led coalition, it is beyond doubt that it struck and destroyed a hospital supported by the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Haydan, Yemen, on October 26, MSF said today, adding that the hospital had previously been damaged by coalition attacks.

*Press release*

[South Africa Should Override Patent on Key HIV Medicine After Widespread Stock Out Problem](#)

October 28, 2015

JOHANNESBURG—After six months of persistent supply problems with the key HIV medicine lopinavir/ritonavir (LPV/r), the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) urged the South African government to put the public's health first and override pharmaceutical company AbbVie's patent with a "compulsory licence," in order to allow generic versions of LPV/r to be used in the country.

*Press release*

[Yemen: MSF Hospital Destroyed by Airstrikes](#)

October 27, 2015

SANAA/PARIS/NEW YORK—Airstrikes carried out late last night by the Saudi-led coalition in northern Yemen destroyed a hospital supported by the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), MSF announced today.

*Press release*

[Ukraine: MSF Strongly Refutes False Allegations by Donetsk Authorities](#)

October 26, 2015

The international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) strongly refutes false allegations made in the media by the Humanitarian Committee of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) regarding MSF's medical humanitarian activities in Donetsk.

*Press release*

[Yemen: Medical Aid Blocked from Entering Besieged Area in Taiz](#)

October 25, 2015

TAIZ, YEMEN/AMSTERDAM—Despite weeks of intense negotiations with Ansarallah (Houthi) officials, the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) cannot deliver stocks of essential medical supplies to two hospitals in a besieged enclave of the city of Taiz, in southern Yemen, MSF said today, calling for vital supplies to be let in.

MSF's trucks have been stopped again today at Houthi checkpoints and denied access to the area.

*Field news*

[Pakistan Earthquake: After Initial Response, MSF Assessing Further Needs](#)

October 27, 2015

An earthquake recorded between 7.6 and 8.1 on the Richter scale rocked parts of northeastern Afghanistan and northwestern Pakistan on the afternoon of October 26. Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) medical projects in northwestern Pakistan were faced with an initial influx of seriously wounded in the first hours.

*Field news*

[Slovenia: People in Transit in Urgent Need of Assistance](#)

October 26, 2015

Thousands of people are entering Slovenia each day from different points along the Croatian border. While some are staying in overcrowded transit centers, others are forced to spend nights outdoors, sleeping in fields. In response, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) teams are working alongside the Slovenian Ministry of Health in the transit center of Brezice, in addition to increasing their provision of humanitarian aid elsewhere in the area.

**Mercy Corps** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Operation Smile** [to 31 October 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 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Norwegian Refugee Council** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*Latest News*

[As world leaders debate Syria, thousands will flee towards Turkey if fighting continues](#)

(30.10.2015)

As Russian, American, Saudi and Iranian leaders meet in Vienna to discuss the Syria crisis, thousands continue being forced out of their homes by the new surge in fighting. Countless families flee intensified fighting and if the fighting continues to spread they will have no choice but to head towards the Turkish border. Here, they will be piling up pressure on the already overstretched displacement settlements on both sides of the border.

*Afghanistan*

[Reaching out to earthquake victims](#)

Guri Romtveit (28.10.2015)

The devastating earthquake that struck Northern Afghanistan has left many homeless and in need of aid. With winter fast approaching, NRC is helping those left without shelter.

*Syria*

[Thousands more expected to head towards overcrowded displacement sites](#)

Karl Schembri (26.10.2015)

Thousands of Syrians fleeing their homes in the wake of increased fighting on the outskirts of Aleppo and other locations are likely to head towards already overcrowded displacement settlements.

**Pact** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Partners In Health** [to 31 October 2015]

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

[Fighting TB: No More 'Good Enough'](#)

Posted on October 30, 2015

Every year for the past 20 years, the World Health Organization has released its Global Tuberculosis Report and it has passed fairly directly into obscurity. This year was different. Released on Wednesday, the contents of the 204-page [document](#) were reported on by newspapers from The Wall Street Journal to The Times of India. The WHO itself described the publication as a “watershed moment.”

Why? For the first time, the number of people who died from the respiratory disease outnumbered those who died of AIDS. Last year HIV/AIDS killed 1.2 million people, while Mycobacterium tuberculosis was responsible for the death of 1.5 million people.

The WHO views this largely in a positive light. As is to be expected from a bureaucracy charged with building consensus and setting standards, they chose to focus on the fact that the death rate from tuberculosis is half of what it was in 1990. Despite low funding, the world has made measured, albeit uneven, progress. “The report shows that TB control has had a tremendous impact in terms of lives saved and patients cured,” WHO Director-General Margaret Chan said in a [press release](#) accompanying the report.

Partners In Health’s TB experts view it another way. They are of course pleased to hear of lives saved, but with TB largely curable since 1947, they find any death a moral outrage, not to mention 1.5 million. Last year, as many people died from TB as during a decade of the Vietnam War.

They are also impatient with the progress. “Although tuberculosis incidence has declined over the past 25 years, it has done so at a glacial pace of about 1.65 percent annually,” [writes](#) Dr. Salmaan Keshavjee, senior TB specialist at PIH and director of Harvard Medical School’s Center for Global Health Delivery-Dubai. “At this rate, it will take another two centuries to eliminate the disease.”

Lastly, while they applaud the WHO for pointing out dramatic shortfalls in funding, they stress that finances are only part of the problem. The end of TB will come not from calls that the disease be “controlled,” as has long been a popular policy, but that it be eradicated. “The history of TB is the failed policy of ‘good enough,’” says Dr. Joia Mukherjee, PIH’s chief medical officer.

PIH has been fighting TB for decades, beginning with a successful program battling drug-resistant TB in the slums of Peru in 1996. Currently, we’re supporting patients, improving treatment protocols, and shaping national policy everywhere from Russia to Lesotho. This year, we began a four-year, 15-country program with Medecins Sans Frontieres and Interactive Research and Development to find better treatments for drug-resistant TB. This week, PIH TB expert Dr. Michael Rich is working with the government of Liberia to devise a TB-eradication strategy and Keshavjee published “Stopping the body count: a comprehensive approach to move towards zero tuberculosis deaths” in [The Lancet](#). The WHO report is indeed a watershed moment—and a call to do better.

**PATH** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*Announcement* | October 29, 2015

[PATH scientist: new tools can better detect tuberculosis](#)

*Report calls for faster validation*

Last week, UNITAID released its [Tuberculosis Diagnostics Technology and Market Landscape report](#), co-authored by PATH scientist Dr. David Boyle, who oversees the [PATH Diagnostics Program Tuberculosis \(TB\) Portfolio](#). The report, now in its fourth edition, reviews current and potential technologies and critical market challenges to improved access to better TB diagnostics.

**Plan International** [to 31 October 2015]

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

[South Asia earthquake: Plan International ready to respond](#)

26 October 2015

(Islamabad, Pakistan) – Plan International is ready to respond after a magnitude 7.5 earthquake hit north-eastern Afghanistan, with tremors felt widely in Pakistan and India.

[Children remain vulnerable in post-quake Nepal](#)

25 October 2015

(KATHMANDU, NEPAL) – Six months after the April earthquake that claimed 9,000 lives and impacted the lives of 8 million people, international child rights organisation Plan International says that the needs of children, especially girls, children with disabilities and marginalised youth, must take precedence as Nepal starts the long road to recovery.

**Save The Children** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**SOS-Kinderdorf International** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Tostan** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Women for Women International** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*Blog*

[Global Leaders Call for More Women in Peace-building](#)

As the 15th anniversary of the landmark UN Security Council Resolution 1325 nears on October 31st, the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (GIWPS) released a new [report](#) highlighting the progress to date using case studies and reflections from global leaders while bringing attention to the challenges and obstacles that remain.

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**ChildFund Alliance** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**CONCORD** [to 31 October 2015]

*European NGO confederation for relief and development*

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

[NGOs say progress to make EU policies fair to poor and vulnerable people is insufficient](#)

(Brussels, Luxembourg, 26/10/2015) Progress to make EU policies fair to poor and vulnerable people is insufficient to seriously tackle sustainable development challenges and inequalities,

according to European Development NGOs at the press conference held in Luxembourg, organised by CONCORD and Cercle de Coopération, under the patronage of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE).

**Disasters Emergency Committee** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*[Action Aid, Age International, British Red Cross, CAFOD, Care International, Christian Aid, Concern Worldwide, Islamic Relief, Oxfam, Plan UK, Save the Children, Tearfund and World Vision]  
No new digest content identified..*

**The Elders** [to 31 October 2015]

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

News 27 October 2015

[Show political courage over the refugee crisis](#)

The Elders urge European leaders to show political courage over the refugee crisis in a debate with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein and the Director General of the International Organization for Migration Bill Swing

*Guest blog* Michael Diedring and John Dorber 26 October 2015

[Refugee Crisis: how language contributes to the fate of refugees](#)

Europe is currently facing a crisis of conscience as refugees fleeing conflict in the Middle East and Africa seek asylum. Michael Diedring and John Dorber of the European Council on Refugees and Exiles explain how calculated use of language on the crisis can create a hostile environment for refugees when used by media and politicians.

**END Fund** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Gavi** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Global Fund** [to 31 October 2015]

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

[World Health Organisation right to be wary about first malaria vaccine](#)

By Seth Berkley and Mark Dybul in [Voices](#) on 29 October 2015

*[see Week in Review above]*

**Hilton Prize Coalition** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*An Alliance of Hilton Prize Recipients*

*No new digest content identified.*

**InterAction** [to 31 October 2015]

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

[InterAction's Laky Pissalidis Recognized as Security Industry Leader](#)

Oct 27, 2015

Every year, Security magazine recognizes leaders in the security sector who have influenced the national and global security landscape through projects, programs, or departments. The recently released list of 2015's most influential professionals included one individual from the NGO sector – InterAction Director of Security Basile (Laky) Pissalidis.

**Start Network** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*[Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies]*

[Sean Lowrie on how the Start Fund enables local and international NGOs to work together](#)

October 30, 2015

Posted by Helen James in Blog.

*Start Network director Sean Lowrie describes the Start Fund and says it demonstrates how local and international NGOs can work together.*

The international aid system rests on a population of thousands of organisations around the world, but governments who provide most of the funding don't have the resources to process lots of contracts to fund those organisations, so we can either consolidate or we can aggregate.

Aggregation is better for the system because it allows for a more diverse population of organisation, and diversity is more resilient, it's more agile, it's more responsive, and it enables the local and international NGOs to work together.

The Start Fund does just that, it provides aggregation, a single point of entry for governments to access a large population of organisations, and the ownership and power is diverse across the Start Network...

**Muslim Charities Forum** [to 31 October 2015]

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

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

[Vacancy at The Humanitarian Forum](#)

28th October 2015

There is a vacancy for the position of Director at The Humanitarian Forum. The Humanitarian Forum (THF) is a network of key humanitarian and charitable organizations from each of: Muslim donor and recipient countries; the West; and the multilateral system.

.....

**Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP)** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**CHS International Alliance** [to 31 October 2015]

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

26/10/2015

[HHR Asia 2015: Day 1 highlights unique challenges of talent preparedness and humanitarian leadership in an evolving Asia](#)

The 2015 Humanitarian Human Resources (HHR) Asia conference kicked off today in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, with engaging discussions on the conference theme from Dr Ahmad Faizal Perdaus from Mercy Malaysia, Sophie Perreard from the Humanitarian Leadership Programme, Deakin University, Sayeda Tanya Hossain from BRAC, and Islamic World Relief.

**EHLRA/R2HC** [to 31 October 2015]  
<http://www.elrha.org/resource-hub/news/>  
*No new digest content identified.*

**Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA)** [to 31 October 2015]  
<http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/>  
*Crisis Briefing*  
[Earthquake in northern Pakistan](#)  
2015/10/30

On the 29 October 2015 we responded to a funding alert in response to an earthquake in northern regions of Pakistan: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Jammu Kashmir and Federally Administered Tribal Areas.

**ODI** [to 31 October 2015]  
<http://www.odi.org/media>  
[In quest of inclusive progress: exploring intersecting inequalities in human development](#)

Research reports and studies | October 2015 | Amanda Lenhardt and Emma Samman

For 16 countries with appropriate data, this paper seeks to ascertain to what extent wealth status, urban/rural place of residence and ethnicity – and overlaps between them – explain inequalities in education and health; and how these inequalities have changed over...

[Markets in crises: South Sudan case study](#)

Working and discussion papers | October 2015 | Irina Mosel and Emily Henderson

This paper looks at how conflict and aid impact markets and businesses in Juba, South Sudan.

[The European Union's new Gender Action Plan 2016-2020: gender equality and women's empowerment in external relations](#)

Research reports and studies | October 2015 | Helen O'Connell, Mikaela Gavas

An analysis of the European Union's framework, 'Gender equality and women's empowerment: transforming the lives of girls and women through EU external relations 2016-2020'.

[Private sector and water supply, sanitation and hygiene](#)

Research reports and studies | October 2015 | Nathaniel Mason, Mariana Matoso and William Smith

This report provides a framework and recommendations for private sector engagement in support of universal access to water supply, sanitation and hygiene.

[The Ebola response in West Africa: Exposing the politics and culture of international aid](#)

Working and discussion papers | October 2015 | Marc DuBois and Caitlin Wake, with Scarlett Sturridge and Christina Bennett

An examination of the strengths and weakness of the international aid system through the lens of the Ebola response.

**The Sphere Project** [to 31 October 2015]  
<http://www.sphereproject.org/news/>  
*No new digest content identified.*

**Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP)** [to 31 October 2015]  
<https://phap.org/>

[PHAP members provide input to Global Protection Cluster strategy review](#)

26 October 2015

In 2015, the Global Protection Cluster (GPC) will update its Strategic Framework and revitalize its structures to react better to the needs of the field. As part of the consultations for this revision, PHAP fielded a survey to its members and wider contact network in September in order to gather...

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

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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 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Clinton Foundation** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*Press Release*

[UPDATED MEDIA ADVISORY: Clinton Foundation & SELF host "What Works for Women Leaders in Technology:" A Discussion on Ways to Advance Women's Leadership in the Technology Sector](#)

October 26, 2015

New York – On Thursday, October 29, Clinton Foundation Vice Chair Chelsea Clinton and SELF Editor-in-Chief Joyce Chang will host "What Works for Women Leaders in Technology," a panel discussion with leaders in technology...

**Ford Foundation** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**William and Flora Hewlett Foundation** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Conrad N. Hilton Foundation** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**IKEA Foundation** [to 31 October 2015]

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

[Help us make education possible for ALL children!](#)

October 29, 2015

For every soft toy or children's book sold at IKEA stores in November and December, the IKEA Foundation will donate €1 to Save the Children and UNICEF to improve education for children living in poverty.

**HHMI - Howard Hughes Medical Institute** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*Research* [ October 28, 2015 ]

[Researchers Identify New Factors that Guide Organization of Plant Roots](#)

HHMI scientists have identified a set of proteins that plays a surprisingly broad role in guiding tissue formation in plant roots.

*Research* [ Oct 26, 2015 ]

[Seeing the Big Picture](#)

Within less than a second, the new IsoView microscope produces images of entire organisms, such as a zebrafish or fruit fly embryo, with enough resolution in all three dimensions that each cell appears as a distinct structure.

**Kellogg Foundation** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**MacArthur Foundation** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation** [to 31 October 2015]

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

[Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center introduces MyICU](#)

October 26, 2015

BOSTON – If you or a loved one has ever spent time in a hospital intensive care unit (ICU), you know how overwhelming it can feel. The medical language, the equipment and the number of doctors, nurses and other clinicians providing care can be a lot to take in at a difficult time. MyICU, a new two-way communication tool created by patients, family members, clinicians and others at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), aims to help make the ICU stay a little bit better....

**Open Society Foundations** [to 31 October 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 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Pew Charitable Trusts** [to 31 October 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Rockefeller Foundation** [to 31 October 2015]

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

[Richard D. Parsons Elected Next Chair of The Rockefeller Foundation Board](#)

October 28, 2015

*David Rockefeller Jr. to Step Down at End of Five Year Term*

NEW YORK—The Trustees of The Rockefeller Foundation announced today the unanimous election of business executive Richard D. Parsons as the next Chair of the Board of Trustees. Parsons will serve as Chair-Elect until June of 2016 when he will take over as Chair at the end of the term of the current Board Chair, David Rockefeller Jr. Parsons joined The Rockefeller Foundation Board of Trustees in 2008.

David Rockefeller Jr., joined The Rockefeller Foundation board of trustees in 2006 and he began serving as Board Chair in December 2010. His term of Chair included the Foundation's Centennial in 2013, an historic opportunity to reflect on one hundred years of impact and to launch new work for a second century.

David Rockefeller Jr. said: "It has been an enormous honor to serve as Board Chair of the philanthropy established by my great-grandfather in 1913. It gives me great pleasure that my successor will be Dick Parsons, a good friend of mine. Dick has led an inspiring career in both business and public service and has been an invaluable member of the board since 2007. I am certain that under Dick and Judith's leadership the Foundation will continue to go from strength to strength."...

[HAMILTON: The Musical and The Rockefeller Foundation Announce Partnership to Provide 20,000 NYC Public School Students with Tickets to Hamilton on Broadway With \\$1.46 Million Grant](#)

October 27, 2015

*Innovative Educational Collaboration with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and the NYC Department of Education Will Support Classroom Studies*

**Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** [to 31 October 2015]

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

[RWJF Awards Eight Communities with RWJF Culture of Health Prize](#)

October 28, 2015

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation announced the eight winners of the 2015 RWJF Culture of Health Prize, which honors communities that are working to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live a longer, healthier, and more productive life.

**Wellcome Trust** [to 31 October 2015]

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

[Time for 'The Crunch' as the Wellcome Trust launches initiative to get the nation thinking about food and drink](#)

The future of food is one of the biggest challenges on our plate. Our relationship with food is changing, affecting our health and the world around us in new and uncertain ways. The Wellcome Trust is launching The Crunch, to encourage people in the UK to explore these changes and inspire us all to create a recipe for a happier, healthier future.

29 October 2015

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

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## **:: Journal Watch**

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

### **American Journal of Disaster Medicine**

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>

#### **[Social and political determinants of vaccine hesitancy: Lessons learned from the H1N1 pandemic of 2009-2010](#)**

Gustavo S. Mesch, Kent P. Schwirian

p1161–1165

*Preview*

Public acceptance of vaccination programs is essential for vaccine preventable diseases. However, increasing sectors of the population have expressed hesitancy about participating in such programs, leading to the re-emergence of vaccine preventable diseases. In this study we rely on a re-creancy hypothesis to test the association between confidence in the government and local hospitals and the willingness to take the vaccine.

### **American Journal of Preventive Medicine**

November 2015 Volume 49, Issue 5, p661-810, e53-e88

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

### **American Journal of Public Health**

Volume 105, Issue S5 (November 2015)

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

#### **[Universal Health Coverage: A Political Struggle and Governance Challenge](#)**

Scott L. Greer, Claudio A. Méndez

American Journal of Public Health: November 2015, Vol. 105, No. S5: S637–S639

*Abstract*

Universal health coverage has become a rallying cry in health policy, but it is often presented as a consensual, technical project. It is not.

A review of the broader international literature on the origins of universal coverage shows that it is intrinsically political and cannot be achieved without recognition of its dependence on, and consequences for, both governance and politics.

On one hand, a variety of comparative research has shown that health coverage is associated with democratic political accountability. Democratization, and in particular left-wing parties, gives governments particular cause to expand health coverage. On the other hand, governance, the ways states make and implement decisions, shapes any decision to strive for universal health coverage and the shape of its implementation.

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

October 2015; 93 (4)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

## **BMC Health Services Research**

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

(Accessed 31 October 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

## **BMC Infectious Diseases**

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

(Accessed 31 October 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

## **BMC Medical Ethics**

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

(Accessed 31 October 2015)

[No new content]

## **BMC Medicine**

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

(Accessed 31 October 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

## **BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth**

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

(Accessed 31 October 2015)

*Research article*

### **[Determinants of postnatal care use at health facilities in rural Tanzania: multilevel analysis of a household survey](#)**

Diwakar Mohan, Shivam Gupta, Amnesty LeFevre, Eva Bazant, Japhet Killewo, Abdullah H Baqui  
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth 2015, 15:282 (30 October 2015)

*Research article*

### **[Adverse pregnancy outcomes in rural Uganda \(1996–2013\): trends and associated factors from serial cross sectional surveys](#)**

Gershim Asiki, Kathy Baisley, Rob Newton, Lena Marions, Janet Seeley, Anatoli Kamali, Lars Smedman

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth 2015, 15:279 (29 October 2015)

## **BMC Public Health**

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

(Accessed 31 October 2015)

*Research article*

### **[Prevalence and care-seeking for chronic diseases among Syrian refugees in Jordan](#)**

Shannon Doocy, Emily Lyles, Timothy Robertson, Laila Akhu-Zaheya, Arwa Oweis, Gilbert Burnham  
BMC Public Health 2015, 15:1097 (31 October 2015)

### *Abstract*

#### Background

There are currently more people displaced by conflict than at any time since World War II. The profile of displaced populations has evolved with displacement increasingly occurring in urban and middle-income settings. Consequently, an epidemiological shift away from communicable diseases that have historically characterized refugee populations has occurred. The high prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) poses a challenge to in terms of provision of appropriate secondary and tertiary services, continuity of care, access to medications, and costs. In light of the increasing burden of NCDs faced by refugees, we undertook this study to characterize the prevalence of NCDs and better understand issues related to care-seeking for NCDs among Syrian refugees in non-camp settings in Jordan.

#### Methods

A cross-sectional survey of 1550 refugees was conducted using a multi-stage cluster design with probability proportional to size sampling to obtain a nationally representative sample of Syrian refugees outside of camps. To obtain information on chronic conditions, respondents were asked a series of questions about hypertension, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and arthritis. Differences by care-seeking for these conditions were examined using chi-square and t-test methods and characteristics of interest were included in the adjusted logistic regression model.

#### Results

Among adults, hypertension prevalence was the highest (9.7 %, CI: 8.8–10.6), followed by arthritis (6.8 %, CI: 5.9–7.6), diabetes (5.3 %, CI: 4.6–6.0), chronic respiratory diseases (3.1 %, CI: 2.4–3.8), and cardiovascular disease (3.7 %, CI: 3.2, 4.3). Of the 1363 NCD cases, 84.7 % (CI: 81.6–87.3) received care in Jordan; of the five NCDs assessed, arthritis cases had the lowest rates of care seeking at 65 %, (CI:0–88,  $p=0.005$ ). Individuals from households in which the head completed post-secondary and primary education, respectively, had 89 % (CI: 22–98) and 88 % (CI: 13–98) lower odds of seeking care than those with no education ( $p=0.028$  and  $p=0.037$ , respectively). Refugees in North Jordan were most likely to seek care for their condition; refugees in Central Jordan had 68 % (CI: 1–90) lower odds of care-seeking than those in the North ( $p=0.047$ ).

#### Conclusion

More than half of Syrian refugee households in Jordan reported a member with a NCD. A significant minority did not receive care, citing cost as the primary barrier. As funding limitations persist, identifying the means to maintain and improve access to NCD care for Syrian refugees in Jordan is essential.

### **BMC Research Notes**

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

(Accessed 31 October 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

### **BMJ Open**

2015, Volume 5, Issue 10

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **British Medical Journal**

31 October 2015 (vol 351, issue 8031)

<http://www.bmj.com/content/351/8031>

[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/>

EDITORIALS

#### **[Gender, health and the Sustainable Development Goals](#)**

Veronica Magar

RESEARCH

#### **[An insecticide-treated bed-net campaign and childhood malaria in Burkina Faso](#)**

Valérie R Louis, Anja Schoeps, Justin Tiendrebéogo, Claudia Beiersmann, Maurice Yé, Marie R Damiba, Guang Y Lu, André H Mbayiha, Manuela De Allegri, Albrecht Jahn, Ali Sié, Heiko Becher & Olaf Müller

doi: 10.2471/BLT.14.147702

POLICY & PRACTICE

#### **[Evidence on global medical travel](#)**

Kai Ruggeri, Ladislav Záliš, Christopher R Meurice, Ian Hilton, Terry-Lisa Ly, Zorana Zupan & Saba Hinrichs

doi: 10.2471/BLT.14.146027

*Abstract*

The potential benefits of travelling across national borders to obtain medical treatment include improved care, decreased costs and reduced waiting times. However, medical travel involves additional risks, compared to obtaining treatment domestically. We review the publicly-available evidence on medical travel. We suggest that medical travel needs to be understood in terms of its potential risks and benefits so that it can be evaluated against alternatives by patients who are seeking care. We propose three domains – quality standards, informed decision-making, economic and legal protection – in which better evidence could support the development of medical travel policies.

### **Complexity**

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

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

### **Conflict and Health**

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

[Accessed 31 October 2015]

*Debate*

#### **[Coincident polio and Ebola crises expose similar fault lines in the current global health regime](#)**

Philippe Calain, Caroline Abu Sa'Da

Conflict and Health 2015, 9:29 (16 Sept 2015)

### **Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation**

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

(Accessed 31 October 2015)

[No new content]

### **Developing World Bioethics**

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Development in Practice**

Volume 25, Issue 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 05 / October 2015

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

#### ***Ebola Special Section***

*Several articles surveying the Ebola epidemic and response strategies*

[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**

October 2015, Volume 32, Issue 10

<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 14 - October 2015

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **The European Journal of Public Health**

Volume 25, Issue 5, 1 October 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Food Policy**

Volume 56, *In Progress* (October 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 2, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Genocide Studies International**

Volume 9 No. 1, Spring 2015

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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

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 31 October 2015]

[No new content]

### **Global Public Health**

Volume 10, Issue 10, 2015

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

**[Global governmentality: Biosecurity in the era of infectious diseases](#)**

Jlatah Vincent Jappah & Danielle Taana Smith

pages 1139-1156

DOI:10.1080/17441692.2015.1038843

*Abstract*

This paper uses Foucault's concept of governmentality to examine relationships between globalisation, the threat of infectious diseases and biosecurity. It draws attention to forms of calculated practices which Foucault notes as technologies of power that aim to foster positive demographic and economic trends in societies through the apparatus of security. These practices are employed at the global level with similar ambitions; hence, we adopt the term global governmentality. We discuss the applications of global governmentality by actors in the global core through the apparatus of security and (neo)liberal economic practices. We then provide examples of resistance/contestation from actors mainly in the global periphery through discussions of viral sovereignty; access to essential medicines, including HIV drugs; and health for all as a human right. We conclude that despite the core-periphery power asymmetry and competing paradigms, these developments tend to complement and/or regulate the phenomenon termed global governmentality, which is made evident by the tremendous successes in global health.

**[Making surgical missions a joint operation: NGO experiences of visiting surgical teams and the formal health care system in Guatemala](#)**

Stephanie Roche & Rachel Hall-Clifford

pages 1201-1214

DOI:10.1080/17441692.2015.1011189

*Abstract*

Each year, thousands of Guatemalans receive non-emergent surgical care from short-term medical missions (STMMs) hosted by local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and staffed by foreign visiting medical teams (VMTs). The purpose of this study was to explore the perspectives of individuals based in NGOs involved in the coordination of surgical missions to better understand how these missions articulate with the larger Guatemalan health care system. During the summers of 2011 and 2013, in-depth interviews were conducted with 25 representatives from 11 different Guatemalan NGOs with experience with surgical missions. Transcripts were analysed for major themes using an inductive qualitative data analysis process. NGOs made use of the formal health care system but were limited by several factors, including cost, issues of trust and current ministry of health policy. Participants viewed the government health care system as a potential resource and expressed a desire for more collaboration. The current practices of STMMs are not conducive to health system strengthening. The role of STMMs must be defined and widely understood by all stakeholders in order to improve patient safety and effectively utilise health resources. Priority should be placed on aligning the work of VMTs with that of the larger health care system.

**Globalization and Health**

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

[Accessed 31 October 2015]

[No new content]

**Health Affairs**

October 2015; Volume 34, Issue 10

<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 10 - Special Issue 04 - October 2015

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

#### ***SPECIAL ISSUE: 10th Anniversary Issue***

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Health Policy and Planning**

Volume 30 Issue 8 October 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Health Research Policy and Systems**

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

[Accessed 31 October 2015]

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Human Rights Quarterly**

Volume 37, Number 3, August 2015

[http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/human\\_rights\\_quarterly/toc/hrq.37.3.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/human_rights_quarterly/toc/hrq.37.3.html)

[Reviewed earlier]

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

Volume 39, Issue 4, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Humanitarian Exchange Magazine**

Issue 64 June 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **IDRiM Journal**

Vol 5, No 1 (2015) June 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Infectious Diseases of Poverty**

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

[Accessed 31 October 2015]

*Research Article*

**Indirect costs associated with deaths from the Ebola virus disease in West Africa**

Josés Kirigia, Felix Masiye, Doris Kirigia, Patricia Akweongo *Infectious Diseases of Poverty* 2015, 4:45 (29 October 2015)

*Editor's summary*

Deaths associated with Ebola Virus Disease have been shown to impose a significant economic burden on the affected West African countries. The team did this study to complement the projection by the World Bank in 2014; and made a plea for increased domestic and external investments to enable Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (and other vulnerable African countries) to develop resilient health systems. Image: Ebola virus disease treatment centre in Monrovia, Sierra Leone.

*Abstract*

Background

By 28 June 2015, there were a total of 11,234 deaths from the Ebola virus disease (EVD) in five West African countries (Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria and Sierra Leone). The objective of this study was to estimate the future productivity losses associated with EVD deaths in these West African countries, in order to encourage increased investments in national health systems.

Methods

A cost-of-illness method was employed to calculate future non-health (NH) gross domestic product (GDP) (NHGDP) losses associated with EVD deaths. The future non-health GDP loss (NHGDPLoss) was discounted at 3 %. Separate analyses were done for three different age groups (< =14 years, 15–44 years and >45 years) for the five countries (Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone) affected by EVD. We also conducted a one-way sensitivity analysis at 5 and 10 % discount rates to gauge their impacts on expected NHGDPLoss.

Results

The discounted value of future NHGDPLoss due to the 11,234 deaths associated with EVD was estimated to be Int\$ (international dollars) 155,663,244. About 27.86 % of the loss would be borne by Guinea, 34.84 % by Liberia, 0.10 % by Mali, 0.24 % by Nigeria and 36.96 % by Sierra Leone. About 27.27 % of the loss is attributed to those aged under 14 years, 66.27 % to those aged 15–44 years and 6.46 % to those aged over 45 years. The average NHGDPLoss per EVD death was estimated to be Int\$ 17,473 for Guinea, Int\$ 11,283 for Liberia, Int\$ 25,126 for Mali, Int\$ 47,364 for Nigeria and Int\$ 14,633 for Sierra Leone.

Conclusion

In spite of alluded limitations, the estimates of human and economic losses reported in this paper, in addition to those projected by the World Bank, show that EVD imposes a significant economic burden on the affected West African countries. That heavy burden, coupled with human rights and global security concerns, underscores the urgent need for increased domestic and external investments to enable Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (and other vulnerable African countries) to develop resilient health systems, including core capacities to detect, assess, notify, verify and report events, and to respond to public health risks and emergencies.

**International Health**

Volume 7 Issue 5 September 2015

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

***Disease Elimination Special Issue***

[Reviewed earlier]

**International Human Rights Law Review**

Volume 4, Issue 1, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction**

Volume 13, In Progress (September 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**International Journal of Infectious Diseases**

October 2015 Volume 39, In Progress

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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

Volume 22, Issue 5, 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>

**[Mental health and psychosocial support in humanitarian settings: reflections on a review of UNHCR's approach and activities](#)**

Meyer, Sarah; Morand, Mary-Beth

*Abstract*

Mental health and psychosocial support activities are increasingly becoming a core component of humanitarian response and support for displaced persons in emergencies. However, recognition of the mental health and psychosocial impacts of conflict, disaster and displacement is relatively new within the sphere of humanitarian assistance. This paper, therefore, describes and expands on findings from a review of the UN Refugee Agency's engagement with mental health and psychosocial support for refugees. While this review specifically focused on one agency within the humanitarian field, it should be useful to many humanitarian agencies working in the field as the number of displacement scenarios grow and mental health and psychosocial aspects of displacement are increasingly evident. This review identified three key themes; 1) engaging with mental health and psychosocial support in humanitarian settings as an approach and as a set of interventions was found to be a useful framework; 2) challenges in measuring and evaluating mental health and psychosocial support activities, and the ways in which these challenges influence mental health and psychosocial support in humanitarian settings is discussed; and 3) limitations in provision of clinical mental health services were evident.

**JAMA**

October 27, 2015, Vol 314, No. 16

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

**JAMA Pediatrics**

October 2015, Vol 169, No. 10

<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 5, October 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**

October 2015, Volume 69, Issue 10

<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 3, August 2015

[https://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal\\_of\\_health\\_care\\_for\\_the\\_poor\\_and\\_underserved/toc/hpu.26.3.html](https://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_health_care_for_the_poor_and_underserved/toc/hpu.26.3.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 5, October 2015

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

[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>

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

### **Journal of International Development**

October 2015 Volume 27, Issue 7 Pages 881–1350

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

**[Rescuing Girls, Investing in Girls: A Critique of Development Fantasies \(pages 881–897\)](#)**

Cynthia M. Caron and Shelby A. Margolin

Article first published online: 24 SEP 2015 | DOI: 10.1002/jid.3146

*Abstract*

The girl child increasingly is at the centre of development programming. We draw on Slavoj Žižek's notion of fantasy to show how and, more importantly, why girl-centred initiatives reproduce the shortcomings of women and gender-focused programmes before them. Through an analysis of three girl-centred campaigns, we illustrate how experts identify and diagnose girls' problems and prescribe solutions that not only circumscribe girls' futures, but are also counterproductive. We argue that even as campaigns try to integrate lessons learned from earlier gender and development initiatives, the critical reflection that a Žižekian approach promotes would better enable development actors to reformulate campaigns and fundamental campaign assumptions.

**[Knowing and Doing Between the Academic and Policy Worlds in Development Assistance \(pages 1294–1311\)](#)**

Morgan Brigg, Jodie Curth-Bibb, Elizabeth Strakosch and Martin Weber

Article first published online: 22 JAN 2015 | DOI: 10.1002/jid.3068

*Abstract*

Policy professionals overseeing the provision of development assistance and their critical academic counterparts are often at odds with each other. Although many agree that it is useful to deal with this tension, current efforts to do so tend to exhort each to be more like the other under the rhetoric of 'evidence-based policy'. Meanwhile, the differences between these players are kept alive by mutual misunderstandings that can border upon stereotyping. This paper reflects on this situation from the perspective of the critical academic and offers an enhanced understanding of key positions and misapprehensions to contribute to a foundation for improved relationships.

**[From Unconventional to Ordinary? The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Homogenizing Effects of International Development Cooperation \(pages 1098–1112\)](#)**

Adam Moe Fejerskov

Article first published online: 9 SEP 2015 | DOI: 10.1002/jid.3149

### *Abstract*

The majority of the literature on new actors in development cooperation explores how these alter the field. This article presents a reverse case of how the strong homogenizing norms and principles of international development may turn an unconventional development actor into something quite conventional and more alike to well-established actors. Drawing on insights from institutional theory, it examines organizational changes in the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation from formation until today and argues that the foundation has progressed from a state of intentional isolation to one of actively engaging in and adhering to the field's norm and principle-setting. Copyright © 2015 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

### **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-2/issuetoc>

***Special Issue: SYMPOSIUM: Should We Offer Genomic Research Results to a Participant's Family, Including After the Participant's Death?***

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

### **Journal of Medical Ethics**

October 2015, Volume 41, Issue 10

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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

Volume 4 Issue 3 September 2015

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

[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**

Oct 31, 2015 Volume 386 Number 10005 p1707-1794 e22-e26

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

*Editorial*

**[What next for the malaria RTS,S vaccine candidate?](#)**

The Lancet

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)00733-3](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)00733-3)

### *Summary*

On Oct 23, the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) and the Malaria Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) announced their much-anticipated recommendations for the world's first malaria vaccine candidate known as RTS,S/AS01. Their decision is not to recommend widespread deployment of the vaccine based on existing evidence, but instead to assess the feasibility of delivering the vaccine and its impact in real-world settings. This decision was perhaps unexpected given the fact that earlier this year the European Medicines Agency reviewed the same safety and efficacy data, and approved the vaccine's use in young children.

### *Series*

#### *Faith-based health care*

#### **[Understanding the roles of faith-based health-care providers in Africa: review of the evidence with a focus on magnitude, reach, cost, and satisfaction](#)**

Jill Olivier, Clarence Tsimpo, Regina Gemignani, Mari Shojo, Harold Coulombe, Frank Dimmock, Minh Cong Nguyen, Harrison Hines, Edward J Mills, Joseph L Dieleman, Annie Haakenstad, Quentin Wodon

#### *Faith-based health care*

#### **[Controversies in faith and health care](#)**

Andrew Tomkins, Jean Duff, Atallah Fitzgibbon, Azza Karam, Edward J Mills, Keith Munnings, Sally Smith, Shreelata Rao Seshadri, Avraham Steinberg, Robert Vitillo, Philemon Yugi

#### *Faith-based health care*

#### **[Strengthening of partnerships between the public sector and faith-based groups](#)**

Jean F Duff, Warren W Buckingham  
1786

## **The Lancet Global Health**

Nov 2015 Volume 3 Number 11 e654-e724

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

#### **[Effect of a community-led sanitation intervention on child diarrhoea and child growth in rural Mali: a cluster-randomised controlled trial](#)**

Amy J Pickering, Habiba Djebbari, Carolina Lopez, Massa Coulibaly, Maria Laura Alzua

### *Summary*

#### *Background*

Community-led total sanitation (CLTS) uses participatory approaches to mobilise communities to build their own toilets and stop open defecation. Our aim was to undertake the first randomised trial of CLTS to assess its effect on child health in Koulikoro, Mali.

#### *Methods*

We did a cluster-randomised trial to assess a CLTS programme implemented by the Government of Mali. The study population included households in rural villages (clusters) from the Koulikoro district of Mali; every household had to have at least one child aged younger than 10 years. Villages were randomly assigned (1:1) with a computer-generated sequence by a study investigator to receive CLTS or no programme. Health outcomes included diarrhoea (primary outcome), height for age, weight for age, stunting, and underweight. Outcomes were measured 1·5 years after intervention delivery (2 years after enrolment) among children younger than 5 years. Participants were not masked to intervention assignment. The trial is registered with [ClinicalTrials.gov](http://ClinicalTrials.gov), number [NCT01900912](#).

#### *Findings*

We recruited participants between April 12, and June 23, 2011. We assigned 60 villages (2365 households) to receive the CLTS intervention and 61 villages (2167 households) to the control

group. No differences were observed in terms of diarrhoeal prevalence among children in CLTS and control villages (706 [22%] of 3140 CLTS children vs 693 [24%] of 2872 control children; prevalence ratio [PR] 0·93, 95% CI 0·76–1·14). Access to private latrines was almost twice as high in intervention villages (1373 [65%] of 2120 vs 661 [35%] of 1911 households) and reported open defecation was reduced in female (198 [9%] of 2086 vs 608 [33%] of 1869 households) and in male (195 [10%] of 2004 vs 602 [33%] of 1813 households) adults. Children in CLTS villages were taller (0·18 increase in height-for-age Z score, 95% CI 0·03–0·32; 2415 children) and less likely to be stunted (35% vs 41%, PR 0·86, 95% CI 0·74–1·0) than children in control villages. 22% of children were underweight in CLTS compared with 26% in control villages (PR 0·88, 95% CI 0·71–1·08), and the difference in mean weight-for-age Z score was 0·09 (95% CI –0·04 to 0·22) between groups. In CLTS villages, younger children at enrolment (<2 years) showed greater improvements in height and weight than older children.

#### Interpretation

In villages that received a behavioural sanitation intervention with no monetary subsidies, diarrhoeal prevalence remained similar to control villages. However, access to toilets substantially increased and child growth improved, particularly in children <2 years. CLTS might have prevented growth faltering through pathways other than reducing diarrhoea.

#### Funding

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

### **The Lancet Infectious Diseases**

Nov 2015 Volume 15 Number 11 p1243-1360

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

#### *Comment*

#### **Polio eradication: inching forward, with safety nets**

Beth D Kirkpatrick, Josyf C Mychaleckyj

#### *Summary*

By mid-2015, WHO-reported cases of paralytic disease caused by polioviruses had reached a new low: only 34 cases were caused by wild polioviruses and nine cases were due to circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV).<sup>1</sup> In light of this progress, WHO's Polio Endgame Strategy is moving into a pivotal new stage, focusing on global withdrawal of a vaccine component from primary immunisation schedules. This plan will minimise the time to reach eradication, while maintaining the protection of children in case of disease re-emergence.

#### **Ebola: missed opportunities for Europe–Africa research**

Giuseppe Ippolito, Simone Lanini, Philippe Brouqui, Antonino Di Caro, Francesco Vairo, Salim Abdulla, Francesco Maria Fusco, Sanjeev Krishna, Maria Rosaria Capobianchi, Henry Kyobe-Bosa, David J M Lewis, Vincenzo Puro, Roman Wolfel, Tatjana Avsic-Zupanc, Osman Dar, Peter Mwaba, Matthew Bates, David Heymann, Alimuddin Zumla

#### *Summary*

The current unprecedented Ebola virus disease outbreak in parts of west Africa, which has caused more than 11 200 deaths, has emphasised how the medical and scientific communities lack specific pathways for tackling relevant logistical, design, and ethical issues for assessment of novel diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines through implementation of appropriate clinical trials.<sup>1,2</sup> The phenomenal outbreak arose because of several weaknesses in local, regional, and international public health responses, which delayed provision and implementation of effective intervention.

#### **Post-exposure prophylaxis against Ebola virus disease with experimental antiviral agents: a case-series of health-care workers**

Michael Jacobs, Emma Aarons, Sanjay Bhagani, Ruaridh Buchanan, Ian Cropley, Susan Hopkins, Rebecca Lester, Daniel Martin, Neal Marshall, Stephen Mephram, Simon Warren, Alison Rodger

#### *Summary*

#### Background

Although a few international health-care workers who have assisted in the current Ebola outbreak in west Africa have been medically evacuated for treatment of Ebola virus disease, more commonly they were evacuated after potential accidental exposure to Ebola virus. An urgent need exists for a consensus about the risk assessment of Ebola virus transmission after accidental exposure, and to investigate the use of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). Experimental vaccines have occasionally been used for Ebola PEP, but newly developed experimental antiviral agents have potential advantages. Here, we describe a new method for risk assessment and management of health-care workers potentially exposed to Ebola virus and report the use of experimental antiviral therapies for Ebola PEP in people.

#### Methods

We devised a risk assessment and management algorithm for health-care workers potentially exposed to Ebola virus and applied this to eight consecutive individuals who were medically evacuated to the UK from west Africa between January, and March, 2015. PEP with antiviral agents was given to health-care workers assessed to have had substantial risk exposures to Ebola virus. Participants were followed up for 42 days after potential exposure.

#### Findings

Four of eight health-care workers were classified as having had low risk exposures and managed by watchful waiting in the community. None of these health-care workers developed Ebola virus disease. The other four health-care workers had intermediate or maximum risk exposures and were given PEP with antiviral agents. PEP was well tolerated with no serious adverse effects. None of these four health-care workers, including two with maximum risk exposures from penetrating injuries with freshly used hollow-bore needles, developed Ebola virus disease.

#### Interpretation

Standardised risk assessment should be adopted and consensus guidelines developed to systematically study the efficacy and safety of PEP with experimental agents. New experimental antiviral treatments are a viable option for PEP against Ebola.

#### Funding

Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust.

### **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)**

October 2015; 35 (7)

<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 526 Number 7575 pp609-734 29 October 2015

[http://www.nature.com/nature/current\\_issue.html](http://www.nature.com/nature/current_issue.html)

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

### **Nature Medicine**

October 2015, Volume 21 No 10 pp1103-1234

<http://www.nature.com/nm/journal/v21/n10/index.html>

[Reviewed earlier]

### **New England Journal of Medicine**

October 29, 2015 Vol. 373 No. 18

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

### **Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly**

October 2015; 44 (5)

<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**

October 2015, VOLUME 136 / ISSUE 4

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **PharmacoEconomics**

Volume 33, Issue 10, October 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **PLOS Currents: Disasters**

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

[Accessed 31 October 2015]

#### **[An Analysis of the Relationship Between the Heat Index and Arrivals in the Emergency Department](#)**

October 29, 2015 · Research article

Background: Heatwaves are one of the most deadly weather-related events in the United States and account for more deaths annually than hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and earthquakes combined. However, there are few statistically rigorous studies of the effect of heatwaves on emergency department (ED) arrivals. A better understanding of this relationship can help hospitals plan better and provide better care for patients during these types of events.

Methods: A retrospective review of all ED patient arrivals that occurred from April 15 through August 15 for the years 2008 through 2013 was performed. Daily patient arrival data were combined with weather data (temperature and humidity) to examine the potential relationships between the heat index and ED arrivals as well as the length of time patients spend in the ED using generalized additive models. In particular the effect the 2012 heat wave that swept across the United States, and which was hypothesized to increase arrivals was examined.

Results: While there was no relationship found between the heat index and arrivals on a single day, a non-linear relationship was found between the mean three-day heat index and the number of daily arrivals. As the mean three-day heat index initially increased, the number of arrivals significantly declined. However, as the heat index continued to increase, the number of arrivals increased. It was estimated that there was approximately a 2% increase in arrivals when the mean heat index for three days approached 100°F. This relationship was strongest for adults aged 18-64, as well as for patients arriving with lower acuity. Additionally, a positive relationship was noted between the mean three-day heat index and the length of stay (LOS) for patients in the ED, but no relationship was found for the time from which a patient was first seen to when a disposition decision was made. No significant relationship was found for the effect of the 2012 heat wave on ED arrivals, though it did have an effect on patient LOS.

Conclusion: A single hot day has only a limited effect on ED arrivals, but continued hot weather has a cumulative effect. When the heat index is high (~90°F) for a number of days in a row, this curtails peoples activities, but if the heat index is very hot (~100°F) this likely results in an exacerbation of underlying conditions as well as heat-related events that drives an increase in ED arrivals. Periods of high heat also affects the length of stay of patients either by complicating care or by making it more difficult to discharge patients.

### **2011 Joplin, Missouri Tornado Experience, Mental Health Reactions, and Service Utilization: Cross-Sectional Assessments at Approximately 6 Months and 2.5 Years Post-Event**

October 26, 2015 · Research article

Introduction. On May 22, 2011 the deadliest tornado in the United States since 1947 struck Joplin, Missouri killing 161 people, injuring approximately 1,150 individuals, and causing approximately \$2.8 billion in economic losses.

Methods. This study examined the mental health effects of this event through a random digit dialing sample (N = 380) of Joplin adults at approximately 6 months post-disaster (Survey 1) and a purposive convenience sample (N = 438) of Joplin adults at approximately 2.5 years post-disaster (Survey 2). For both surveys we assessed tornado experience, posttraumatic stress, depression, mental health service utilization, and sociodemographics. For Survey 2 we also assessed social support and parent report of child strengths and difficulties.

Results. Probable PTSD prevalence was 12.63% at Survey 1 and 26.74% at Survey 2, while current depression prevalence was 20.82% at Survey 1 and 13.33% at Survey 2. Less education and more tornado experience was generally related to greater likelihood of experiencing probable PTSD and current depression for both surveys. Men and younger participants were more likely to report current depression at Survey 1. Low levels of social support (assessed only at Survey 2) were related to more probable PTSD and current depression. For both surveys, we observed low rates of mental health service utilization, and these rates were also low for participants reporting probable PTSD and current depression. At Survey 2 we assessed parent report of child (ages 4 to 17) strengths and difficulties and found that child difficulties were more frequent for younger children (ages 4 to 10) than older children (ages 11 to 17), and that parents reporting probable PTSD reported a greater frequency of children with borderline or abnormal difficulties.

Discussion. Overall our results indicate that long-term (multi-year) community disaster mental health monitoring, assessment, referral, outreach, and services are needed following a major disaster like the 2011 Joplin tornado

### **PLoS Currents: Outbreaks**

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

(Accessed 31 October 2015)

[No new content]

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

(Accessed 31 October2015)

**[Using Qualitative Evidence in Decision Making for Health and Social Interventions: An Approach to Assess Confidence in Findings from Qualitative Evidence Syntheses \(GRADE-CERQual\)](#)**

Simon Lewin, Claire Glenton, Heather Munthe-Kaas, Benedicte Carlsen, Christopher J. Colvin, Metin Gülmezoglu, Jane Noyes, Andrew Booth, Ruth Garside, Arash Rashidian  
Guidelines and Guidance | published 27 Oct 2015 | PLOS Medicine  
10.1371/journal.pmed.1001895

*Summary Points*

:: Qualitative evidence syntheses are increasingly used, but methods to assess how much confidence to place in synthesis findings are poorly developed.

:: The Confidence in the Evidence from Reviews of Qualitative research (CERQual) approach helps assess how much confidence to place in findings from a qualitative evidence synthesis.

:: CERQual's assessment of confidence for individual review findings from qualitative evidence syntheses is based on four components: the methodological limitations of the qualitative studies contributing to a review finding, the relevance to the review question of the studies contributing to a review finding, the coherence of the review finding, and the adequacy of data supporting a review finding.

:: CERQual provides a transparent method for assessing confidence in qualitative evidence syntheses findings. Like the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development, and Evaluation (GRADE) approach for evidence of effectiveness, CERQual may facilitate the use of qualitative evidence to inform decisions and shape policies.

:: The CERQual approach is being developed by a subgroup of the GRADE Working Group.

**PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases**

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

(Accessed 31 October2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

**PLoS One**

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

[Accessed 31 October2015]

**[The Impact of Hepatitis B Vaccination Status on the Risk of Diabetes, Implicating Diabetes Risk Reduction by Successful Vaccination](#)**

Jean Huang, Horng-Yih Ou, James Lin, Rudruidee Karnchanasorn, Wei Feng, Raynald Samoa, Lee-Ming Chuang, Ken C. Chiu  
Research Article | published 28 Oct 2015 | PLOS ONE  
10.1371/journal.pone.0139730

**[Missed Opportunities for Measles, Mumps, and Rubella \(MMR\) Immunization in Mesoamerica: Potential Impact on Coverage and Days at Risk](#)**

Ali H. Mokdad, Marielle C. Gagnier, K. Ellicott Colson, Emily Dansereau, Paola Zúñiga-Brenes, Diego Ríos-Zertuche, Annie Haakenstad, Casey K. Johanns, Erin B. Palmisano, Bernardo Hernandez, Emma Iriarte  
Research Article | published 27 Oct 2015 | PLOS ONE  
10.1371/journal.pone.0139680

**PLoS Pathogens**

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

(Accessed 31 October2015)

## **Effectively Communicating the Uncertainties Surrounding Ebola Virus Transmission**

Andy Kilianski, Nicholas G. Evans

Opinion | published 29 Oct 2015 | PLOS Pathogens

10.1371/journal.ppat.1005097

### *Abstract*

The current Ebola virus outbreak has highlighted the uncertainties surrounding many aspects of Ebola virus virology, including routes of transmission. The scientific community played a leading role during the outbreak—potentially, the largest of its kind—as many of the questions surrounding ebolaviruses have only been interrogated in the laboratory. Scientists provided an invaluable resource for clinicians, public health officials, policy makers, and the lay public in understanding the progress of Ebola virus disease and the continuing outbreak. Not all of the scientific communication, however, was accurate or effective. There were multiple instances of published articles during the height of the outbreak containing potentially misleading scientific language that spurred media overreaction and potentially jeopardized preparedness and policy decisions at critical points. Here, we use articles declaring the potential for airborne transmission of Ebola virus as a case study in the inaccurate reporting of basic science, and we provide recommendations for improving the communication about unknown aspects of disease during public health crises.

### *Author Summary*

Basic scientific research is now considered an integral component of the fight against emerging infectious diseases like Ebola virus. The recent Ebola outbreak, however, demonstrates how the ineffective communication of basic science can stoke public panic more than it provides helpful tools to responders; basic science trades in probabilities and uncertainty, while public communication tends to favor more categorical claims. Here, we discuss the ethics of communicating scientific results, using, as a case study, the recent controversy over whether basic life sciences research demonstrates that Ebola could become transmissible via airborne respiratory droplet nuclei—popularly known as a virus becoming “airborne.” We show how the science does not demonstrate this possibility, despite claims made in the popular and scientific press. We then recommend that uncertain scientific results in the context of public health crises ought to be communicated with humility, an emphasis on what is unknown, and a clear outline of the kinds of evidence that would give proof to controversial claims.

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

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

(Accessed 31 October 2015)

*Social Sciences - Economic Sciences:*

### **Commentary: Impact of bed capacity on spatiotemporal shifts in Ebola transmission**

Jeffrey P. Townsend,

Laura A. Skrip,

and Alison P. Galvani

PNAS 2015 ; published ahead of print October 30, 2015, doi:10.1073/pnas.1518484112

### *Extract*

The unprecedentedly devastating Ebola epidemic in West Africa brought international attention to the challenges faced by resource-constrained nations in curtailing outbreaks. As the epidemic tapers in Sierra Leone and Guinea, the focus of epidemiologists has shifted from emergency response toward retrospection. Lessons learned from this outbreak will be fundamental for establishing preparedness strategies and for averting future epidemics. In a masterful data-driven modeling study in PNAS, Kucharski et al. (1) quantified the extent to which the international effort to provide more treatment beds prevented new infections across the 12 districts of Sierra Leone, as well as the incremental benefit that could have been achieved if the provision had been earlier in the epidemic.

## [Accurate market price formation model with both supply-demand and trend-following for global food prices providing policy recommendations](#)

Marco Lagi, Yavni Bar-Yam, Karla Z. Bertrand, and Yaneer Bar-Yam

PNAS 2015 ; published ahead of print October 26, 2015, doi:10.1073/pnas.1413108112

### *Significance*

Recent increases in food prices are linked to widespread hunger and social unrest. The causes of high food prices have been debated. Here we rule out explanations that are not consistent with the data and construct a dynamic model of food prices using two factors determined to have the largest impact: corn-to-ethanol conversion and investor speculation. We overcome limitations of equilibrium theories that are unable to quantify the impact of speculation by using a dynamic model of trend following. The model accurately fits the data. Ethanol conversion results in a smooth price increase, whereas speculation results in bubbles and crashes. These findings significantly inform the discussion about food prices and market equilibrium and have immediate policy implications.

### *Abstract*

Recent increases in basic food prices are severely affecting vulnerable populations worldwide. Proposed causes such as shortages of grain due to adverse weather, increasing meat consumption in China and India, conversion of corn to ethanol in the United States, and investor speculation on commodity markets lead to widely differing implications for policy. A lack of clarity about which factors are responsible reinforces policy inaction. Here, for the first time to our knowledge, we construct a dynamic model that quantitatively agrees with food prices. The results show that the dominant causes of price increases are investor speculation and ethanol conversion. Models that just treat supply and demand are not consistent with the actual price dynamics. The two sharp peaks in 2007/2008 and 2010/2011 are specifically due to investor speculation, whereas an underlying upward trend is due to increasing demand from ethanol conversion. The model includes investor trend following as well as shifting between commodities, equities, and bonds to take advantage of increased expected returns. Claims that speculators cannot influence grain prices are shown to be invalid by direct analysis of price-setting practices of granaries. Both causes of price increase, speculative investment and ethanol conversion, are promoted by recent regulatory changes—deregulation of the commodity markets, and policies promoting the conversion of corn to ethanol. Rapid action is needed to reduce the impacts of the price increases on global hunger.

## **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 2 July 2015

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

***Special Symposium: Migrant Health***

[Reviewed earlier]

## **Qualitative Health Research**

October 2015; 25 (10)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Refugee Survey Quarterly**

Volume 34 Issue 3 September 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Reproductive Health**

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

[Accessed 31 October 2015]

*Review*

#### **[Behaviour change techniques and contraceptive use in low and middle income countries: a review](#)**

Mwelwa Phiri, R. King, J. Newell

Reproductive Health 2015, 12:100 (30 October 2015)

### **Resilience: International Policies, Practices and Discourses**

Volume 3, Issue 3, 2015

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

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

August 2015 Vol. 38, No. 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Risk Analysis**

October 2015 Volume 35, Issue 10 Pages 1765–1956

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

#### **[Introduction to the Special Series on Risk, Perception, and Response \(pages 1766–1769\)](#)**

Lisa A. Robinson and James K. Hammitt

Article first published online: 22 OCT 2015 | DOI: 10.1111/risa.12520

### **Science**

30 October 2015 vol 350, issue 6260, pages 481-596

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

*Review*

#### **[The realities of risk-cost-benefit analysis](#)**

Baruch Fischhoff

BACKGROUND

Synthetic biology, nanotechnology, geoengineering, and other innovative technologies share a property: Their effects must often be inferred long before they are experienced. If those inferences are sound, then informed decisions are possible. If not, then decision-makers may incur risks and costs far greater than any expected benefits. Risk, cost, and benefit analysis can offer transparent ways to assemble and integrate relevant evidence to support complex decision-making. All forms of

analysis have the same logic: Decompose complex systems into manageable components and then calculate how they might perform together. All require scientific judgment to bound the set of components and assess the limits to those bounds. All require ethical judgment to determine which outcomes to predict and to extract the policy implications of the results. The usefulness of any analysis depends on how well its underlying assumptions and their implications are understood by those hoping to use its results. The present review uses historical examples to illustrate the roles of judgment in analyses that address four basic questions: (i) How large are the risks from a single technology? (ii) Which risks merit the greatest attention? (iii) Which technology produces the least risk per unit of benefit? (iv) Are a technology's expected benefits acceptable, given its risks and other expected costs?

#### ADVANCES

Analyses are always incomplete. They neglect concerns that are hard to quantify. They define terms in ways that serve some interests more than others. They consider some sources of uncertainty but not others. Advances in the science of analysis have often occurred after critics unhappy with the results of an analysis challenged the legitimacy of its assumptions. Awareness of the role of judgment in analysis has grown over time, in parallel with improvements in the sophistication of analytical calculations. Progress has been made in some areas, but more is needed, to include developing better ways to model human behavior, elicit expert judgments, articulate decision-makers' preferences, characterize the robustness of conclusions, and communicate with decision-makers. The practice of analysis draws on the sciences of public participation and science communication, both shaped by the challenges faced in securing a fair hearing for science in issues where it plays a central role.

#### OUTLOOK

The pace of advances will depend on the degree of collaboration among the sciences relevant to these problems, including not only the sciences underlying the technology in question but social, behavioral, and economic science as well. How well the science of analysis aids its practice will depend on how well analysts collaborate with decision-makers so as to produce the estimates that decision-makers need and ensure that analytical results are properly understood. Over time, those interactions will help decision-makers understand the capabilities and limitations of analysis while helping analysts become trusted allies, dedicated to producing relevant, properly qualified estimates of cost, risk, and benefit.

#### **Social Science & Medicine**

Volume 143, Pages 1-342 (October 2015)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/02779536/143>

***Special issue section The rise of developmental science: Debates on health and humanity; Edited by Dominique P. Béhague and Samuel Lézé***

[Reviewed earlier]

#### **Stability: International Journal of Security & Development**

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

[accessed 31 October 2015]

*Practice Notes*

**[Towards More People-Centric Peace Operations: From 'Extension of State Authority' to 'Strengthening Inclusive State-Society Relations'](#)**

Cedric de Coning, John Karlsrud, Paul Troost

#### **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

[https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/tmh/43/0/\\_contents](https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/tmh/43/0/_contents)

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Tropical Medicine & International Health**

October 2015 Volume 20, Issue 10 Pages 1257–1404

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/tmi.2015.20.issue-7/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#.Uzg2bFcWNdc>

[Reviewed earlier]

### **World Heritage Review**

n°77 - June 2015

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

[Special Issue on Iraq](#)

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Yale Human Rights & Development Law Journal**

Volume XIV, Issue 2

<http://www.law.yale.edu/academics/YHRDLJcurrentissue.htm>

[Reviewed earlier]

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