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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 12 December 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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:: [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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COP21

Editor's Note:

COP21 concluded this evening with the adoption of the Paris Agreement. Analysis of the details is just emerging but we include the press release and a link to the text of the agreement below.

Historic Paris Agreement on Climate Change

195 Nations Set Path to Keep Temperature Rise Well Below 2 Degrees Celsius

Paris, 12 December 2015 - An historic agreement to combat climate change and unleash actions and investment towards a low carbon, resilient and sustainable future was agreed by 195 nations in Paris today.

The Paris Agreement for the first time brings all nations into a common cause based on their historic, current and future responsibilities.

The universal agreement's main aim is to keep a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius and to drive efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

The 1.5 degree Celsius limit is a significantly safer defense line against the worst impacts of a changing climate.

Additionally, the agreement aims to strengthen the ability to deal with the impacts of climate change.

To reach these ambitious and important goals, appropriate financial flows will be put in place, thus making stronger action by developing countries and the most vulnerable possible, in line with their own national objectives.

"The Paris Agreement allows each delegation and group of countries to go back home with their heads held high. Our collective effort is worth more than the sum of our individual effort. Our responsibility to history is immense" said Laurent Fabius, President of the COP 21 UN Climate change conference and French Foreign Minister.

The minister, his emotion showing as delegates started to rise to their feet, brought the final gavel down on the agreement to open and sustained acclamation across the plenary hall. French President Francois Hollande told the assembled delegates: "You've done it, reached an ambitious agreement, a binding agreement, a universal agreement. Never will I be able to express more gratitude to a conference. You can be proud to stand before your children and grandchildren."

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said: "We have entered a new era of global cooperation on one of the most complex issues ever to confront humanity. For the first time, every country in the world has pledged to curb emissions, strengthen resilience and join in common cause to take common climate action. This is a resounding success for multilateralism."...

Adoption of the Paris Agreement. Proposal by the President.

FCCC/CP/2015/L.9/Rev.1

UNFCCC. Conference of the Parties (COP)

Pdf: EN

Paris Climate Change Conference - November 2015, COP 21

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Climate Change and Human Rights

UNEP [in cooperation with Columbia Law School]

December 2015 :: 56 pages

Pdf: [Download Full Report](#)

Introduction

The natural environment provides human beings and the communities in which we live with the resources we need to achieve lives of dignity and well-being – clean air to breathe; clean water to drink; food to eat; fuels for energy; protection from storms, floods, fires and drought; climate regulation and disease control; and places to congregate for aesthetic, recreational and spiritual enjoyment. These environmental endowments—often referred to as ecosystem services—are at once essential to core survival and vital to human flourishing. As the nations of the world declared in *The Future We Want*, the outcome document of the 2012 Rio+20 conference, sustainable development requires that we angle toward “harmony with nature.”¹ To achieve this idea, we must balance economic, social and human development with “ecosystem conservation, regeneration and restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges.”²

The nature of the linkages between the environment and human rights has been debated for years. However, it has long been recognized that a clean, healthy and functional environment is integral to the enjoyment of human rights, such as the rights to life, health, food and an adequate standard of living. This recognition offers one reason the international community has banded together through multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to prohibit illegal trade in wildlife, to preserve biodiversity and marine and terrestrial habitats, to reduce transboundary pollution, and to prevent other behaviors that harm the planet and its residents. In short: Environmental protection protects human rights. At the same time, adherence to human rights—such as those that ensure public access to information and participation in decision making—contributes to more just decisions about the utilization and protection of environmental resources, and protects against the potential for abuse under the auspices of environmental action. Thus, domestic environmental laws and MEAs can both be strengthened through the incorporation of human rights principles, even as they contribute to the ongoing realization of human rights.

Anthropogenic climate change is the largest, most pervasive threat to the natural environment and human rights of our time. Climate change has already begun to have far-reaching environmental impacts, including many adverse effects on wildlife, natural resources and the ecological processes that support access to clean water, food, and other basic human needs. These impacts, combined with direct harms to people, property, and physical infrastructure, pose a serious threat to the enjoyment and exercise of human rights across the world.³ The mandate to take immediate action to both reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change and enact measures that reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to climate change impacts is clear. Yet, certain responses to climate change—including both mitigation and adaptation activities—can also interfere with human rights, as has been the case for a number of hydroelectric and biofuel projects undertaken, in part, to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. It is critical that as the world endeavors to address the “super wicked” problem of climate change it do so with full respect for human rights.

Over the course of the last decade the international community has arrived at a clear consensus on all of these issues. Yet, while United Nations agencies and national governments have explicitly acknowledged that climate change and responses to climate change can impair human rights, there has been less agreement on the corresponding obligations of governments and private actors to address this problem. The purpose of this report is to inform the decisions undertaken by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at COP-21, as well as other activities undertaken by governments and private actors, by providing an up-to-date assessment of the relationship between climate change and human rights law and by making recommendations for incorporating a human rights lens into international and domestic climate action. Part I describes the latest projections and observations of how climate change impacts and responses can affect the environment, individuals and communities and the exercise of human rights. Part II summarizes the obligations of governments and private actors to respond to these impacts. Part III discusses the implementation of these obligations, focusing primarily on activities undertaken by national governments either within or outside of the UNFCCC context. Part IV provides recommendations on how the COP, national governments, and other actors can better integrate human rights considerations into their mitigation and adaptation activities.

1 UN GA Res. 66/288, *The Future We Want*, p. 40, UN Doc. A/RES/66/288 (July 7, 2012).
2 *Id.* p. 4.
3 See, e.g., UNHRC Resolutions 10/4 (March 25, 2009), 18/22 (Oct. 17, 2011), and 26/27 (June 27, 2014).



Global Humanitarian Overview for 2016 – *A Consolidated Appeal to Support People Affected by Disaster and Conflict*

UN OCHA

December 2015:: 36 pages

PDF: <http://bit.ly/1OMQMQy>

Executive Summary [Excerpts]

The outlook for 2016 is grim. Millions of civilians, uprooted from their homes by violent and prolonged conflict, will remain in desperate need of protection and humanitarian assistance. About 60 million people are displaced around the world, and more than a quarter of these displacements are due to the conflicts in Iraq, South Sudan and Syria. Conflict has scarred people's lives, robbed them of dignity, and shattered economies, livelihoods and vital infrastructure, including health facilities and schools. **Humanitarian partners require \$20.1 billion to meet the needs of over 87.6 million people in 37 countries around the world....**

...Despite the extreme challenges and severe access restrictions, humanitarian organizations continue to reach more people than ever. During 2015, humanitarian partners in Sudan assisted more than 2 million people with health services and some 3.1 million people with food and agricultural inputs. Over 25,000 newly displaced households and 120,000 South Sudanese refugees received shelter materials and essential household supplies. Some 83,000 children under age 5 were treated for severe acute malnutrition, and 1.6 million people were given access to improved drinking water. But despite donors' generosity, the gap between needs and

funding has continued to grow, and there is no quick fix. The funding gap means that 1.2 million sick and injured people in Libya will not be able to access health care. Nearly 100,000 children will miss out on an education, and millions will continue to be exposed to threats to their safety and dignity. In Afghanistan, the funding gap means a further reduction in reach to the estimated 1 million malnourished children (current treatment reaches fewer than 30 per cent of children in need).

Underfunding also means that more children die before their fifth birthday and suffer stunting due to malnutrition. More women die in childbirth; more people suffer from preventable diseases; more children lose the opportunity to build a future through education; and less protection is given to the most vulnerable displaced people, increasing the risk of sexual abuse and exploitation, especially for girls and women. It also means that more farmers are forced to use their seeds for food instead of crops, starting another cycle of poverty and deprivation.

Addressing underfunding requires a range of measures. It will mean adjusting the approach to protracted crises and disasters, including those in middle-income countries. Potential solutions include leveraging diverse funding sources; using the right mix of financial instruments for each situation and investing more in preparedness. Funding mechanisms, such as the Central Emergency Response Fund and the country-based pooled funds, can effectively support a rapid humanitarian response and underfunded emergencies. The use of cash programming will ensure an efficient, cost-effective response that gives people dignity and choice.

Faced with ever-growing needs, we rely on the international community, Governments and the public to give their support and resources — financially and in kind — to allow us to continue humanitarian action. Our shared aims are to end suffering, meet the immediate needs of crisis-affected people, keep them safe.

[OCHA Press Conference - Launch of the Global Humanitarian Appeal 2016 \(Geneva, 7 December 2015\)](#)

7 Dec 2015

Video: 00:41:43

Launch of the Global Humanitarian Appeal 2016 to support people affected by disasters and conflicts. The appeal combines response plans and urgent humanitarian requirements spanning 37 countries.

[Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien Remarks at the launch of the Global Humanitarian Overview 2016](#)

Geneva 7 December 2015

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["As the Covenants turn 50, it is time to turn norms into action" – UN experts](#)

Human Rights Day – Thursday 10 December 2015

GENEVA (9 December 2015) – Speaking ahead of Human Rights Day 2015, the largest body of independent experts of the United Nations Human Rights system renews its commitment with

the implementation of the Covenants, the two key human rights treaties which, together with the Universal Declaration on Human rights, form the International Bill of Human Rights.

On Human Rights Day, the 55 independent mechanisms of the Human Rights Council –‘Special Procedures’– join a year-long campaign* to promote full ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 16 December 1966.

“The Covenants have spurred considerable normative developments and institutional building at international level, which have been matched by developments at national and local levels. Around the world, courts and tribunals, national human rights institutions, civil society activism and increasing public awareness have all contributed to making human rights a major legitimacy test for public and private policies and practices. We call for their universal ratification.

Despite these positive developments, human rights remain under severe threat, including from conflict, poverty and inequality, the adverse impact of climate change, the backlash against women’s human rights, abuses by non-state actors and attacks against the universality of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Faced with these multiple challenges, determination to redress these violations as well as address their root causes should be even stronger. All must play their part in ensuring that each and every human right codified in these Covenants is guaranteed and implemented in practice for all human beings without discrimination. The interrelatedness and interdependence between all rights must be recognized; no human right can be fully enjoyed in isolation.

As independent experts covering 55 human rights mandates, we help transform norms into reality. We strive for positive change in people’s lives by undertaking critical analysis of State practice in compliance with their obligations and of the impact of private actors on human rights. By reaching out equally to all parts of society, from senior government officials to grassroots communities we identify early signs of human rights violations and call for timely action.

We urge all States to live-up to their duty to respect human rights and to fully cooperate with all of us as mandate holders appointed according to the rules of procedure of the Human Rights Council. States should honour their standing invitations and accept requests for country visits and provide timely and substantive responses to alleged human rights violations that we bring to their attention.

Civil society is a key partner in improving the situation of human rights worldwide and in the fulfilment of our mandates. We strongly encourage civil society to continue to engage with us. Victims of human rights violations, their family members, witnesses, human rights defenders and members of civil society must be able to cooperate with us freely without fear of intimidation, reprisals or censorship. We call all States to ensure that all such acts are halted immediately and break the cycle of impunity by holding the perpetrators accountable.

Full cooperation from all concerned, in particular States, is indispensable. Recognizing human rights challenges and asking for assistance in facing them will only demonstrate the maturity of

political leaders and their genuine commitment to uphold the dignity of all people. The 2030 agenda provides an excellent opportunity to develop a more holistic approach in which continued engagement will ultimately foster improvement of the situation of human rights.

The adoption of the Covenants was a strong affirmation that all human beings have inalienable rights and freedoms. Half a century later, let us all make this conviction a daily reality for all.”



[Security Council, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2250 \(2015\), Urges Member States to Increase Representation of Youth in Decision-Making at All Levels](#)

9 December 2015

SC/12149

Recognizing the threat to stability and development posed by the rise of radicalization among young people, the Security Council today urged Member States to consider ways to give youth a greater voice in decision-making at the local, national, regional and international levels.

Through the unanimous adoption of resolution 2250 (2015), which defined youth as persons aged 18 through 29, the Council also urged Member States to consider setting up mechanisms that would enable young people to participate meaningfully in peace processes and dispute resolution.

Prior to its adoption, Jordan’s representative, Dina Kawar, said the resolution — considered the first of its kind on youth, peace and security — followed efforts by the Prince of Jordan, public discussions on combating violent extremism, and the Global Forum on Youth Peace and Security that took place in Amman in August.

“What we seek is to draw the world’s attention to ensure that young people are given the attention they deserve at a time when the world is a theatre for an increasing number of negative issues,” she said.

By the terms of its resolution, the Council recognized that today’s generation of youth is the largest the world has ever known, and accounted for many of those civilians affected by armed conflict, including as refugees and displaced persons.

But it expressed concern over the increased use of the Internet by terrorists and their supporters to recruit and incite youth to commit terrorist acts, and underlined the need for Member States to work together to prevent terrorists from exploiting new technologies.

Youth, the Council said, should be actively engaged in shaping lasting peace and contributing to justice and reconciliation, as they represented “a unique demographic dividend that can contribute to lasting peace and prosperity” if inclusive policies were put in place.

Member States were encouraged to engage local communities and non-governmental actors “in developing strategies to counter the violent extremist narrative that can incite terrorist acts”. They were also encouraged to address conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism by empowering youth, families, women, religious, cultural and education leaders and other

concerned groups in civil society, and by adopting “tailored approaches” to counter recruitment to violent extremism.

By other terms, the resolution called for the participation and views of youth to be taken into account during the negotiation and implementation of peace agreements, as their marginalization would be detrimental to building sustainable peace in such aspects as repatriation, resettlement and reconstruction.

Resolution: The full text of resolution 2250 (2015) is [available here](#).

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[700+ Organizations in 116 Countries Say Universal Health Coverage is Right, Smart, and Overdue](#)

December 11, 2015

Global leaders urged to ensure all people can access essential health services without facing financial hardship

NEW YORK – On the second annual Universal Health Coverage Day on 12 December 2015, a coalition of more than 700 organizations in 116 countries will come together to say that universal health coverage is right, smart, and overdue. The coalition will urge world leaders to deliver on promises to achieve universal health coverage because health is a human right that reduces poverty, fuels economic growth, and builds resilience to threats from disease outbreaks to climate change.

On Universal Health Coverage Day 2015, hundreds of millions of people worldwide are still waiting for access to lifesaving health services or fall into poverty paying for needed health care. To address these inequities, more than 100 countries across the income spectrum have begun working toward universal health coverage, increasingly demonstrating its feasibility. “When The Rockefeller Foundation first began its work to advance universal health coverage, it seemed to many to be a pipedream. Today, we are truly inspired to see how rapidly support for universal health coverage has grown, including its recent recognition in the Sustainable Development Goals,” said Judith Rodin, President of The Rockefeller Foundation. “Universal health coverage is key to building resilient health systems that make both people and planet healthier in the face the increasingly common shocks and stresses posed by climate change, urbanization, and globalization.”

Universal Health Coverage Day, inaugurated by The Rockefeller Foundation, marks the anniversary of the United Nations’ unanimous 2012 resolution urging governments to ensure universal access to quality health care without financial hardship.

“Universal health coverage is one of the most powerful social equalizers among all policy options,” said Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization. “The global community has recognized this approach as a pro-poor pillar of sustainable development that builds social cohesion and stability – valued assets for every country.”

"Governments have everything to gain when they prioritize human health – it is an investment. I am hopeful for global progress because universal health coverage has been included in the Sustainable Development Goals," said Dr. Agnes Binagwaho, Minister of Health, Rwanda.

Progress toward Health for All

New events and initiatives show growing global momentum to deliver universal health coverage and offer an opportunity to further accelerate progress:

:: *High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines:* To address serious gaps in access to lifesaving health interventions, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has established a new High-Level Panel tasked with ensuring access to medicines is improved around the world. The panel, which convenes for the first time on 11 and 12 December, demonstrates commitment to improve health access at the highest level of the United Nations.

:: *International Conference on Universal Health Coverage in the New Development Era:* Next week in Japan, Bill Gates, Margaret Chan, Jim Yong Kim, and other global health leaders will gather for a major conference on the role of universal health coverage in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals. Co-hosted by The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in conjunction with its replenishment meeting, the conference will examine the critical link between building strong health systems and stopping the world's deadliest infectious diseases.

:: *Sustainable Development Goals:* The Sustainable Development Goals officially launch on 1 January 2016, and include achieving universal health coverage among their many targets. Coalition members are urging world leaders to prioritize universal health coverage as a foundational investment that can drive progress on all health objectives and advance the overarching goal of ending extreme poverty.

There is increasing evidence that universal health coverage is a smart investment. Earlier this year, The Rockefeller Foundation convened the Economists' Declaration on Universal Health Coverage, a landmark statement outlining the economic benefits of universal health coverage and calling on policymakers to prioritize it as an essential pillar of sustainable development. More than 300 economists from 44 countries have added their names to the Declaration, including the current and former World Bank chief economists and five Nobel Laureates.

The WHO and World Bank's first global monitoring report on universal health coverage released in June 2015 found that despite significant worldwide progress on health, 400 million people still lack access to essential health services and 17% of people in low- and middle-income countries are pushed or further pushed into poverty (US\$2/day) because of health spending...



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Issues Call for New Deal on Medicines

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

Dec 11, 2015

NEW YORK -The United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines held its first meeting today. The panel committed itself to finding solutions that will increase access to medicines, while continuing to promote investment in new treatments to save the lives of millions.

"It is a basic fundamental right that everyone should be able to access medicines, vaccines and diagnostics they need in order to ensure healthy lives and promote the well-being of people of all ages, as set out in Sustainable Development Goal 3," said President Mogae, co-chair of the High Level Panel.

Festus Mogae, former President of Botswana and Ruth Dreifuss, former President of Switzerland are co-chairing the panel. The work of the High-Level and its Expert Advisory Group is being supported by a Secretariat at UNDP in collaboration with UNAIDS. The panel was established by the Secretary-General to find solutions to increase access to medicines, while continuing to promote investment in developing new medicines.

Panelists noted that despite progress made in many areas, millions of people are still left behind. Many are dying because they cannot access life-saving medicines. This includes:

- :: 1.2 million people died from AIDS in 2014.
- :: 9.6 million people infected with TB and 1.5 people died because of TB.
- :: Over 400 million people have hepatitis B and C and 1.4 million people have died from Hepatitis B and C.
- :: 38 million people have died from non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases (17.5 million deaths), diabetes (1.5 million deaths), cancer (8.2 million deaths) and respiratory diseases (4 million deaths)...

...Following the meeting, the High-Level Panel will issue a call for proposals from experts, individuals and organizations to recommend solutions that promote the rights of inventors, international human rights law, trade rules, and public health in the context of health technologies. Proposals submitted will be reviewed, shortlisted and invited to present at public hearings where stakeholders from governments, the industry, patient groups and others will be able to provide their thoughts and views on the proposals. The High-Level Panel's findings and recommendations will be compiled in a report, which will be presented to the Secretary-General in June 2016.

The Secretary-Generals High Level Panel on Access to Medicines comprises of 16 eminent, well-respected individuals with a deep knowledge and understanding of the broad range of legal, trade, public health and human rights issues associated with access to medicines and health technologies. Biographies and additional information on the High-Level Panel can be accessed from www.UNSGaccessmeds.org

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[Refugees and migrants in Europe need protection and respect for their human rights](#)

Press Releases, 9 December 2015

Joint UNHCR/Council of Europe statement to mark Human Rights Day on 10 December

09.12.2015 – Ahead of Human Rights Day, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the head of the 47-nation Council of Europe have urged European states to honour their international commitments to guarantee basic human rights for refugees and migrants. They also called on governments, civil society and media professionals to step up efforts to counter racism and xenophobia, which can undermine support for asylum and protection.

"This is the largest movement of refugees and migrants Europe has seen in decades, and the only way to address it effectively is for European states to act together," said High Commissioner António Guterres. "The right to seek asylum is not only enshrined in international law, but protection of people forced to flee war and persecution is also one of the fundamental values of the European project. The impressive mobilisation of civil society to welcome refugees, and the many voices that speak out against re-surg-ing intolerance and xenophobia, have shown the continued resonance of these principles."

"As soon as anyone sets foot on our continent they have the same basic human rights as everyone else in Europe, as guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights," said Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland. "The European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg has been very clear on this. Our 47 member states have a legal responsibility to guarantee the basic human rights of refugees and migrants, to treat people as individuals and to assess their situation on a case-by-case basis."

Some 900,000 people have entered Europe via the Mediterranean in 2015, more than four times last year's total. The majority of them come from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. UNHCR continues to advocate for a common European approach to the situation, to enhance reception capacity and allow for proper screening of the new arrivals so as to identify those who may be in need of protection.

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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 12 December 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases/Meetings Coverage

10 December 2015

GA/11738

[Adopting Six Resolutions, General Assembly Calls for Stronger Coordination of International Humanitarian Aid, Unity against Violent Extremism](#)

Unanimously adopting five resolutions on humanitarian issues, and one resolution on countering violent extremism, the General Assembly today heard from more than two dozen

speakers as the 193-member body debated the past, present and future of international assistance to persons in need.

10 December 2015

DSG/SM/924-HR/5283-OBV/1570

[Help Create World Where Four Freedoms Is 'More Than a Monument, But a Way of Life Everywhere', Says Deputy Secretary-General at Human Rights Day Event](#)

9 December 2015

SG/SM/17405-OBV/1567

[Secretary-General Urges All Substantial Investment to Achieve Affordable Health Coverage Access Worldwide, in Message for International Observance](#)

9 December 2015

SC/12149

[Security Council, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2250 \(2015\), Urges Member States to Increase Representation of Youth in Decision-Making at All Levels](#)

Recognizing the threat to stability and development posed by the rise of radicalization among young people, the Security Council today urged Member States to consider ways to give youth a greater voice in decision-making at the local, national, regional and international levels.

9 December 2015

UN OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 12 December 2015]

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

[WTO: UN experts urge negotiators to deliver on Doha commitments at the Nairobi conference](#)

GENEVA (11 December 2015) – Ahead of the World Trade Organization's 10th Ministerial Conference, a group of United Nations human rights experts called on Governments across the world to deliver on the Doha Round Development Agenda and not weasel out of prior commitments to address the needs of developing economies.

"If trade is to work for human rights and development it should contribute to the realization of the rights to adequate food, to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and to live in a clean environment," the UN experts said in a public statement* addressed to negotiators due to gather in the Kenyan capital from 15 to 18 December.

"There is no justification for defaulting on the Doha Round commitments, as such action would have a detrimental impact on human rights in many countries," the experts observed. They deplored indications that certain developed countries will move for the premature ending of the Doha Round at the upcoming WTO Conference.

The independent experts emphasized that human rights obligations must be reaffirmed in the context of global trade rules to ensure that "WTO negotiations and rules support development efforts to eliminate the root causes of hunger, ill-health, and poverty, strengthen human rights protection and promotion and ultimately ensure that the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals are achieved."...

Committee on the Rights of the Child [to 12 December 2015]

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

["As the Covenants turn 50, it is time to turn norms into action" – UN experts](#)

9 December 2015

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

[to 12 December 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 12 December 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 12 December 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

UN OCHA [to 12 December 2015]

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

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

11 Dec 2015

[Syrian Arab Republic: Press release on the evacuation of combatants, their families and the critically injured and the delivery of humanitarian supplies in Al Waer \(Homs\)](#)

Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UN Country Team in Syria
Country: Syrian Arab Republic (Damascus, 11 December 2015) The United Nations (UN) in Syria and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) evacuated over 300 combatants along with their families and the critically injured from Al Waer (Homs) and transferred them into Idlib governorate as stipulated in a local Agreement between the Government of Syria and the Local Committee of Al Waer.

11 Dec 2015

[Ukraine: Statement to the Security Council on Ukraine - John Ging, Director of Operations on behalf of Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien, Kyiv/New York, 11 December 2015](#)

07 Dec 2015

[Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien Remarks at the launch of the Global Humanitarian Overview 2016](#)

07 Dec 2015

[UN and partners launch 2016 humanitarian appeal asking for \\$20.1 billion, aiming to reach over 87 million people in need \[EN/AR\]](#)

UNICEF [to 12 December 2015]

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

Selected press releases

[Saying "children will, and should, judge us," UNICEF calls for ambitious action on climate change](#)

PARIS, France, 10 December 2015 – Children are already paying a heavy price for the world's inaction on climate change, UNICEF said.

[UNICEF plans to reach 2.6 million Syrian children with winter supplies and cash assistance](#)

AMMAN, Jordan, 7 December 2015 – Another harsh winter is looming for more than eight million Syrian children living inside the war-ravaged country or as refugees around the region and beyond.

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [to 12 December 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)

[Refugees and migrants in Europe need protection and respect for their human rights](#)

9 December 2015

IOM / International Organization for Migration [to 12 December 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[Canada Welcomes First Syrian Refugee Resettlement Flight](#)

12/11/15

Canada - IOM, in coordination with UNHCR and the governments of Canada and Lebanon, last night successfully moved 163 Syrian refugees from Beirut, Lebanon to Toronto, Canada.

[IOM Welcomes Inclusion of 'Climate Migrants', 'Climate Migration' in Draft Paris COP Agreement](#)

12/11/15

Switzerland - IOM welcomes the inclusion of 'climate migrants' and 'climate migration' in the text expected to be agreed as part of the Paris climate change agreement.

[Migrant Workers Suffer Exploitation, Abuse in Middle East, North Africa: Report](#)

12/11/15

Lebanon - IOM and the Walk Free Foundation (WFF) have called on governments to take more concrete action to protect migrant workers amid worsening conditions in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

[Honduras Commits to Protect Migrant Children's Rights](#)

12/11/15

Honduras - IOM and Honduras' Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation have signed a letter of understanding in which the government pledges to provide sustainability for IOM assistance projects targeting returned migrant children and adolescents.

[IOM Appeals for US\\$ 254 Million for 2016 Syria Operations](#)

12/08/15

Switzerland - The Syria inter-agency appeal was launched this week in Geneva as part of the overall 2016 Humanitarian Appeal.

[IOM Monitors Mediterranean Arrivals, Fatalities](#)

12/08/15

Greece - IOM estimates that over 909,000 migrants and refugees have entered Europe by sea so far in 2015 - four times the 219,000 recorded in all of 2014.

[Management of Cross-Border Movements of Frontier Communities in Mauritania: IOM Study](#)

12/08/15

Mauritania - As part of its European Union (EU)-funded project "Strengthening border management in Mauritania - the involvement of the Gendarmerie," IOM this week organized a workshop in Nouakchott presenting a feasibility study on how to manage the cross-border movement of border communities.

[Papua New Guinea Camp Management Training Targets Drought Response](#)

12/08/15

Papua New Guinea - As weather extremes continue to place severe strains on Pacific nations, the challenges to disaster management authorities become ever steeper.

UN Women [to 12 December 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[Global pledges ramp up campaign to end violence against women](#)

Date: 11 December 2015

International meeting co-organised by UN Women closes with 35 stakeholder commitments for bold steps to end violence against women.

["Every victim of violence must have prompt access to the full range of essential services" — Executive Director](#)

Date: 11 December 2015

Speech by UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka at the High-Level launch of the Essential Services Package at the Ending Violence against Women: Building on Progress to Accelerate Change meeting in Istanbul on 10 December.

[Press release: High-level global UN meeting to focus on ending violence against women](#)

Date: 07 December 2015

On 9-10 December, over 150 high-level representatives from over 40 UN Member States and the Council of Europe (CoE), UN agencies, academia and NGOs plan to attend Ending Violence against Women: Building on Progress to Accelerate Change, a high-level global UN meeting in Istanbul to assess progress, identify challenges and renew global political commitments to end the pandemic of violence against women and girls.

WHO & Regionals [to 12 December 2015]

[New global framework to eliminate rabies](#)

News release

10 DECEMBER 2015 | GENEVA - A new framework to eliminate human rabies and save tens of thousands of lives each year has been launched today by WHO, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Global Alliance for the Control of Rabies (GARC).

The framework calls for 3 key actions - making human vaccines and antibodies affordable, ensuring people who get bitten receive prompt treatment, and mass dog vaccinations to tackle the disease at its source.

"Rabies is 100% preventable through vaccination and timely immunization after exposure, but access to post-bite treatment is expensive and is not affordable in many Asian and African countries. If we follow this more comprehensive approach, we can consign rabies to the history books," says WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan...

Global elimination of human rabies – The time is now!

On 10 and 11 December 2015, experts, donors, and veterinary and public health officials will adopt a plan of action that is expected to deliver prompt post-exposure prophylaxis for all in rabies endemic areas as well as a framework for scaling up sustained, large-scale dog vaccination. This milestone international conference will also discuss a push for coordinated activities targeting dog and human populations by adapting proven control strategies.

Another important component is harnessing support for community awareness and engagement to facilitate and strengthen data collection, bite incidence reporting and demand for post-exposure prophylaxis. Educating children on how to avoid being bitten is also vital. The conference "Global elimination of dog-mediated human rabies – The time is now" is jointly organized by WHO and the OIE, in collaboration with FAO with the support of GARC.

:: [WHO Regional Offices](#)

[WHO African Region](#) AFRO

:: [The road to universal health coverage: a case study on Gabon](#)

11 December 2015 -- Mobile phones are becoming one of the world's most important health tools, used in many countries to track exercise, ensure medicines are genuine, and even to read blood glucose levels. In Gabon, they're being used to raise revenue for the national health system. A 10% levy on the revenues of mobile phone companies and on mobile phone usage, introduced by Gabon's government in 2008, has helped to more than double the funds for a health insurance programme that now covers 99% of the equatorial nation's poor, giving them access to critical health services such as care...

[WHO Region of the Americas](#) PAHO

:: [Experts seek ways to boost public spending on health in Latin America and the Caribbean to achieve and sustain universal health](#) (12/07/2015)

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

No new digest content identified.

[WHO European Region](#) EURO

:: [A strong agreement from COP21 matters to health – and to the European Region](#) 11-12-2015

[WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region](#) EMRO

:: [WHO condemns attack on Al Houban clinic in Taiz, Yemen run by MSF, wounding 9 people](#)
7 December 2015

[WHO Western Pacific Region](#)

:: [Malaysia and WHO tackle the marketing of unhealthy food and beverages to children](#)
KUALA LUMPUR, 7 December 2015 – Recognizing the need to protect children from unhealthy diet, the Malaysian Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO) regional offices for South-East Asia and the Western Pacific convened a bi-regional workshop to guide Member States in restricting the marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children.
[Read the news release](#)

UNAIDS [to 12 December 2015]

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

[UNAIDS and IPPF join efforts to Fast-Track the response to HIV](#)

Geneva, 11 December 2015—UNAIDS and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) have signed a memorandum of understanding to Fast-Track access to HIV services by 2020. Under the partnership, UNAIDS and IPPF will support the delivery of high-impact HIV advocacy, prevention and treatment services, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

[Message from the Executive Director of UNAIDS on Human Rights Day 2015](#)

09 December 2015 |

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund [to 12 December 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNDP United Nations Development Programme [to 12 December 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[Helen Clark: Statement on Outcome of Paris Climate Change Conference](#)

Dec 12, 2015

"I welcome the historic outcome of the Paris Climate Change Conference announced today which sends a strong signal that countries, rich and poor, are committed to work together to tackle climate change..."

[Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Issues Call for New Deal on Medicines](#)

Dec 11, 2015

The United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines held its first meeting today. The panel committed itself to finding solutions that will increase access to medicines, while continuing to promote investment in new treatments to save the lives of millions.

[United Nations Security Council adopts ground-breaking resolution on Youth, Peace and Security](#)

Dec 9, 2015

The United Nations Security Council has today adopted a ground-breaking resolution on Youth, Peace and Security which recognizes that “young people play an important and positive role in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security”. This historic acknowledgement of the critical role of young people’s role in supporting durable peace will bolster the work of young women and young men engaged in efforts to prevent violence, reconcile communities and resolve conflict.

[UNDP, FAO to scale up assistance to countries on addressing climate change risks in agriculture](#) Dec 8, 2015

A U.N. programme working to help countries include climate-related risks in national planning and budgeting processes -- especially those that affect the agriculture sector -- is getting an additional 5 million Euros in support from the government of Germany, bringing the country’s total backing for this work up to 15 million Euros.

[Equator Prize Award Ceremony Lauds Indigenous Peoples’ Central Role in Climate Change Fight](#) Dec 8, 2015

In the midst of Paris climate negotiations, UN Development Programme (UNDP) chief Helen Clark and actor and activist Alec Baldwin hosted the Equator Prize 2015 award ceremony this week to recognize the perseverance of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in 19 countries worldwide, whose efforts are helping to tackle climate change and protect the environment.

[UNDP and World Resources Institute Launch Report on Engaging the Private Sector to Build Resilience to Climate Change](#) Dec 8, 2015

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) and World Resources Institute (WRI) launched a joint report today during the Paris climate change conference (COP21), highlighting why enhancing resilience in the private sector, led by small business, is vital to building resilient communities.

[Helen Clark: Speech on Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Goals](#) Dec 7, 2015

Sustainable Innovation Forum, COP21 - Paris, France

UN Division for Sustainable Development [to 12 December 2015]

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

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

[Establishment of the SIDS Partnership Framework](#)

10 Dec 2015 - On 4 December 2015, the General Assembly's Second Committee adopted a draft resolution that decides to establish the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Partnership Framework in line with the priorities of Small Island developing States.

The establishment of the SIDS Partnership Framework was requested by the outcome of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the SAMOA Pathway, in order to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for Small Island developing States, and encourage new, genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS.

[SG's High Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport to advance transport solutions to climate change](#)

8 Dec 2015 - The UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport, meeting on the margins of the Paris Climate Conference, pledged to highlight the critical role that sustainable transport will play in addressing climate change.

"Transport is currently responsible for nearly a quarter of global energy-related greenhouse gas emissions," said Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon. "The Advisory Group can help make sustainable transport a part of the solution to the climate crisis."

The 16 members of the Group asserted that through innovation—in operations and policy as well as in technology—the transport sector can lower emissions while ensuring access to markets, services and social interaction for people in all parts of the world...

UN Statistical Commission :: UN Statistics Division [to 12 December 2015]

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

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

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

[Open consultation on proposed global SDG indicators coded as 'grey' to be launched on 9 December 2015](#)

An open consultation will take place on the [proposed SDG Indicators](#) that currently coded as 'grey', indicating that further discussion on them is still needed. The consultation will be open from Wednesday, 9 December to Tuesday, 11 December to both observers (non-IAEG Member States and representatives of regional commissions and regional and international agencies) and other stakeholders (civil society, academia and private sector) for technical comments.

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme [to 12 December 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[New UN Report Details Link between Climate Change and Human Rights](#)

Released on Human Rights Day, ahead of the finalization of a new climate agreement, Climate Change and Human Rights provides a comprehensive study of the links between human rights law and climate change.

10/12/2015

[Africa-Led Renewable Energy Project Receives Billions in Backing from International Community](#)

08/12/2015

[Urgent Call for Zero-emission Vehicles as Part of Global Climate Change Mitigation Strategy](#)

Zero emissions vehicles need to be seen as part of a wider move towards a cleaner transport sector that includes better city planning, public transport and non-motorized transport.

08/12/2015

[UNEP Signs MOU with ICLEI](#)

The future of what happens in our societies will be largely determined by what happens in the cities of our world.

08/12/2015 00

[Actions on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Developing Countries Could Reduce Emissions by 1.7 Gt/year by 2020](#)

First Report of 1 Gigaton Coalition Finds Potential for Further Reductions
07/12/2015

UNISDR UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 12 December 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

No new digest content identified.

UN DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 12 December 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[Global economy faces major headwinds – modest improvement projected for next two years](#)

10 December 2015, New York

The world economy stumbled in 2015 and only a modest improvement is projected for 2016/17 as a number of cyclical and structural headwinds persist, says the United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2016 report, launched today.

UNESCO [to 12 December 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[Director-General welcomes COP21 agreement and underlines the momentum in changing minds not the climate](#)

12 December 2015

[Guidelines for Accessible Information in Learning available in 23 languages](#)

11 December 2015

[UNESCO presents its first report on impact of 2005 Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions](#)

11 December 2015

Have the countries that ratified the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, adopted at UNESCO ten years ago, stepped up their support for cultural creation, encouraged diversity for the media, opened their markets to cultural goods from developing countries? These are some of the questions addressed in the report *Re | Shaping Cultural Policies: A Decade Promoting the Diversity of Cultural Expressions for Development*, which will be launched on 16 December (10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Room II) at UNESCO Headquarters [*Webcast: mms://stream.unesco.org/live/room_2_en.wmv]

[UNESCO Director-General welcomes historic UN Security Council Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security](#)

10 December 2015

On 10 December, the UNESCO Director-General welcomed the United Nations Security Council Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security. Sponsored by Jordan, [Resolution 2250](#)

underlines the vital role of young women and men in building peace and countering the rise of violent extremism

[Qatar Development Fund boosts UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund](#)

8 December 2015

The Qatar Development Fund (QDF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) signed today their first Memorandum of Understanding to support the implementation of UNESCO's programme for the protection of cultural and natural heritage in emergency situations.

The MOU provides a \$2 million grant as part of a 2014 pledge by H.E. the Prime Minister of the State of Qatar, Abdullah bin Nasser Al-Thani, to donate \$10 million to support UNESCO in conserving world heritage sites in areas hit by natural and man-made disasters.

UNESCO's Programme for Heritage Emergency Preparedness and Response aims to enhance UNESCO's ability to assist Member States in reducing the risks to their cultural and natural heritage and ensure a timely and effective response in emergency situations to ensure their safeguarding...

...The Heritage Emergency Fund will support capacity building and training activities for professionals in conflict situations and emergency response activities.

Signed at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, the agreement comes as the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO has adopted a comprehensive strategy for the protection and promotion of culture and pluralism in times of war.

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 12 December 2015]

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

08/12/2015 –

[Experts gather in Vienna to discuss latest findings in drug prevention and drug dependence treatments](#)

UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Selected Announcements]

[Cities in spotlight at Climate Change Summit COP21](#)

Paris, 8th December 2015. City leaders can become critical actors in addressing the global challenges of climate change. The effects of urbanisation and climate change are converging in very threatening ways: Cities consume 78 per cent of...

Posted December 11, 2015

[Experts meet on role of metropolitan development in New Urban Agenda](#)

Guadalajara, 10 December 2015— About 30 international experts last week participated in a Global Experts Group Meeting (EGM) "The Role of Metropolitan Development in Supporting the New Urban Agenda", in Guadalajara (Mexico).

[Deputy Executive Director decries inequality in African cities](#)

Johannesburg 4 December 2015, The Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Dr. Aisa Kacyira Kirabo has warned that the wide inequality witnessed in African cities was the greatest threat to sustainable urbanization on the continent. "It is good...

Posted December 7, 2015

FAO Food & Agriculture Organization [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Selected Announcements]

[Breakthrough climate agreement recognizes food security as a priority](#)

FAO Director-General Jose Graziano da Silva welcomed the successful conclusion of the Paris Climate Summit saying that "for the first time ever, food security features in a global climate change accord." The Paris Agreement recognizes "the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the impacts of climate change".

12-12-2015

[Study reveals disturbing hunger trends in world's highland areas](#)

While global hunger figures are decreasing, the number of food insecure people in mountain areas rose 30 percent between 2000 and 2012, according to a new study, released today by FAO and the Mountain Partnership on International Mountain Day.

11-12-2015

[Align trade and agricultural development policies better to achieve food security](#)

Policy makers must assure that international food trade rules "work for, and not against, the elimination of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition," according to The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets.

9-12-2015

[UNDP, FAO to scale up assistance to countries on addressing climate change risks in agriculture](#)

A UN Programme working to help countries include climate-related risks in national planning and budgeting processes - especially those that affect the agriculture sector - is getting an additional €5 million in support from the government of Germany.

8-12-2015

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Smallholder farmers need seat at climate table](#)

Paris, 7 December 2015: Short-term, reactive solutions are not enough to help smallholder farmers cope with climate change, according to a new report by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

"If we are going to sustainably improve the livelihoods of the developing world's smallholder farmers in the context of a changing climate, we need to ensure that their priorities are understood and reflected in policies," says IFAD's Vice President Michel Mordasini.

The report, prepared by IFAD, suggests that practical technical interventions, such as enhanced seeds and accurate weather forecasts, are not enough and that ultimately national policies, a legal framework, strategies and budgets will shape the opportunities for large numbers of rural women and men to adapt to a changing environment...

ILO International Labour Organization [to 12 December 2015]

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

2015 Labour Overview

[ILO: 1.7 million people joined the ranks of the unemployed in 2015 in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)

10 December 2015

The ILO's 2015 Labour Overview indicates that the economic slowdown has caused a rise in unemployment, particularly among women and young people, and there are signs of increased informality. The situation is worrying and poses policy challenges to the countries of the region. Unemployment could rise again in 2016.

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Safety, Security and Development Concerns Top Agenda as ICAO President Addresses 25th AFCAC Plenary in Cairo](#)

9/12/15

[International Civil Aviation Day 2015](#)

7/12/15

IMO International Maritime Organization [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Illegal wildlife trade faces zero-tolerance policy](#)

10/12/2015

A zero-tolerance policy towards the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) was among several concrete measures agreed this week (9th December 2015) by members of the United for Wildlife International Taskforce on the Transportation of Illegal Wildlife Products.

Members of the taskforce, including IMO, agreed the text of a declaration, to be signed next March, containing firm commitments to tackle IWT. Many within the transport sector, including companies represented on the task force, have agreed to enforce a zero-tolerance policy by never knowingly facilitating or tolerating the carriage of illegal wildlife or illegal wildlife products. The policy will be included in documents such as conditions of carriage, employment and client contracts as well as in marketing material.

The declaration also includes commitments to establish a harmonised mechanism for sharing information about IWT and to develop the use of due diligence and risk assessment systems to identify potential IWT shipments. Companies will also be encouraged to establish mechanisms for reporting suspicious activity to enforcement authorities and develop appropriate staff-training programmes.

A cross-disciplinary team will be established to work with local customs and law enforcement authorities to develop a system of best practice for combatting illegal wildlife trade in key ports, and the World Customs Organisation and national customs authorities will be supported in developing mechanisms to aid detecting and preventing IWT.

The commitments included in the declaration will, if adopted by the wider transport sector, help break the chain between suppliers and consumers and lead to a tangible and significant reduction in the volume of IWT...

WMO World Meteorological Organization [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Global Carbon Budget released](#)

8 December 2015

The 2015 Global Carbon Budget, released during the UN Climate Change negotiations, said that Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions from fossil fuels and industry increased by 0.6% in 2014, with a total of about 9.8 Gigatonnes of carbon (GtC (billion tonnes of carbon) emitted to the atmosphere. This is 60% above emissions in 1990, the Kyoto Protocol reference year.

The report from the Global Carbon Project, which is co-sponsored by the World Climate Research Programme, said emissions in 2015 are projected to decline by -0.6% (range -1.6% to +0.5%)...

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Global manufacturing output grows modestly with downward trend in developing and emerging industrial economies](#)

VIENNA, 10 December 2015 - World manufacturing output grew modestly by 2.7 per cent in the third quarter of 2015. For the first time in recent years, the growth trend in industrialized economies was upward compared to declining trend in developing and emerging industrial economies, according to a report by the United Nations Industrial development Organization (UNIDO)....

Manufacturing output grew by 1.5 per cent in industrialized economies, up from 0.9 per cent in previous quarter. In developing and emerging industrial economies, the growth rate dropped to 5.0 per cent, down from 5.3 per cent in previous quarter.

[Climate change mitigation in CIS countries on agenda of Vienna workshop](#)

VIENNA, 7 December 2015 – Some 40 participants attended a workshop that opened in Vienna today which focused on developing programmes for climate change mitigation, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the promotion of clean technologies uptake in Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

UNWTO World Tourism Organization [to 12 December 2015]

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

[United Nations declares 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development](#)

7 December 2015

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly has approved the adoption of 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. The resolution, adopted on 4 December, recognizes "the importance of international tourism, and particularly of the designation of an international year of sustainable tourism for development, in fostering better understanding among peoples everywhere, in leading to a greater awareness of the rich heritage of various civilizations and in bringing about a better appreciation of the inherent values of different cultures, thereby contributing to the strengthening of peace in the world".

ITU International Telecommunications Union [to 12 December 2015]

http://www.itu.int/net/pressoffice/press_releases/index.aspx?lang=en#.VF8FYcl4WF8
[ITU Workshop on Digital Financial Services and Financial Inclusion to address needs of 2 billion 'unbanked' people](#)

Mobile money experts to prioritize discussion of consumer protection

Geneva, 10 December 2015 – An ITU [Workshop on Digital Financial Services](#) and Financial Inclusion in Geneva, 14 December, will analyse the latest developments in the market for digital financial services (DFS), or 'mobile money'. Topics for discussion will address consumer protection, with accompanying sessions exploring merchant payments, DFS market competition, and DFS interoperability.

The free-of-charge, open-to-all workshop will host representatives of the information and communication technology (ICT) and financial-services sectors to supplement the work of the [ITU Focus Group on Digital Financial Services](#), which will meet at ITU, 15-16 December.

The Focus Group is developing a set of operational recommendations, tools and solutions to assist countries in establishing financial-inclusion strategies capable of promoting widespread adoption of DFS. The group's upcoming meeting will advance key deliverables to improve the cooperation of ICT regulators and central banks, build greater understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders comprising the DFS ecosystem, and support DFS operators in their efforts to achieve service interoperability.

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization [to 12 December 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Governments encouraged to use biodiversity and ecosystem services as strategy for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction](#)

2015-12-09

Biodiversity and the ecosystem services it underpins can deliver benefits that will increase the resilience of people to the impacts of climate change, said current and former executives of major multilateral environmental agreements, at an event in the margins of the Paris Climate Change Conference.

[Message of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias on the Occasion of International Mountain Day](#)

2015-12-11

.....

US Department of State [to 12 December 2015]

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

Selected Announcements

12/12/15 [White House Fact Sheet: U.S. Leadership and the Historic Paris Agreement to Combat Climate Change](#); Washington, DC

-12/10/15 [International Human Rights Day 2015](#); Secretary of State John Kerry; Washington, DC

USAID [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Power Africa Launches New Partnerships and Tools at Paris Climate Change Conference](#)

December 8, 2015

As part of the U.S. Government's approach to addressing the threat of climate change, Power Africa will forge several new partnerships and launch new tools during the 2015 Paris Climate Conference (COP 21) to support the development of renewable energy across sub-Saharan Africa. Scaling up access to cleaner electricity helps mitigate climate change and enhance resilience to climate shocks.

DFID [to 12 December 2015]

[Hurd: Crisis in Ethiopia needs global response](#)

Published 11 December 2015 Press release DFID

[Britain and US unite to power up Africa](#)

Published 7 December 2015 Press release DFID

Launch of new partnership between the UK's Energy Africa and the US's Power Africa Initiative.

A landmark partnership between the UK and US will help millions of people across Africa get access to clean energy, UK International Development Minister Nick Hurd and Associate Administrator of USAID Eric Postel have announced.

The new partnership between the UK's Energy Africa campaign and the US's Power Africa initiative will leverage much-needed private investment, develop networks to share power across borders and harness geothermal resources to boost access to electricity across the continent...

ECHO [to 12 December 2015]

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

[EU strengthens humanitarian aid along Western Balkan migration route](#)

10/12/2015

The European Commission is to release further emergency humanitarian aid of €13 million, aimed at supporting refugees along the Western Balkans route.

.....

African Union [to 12 December 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]

Dec.10.2015 [A Message by H.E. Dr. Aisha L. Abdullahi \(Amb.\), Commissioner for Political Affairs on the Occasion of the Commemoration of the International Human Rights Day](#)

Dec.09.2015 | [Press Releases](#)

[PAU introduces mechanisms on Communications and Gender Mainstreaming](#)

Dec.09.2015 | [Press Releases](#)

[Preparations for the Headquarters of the Africa Center for Disease Control Underway at the African Union](#)

Dec.08.2015

[4th Annual High Level Dialogue on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance in Africa: Trends, Challenges and Prospects](#)

Dec.04.2015

[Experts strive to jointly regulate medicines in Africa](#)

Joint Press Release

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. December 4, 2015 – The experts have reiterated the urgent need for Africa to fast track the process of harmonizing medicines regulation on the Continent to guarantee access to quality medicines. The issue was front and center in the two-day event that brought together experts of the pharmaceutical sector in the framework of the 4th African Medicines Regulatory Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The experts considered recent advances in countries for regulation of medical devices, blood and blood products and in implementation of harmonization programmes in RECs. Moreover, they reviewed and adopted the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization (AMRH) Implementation Toolkit and the draft Regional strategy for strengthening regulatory systems in the Africa.

... The Meeting also underlined the need for Member States to increase national investments for strengthening the regulatory capacity of NMRAs as well as the necessity for partner organizations including the World Health Organization to provide countries with support to establish, assess and strengthen their regulatory systems taking the benefit of the WHO Global Assessment Tool....

The African Development Bank Group [to 12 December 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 Lessons Learned Database made public](#)

10/12/2015 - The Independent Development Evaluation (IDEV) lessons learned database, a repository of findings, lessons and recommendations drawn from independent and self-evaluations of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) has been updated, and is now easily accessible to both internal and external users.

Asian Development Bank [to 12 December 2015]

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

10 December 2015

[First ADB Policy-Based Loan to PRC Supports Air Pollution Control in Beijing Capital Region](#)

ADB approved its first policy-based loan of \$300 million to the People's Republic of China to help address the longstanding air pollution problem of the greater Beijing capital region.

8 December 2015

[New ADB Research Shows Design of Special Economic Zones Determines Success](#)

Special economic zones can be a driving force for increased trade, investment, and economic reform in Asia provided the right business environments and policies are put in place, says a new ADB report.

7 December 2015

[Financial Institutions Mainstream Climate Action](#)

A coalition of the world's leading financial institutions have today officially signed on to five voluntary Principles to Mainstream Climate Action into their operations.

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank [to 12 December 2015]

<http://www.aiib.org/html/NEWS/>

[Managing Director of Kuwait Investment Authority signed the Articles of Agreement of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank](#)

12/08/2015

ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations [to 12 December 2015]

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

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

[ASEAN to Convene Consumer Protection Conference](#)

BANGKOK, 9 December 2015 - The 2nd ASEAN Consumer Protection Conference (ACPC) will be convened on 14-15 December in Bangkok as part of an ongoing effort to enhance awareness on consumer protection issues in ASEAN. The 2nd ACPC will discuss consumer product safety legislation, the use of warranties and guarantees, enforcement and remedies, recalls and redress, institutional design and effectiveness of consumer and competition agencies, and finally a look at future trends such as sustainable consumption and the modern ASEAN consumer.

European Union [to 12 December 2015]

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

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

[Refugee Crisis: New €13 million in humanitarian aid for refugees in Western Balkans](#)

Date: 10/12/2015

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 10 December 2015 The EU is to release further emergency humanitarian aid of €13 million, aimed at supporting refugees along the Western Balkans route.

[Implementing the Common European Asylum System: Commission escalates 8 infringement proceedings](#)

Date: 10/12/2015

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 10 December 2015 Implementing the Common European Asylum System: Commission escalates 8 infringement proceedings The

European Commission adopted today 8 infringement decisions for failing to fully transpose and implement the Common European Asylum System.

[EU launches innovative new mechanism to help human rights defenders](#)

Date: 09/12/2015

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 9 December 2015

On the eve of Human Rights Day (on December 10) EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, announced the first ever EU comprehensive Human Rights Defenders Mechanism. The initiative is set to become one of Europe's key tools to assist human rights defenders at high risk, including in remote areas, running until 2018. Commissioner Mimica said: "Human rights are at the core of EU's values. Therefore, it is only logical that those who risk their lives to defend them must be able to count on us for support. Thanks to this first-of-its-kind mechanism, we will provide them with essential help, from urgent relocation to legal advice".

The mechanism counts on a budget of €15 million of EU funds until 2018. This funding is in addition to the continuous support to Human Rights Defenders already provided by the EU, including under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human rights (EIDHR). Since 2007, the EIDHR has allocated €200 million to Human Rights Defenders worldwide.

Through the new mechanism, the EU will provide human rights supporters at risk with:

- :: Short-term support, including physical protection, legal and medical support, trial and prison monitoring, and urgent advocacy and relocation, among other actions;
- :: Medium-term support, including monitoring of their situation, early warning of risks, training on risk prevention and security (including digital security), and international, regional and national advocacy.
- :: Long-term support including support to national networks, advocacy, lobbying and development of strategies to counter restrictions and sanctions imposed on human rights defenders by states.

The mechanism is managed by a consortium of 12 independent international Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)^[1] who have practical experience of working to support human rights defenders at risk. The mechanism has worldwide coverage, with a specific focus on remote areas. The concrete initiatives to be supported under the mechanism are decided upon by the NGO consortium, against a number of criteria including identity, situation and needs...

[1] Front Line Defenders, Reporters Without Borders (RSF), World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Network (ESCR-Net), International Gay and Lesbian Association (ILGA), Urgent Action Fund for Women Human Rights Defenders (UAF), Protection International, Peace Brigades International (PBI), Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders (EMHRF), Forum Asia and East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP).

OECD [to 12 December 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]

[The time is now for a new Latin America-China partnership to foster mutual development strategies, says the Latin American Economic Outlook 2016](#)

11-December-2015

Latin America's GDP growth slowdown deepened and is expected to be negative in 2015. For a second consecutive year, Latin America falls behind the average growth of OECD countries after a full decade of convergence with advanced economies, according to the Latin American Economic Outlook 2016.

[International Anti-Corruption Day Statement by Drago Kos, Chair of the OECD Working Group on Bribery](#)

9-December-2015

International Anti-Corruption Day provides us all with a unique opportunity to reflect on the progress we have made over the past year in the global fight against corruption, but also to think about the work that remains to be done in the years ahead.

Organization of American States (OAS) [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Message from the Secretary General of the OAS, Luis Almagro, on Human Rights Day](#)

E-352

December 10, 2015

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) [to 12 December 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases

[OIC Welcomes Declaration of Principles Agreement for ending Libyan Crisis](#)

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) welcomed the agreement by the delegations of the House of Representatives and the General National Congress in Libya on principles to end the conflict in Libya which was signed in Tunisia on 6 December 2015....

07/12/2015

Group of 77 [to 12 December 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

UNCTAD [to 12 December 2015]

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

08 Dec 2015 - [International trade in services was main driver of growth in global trade in 2014](#)

[Français](#) | [Español](#)

UNCTAD's Handbook of Statistics 2015 reveals that global trade in services grew by 5 per cent as merchandise trade stagnates and foreign direct investment falls

UNCTAD/PRESS/PR/2015/045

Geneva, Switzerland, (08 December 2015)

International service exports accounted for 21 per cent of total global exports (valued at just over \$5 trillion) in 2014, a growth of almost 5 per cent compared with the previous year, while

merchandise exports (valued at \$19 trillion), increased by only 0.3 per cent in the year, as measured in current prices, UNCTAD's [Handbook of Statistics 2015](#)¹ reveals. Total global exports for 2014 were valued at \$24 trillion, up by 1.2 per cent compared with the previous year.

Services exports from both developed and developing economies grew strongly in 2014, at 5.3 per cent and 4.8 per cent respectively. But services exports from the transition economies of South-East Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), as well as Georgia, declined sharply in 2014, falling by almost \$10 billion or 7 per cent compared with 2013...

World Trade Organisation [to 12 December 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

IMF [to 12 December 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

World Bank [to 12 December 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]

[New Report Highlights the World's Most Competitive Cities](#)

Increasing competitiveness key to more jobs and growth

WASHINGTON, December 10, 2015 – Improving the competitiveness of cities is a vital pathway to eliminating extreme poverty and promoting prosperity...

Date: December 9, 2015 Type: Press Release Language: English

[The Right Mix of Labor Regulations Can Protect Workers While Maintaining Incentives to Create Jobs, Says New WBG/ILO Report](#)

WASHINGTON, December 9, 2015— The World Bank Group (WBG) and International Labor Organization (ILO) today released a new report which shows how countries can reform labor regulations to protect their workers...

Date: December 9, 2015 Type: Press Release Language: English

[Womb-to-Tomb Policies Needed to Tackle Labor Force Decline and Higher Public Spending in Rapidly Aging East Asia](#)

BEIJING, December 9, 2015—East Asia is aging faster than any other region in history, and some middle-income and wealthier economies could lose as much as 15 percent of their working-age population by 2040, according to a new World Bank report.

The report, [Live Long and Prosper: Aging in East Asia and Pacific](#), finds that 36 percent of the world's population ages 65 and over, or 211 million people, live in East Asia, the largest share among all regions. By 2040, the graying of the population could shrink the number of working-

age adults by more than 15 percent in Korea and more than 10 percent in China, Thailand and Japan. In China alone, that would translate into a net loss of 90 million workers....

Date: December 9, 2015 Type: Press Release Language: English

[Speech by World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim at the World Bank Group Tourism Forum 2015: Driving Development Through Tourism](#)

Date: December 8, 2015 Type: Speeches and Transcripts Language: English

[NEPAD Launches Initiative for the Resilience and Restoration of African Landscapes](#)

PARIS, December 6, 2015 – The African Union New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) launched today the African Resilient Landscapes Initiative (ARLI). This initiative will be implemented through forest and ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation, climate smart agriculture, and rangeland management. The [World Bank Group](#) and [World Resources Institute](#) will, as main partners, support the mobilization of financial and technical resources from multiple sources to design and implement country-specific strategies....

Date: December 6, 2015 Type: Press Release Language: English

IPU Inter-Parliamentary Union [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Micronesia hands over funds to support work on migration](#)

9 DECEMBER 2015

The Speaker of the Micronesian Congress Wesley W. Simina handed over a cheque of US\$100,000 to IPU Secretary General Martin Chungong as a practical first step in his parliament’s support for IPU’s work on migration. The funds, which had been pledged during the recent 133rd IPU Assembly in Geneva, will help support implementation of IPU’s follow-up to a declaration on migration adopted at the Assembly.

International Criminal Court (ICC) [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Statement of the President of the International Criminal Court \(ICC\), Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, on the Occasion of Human Rights Day, 10 December 2015](#)

10/12/2015

On 10 December 2015, the International Criminal Court joins the rest of the world in marking Human Rights Day, which commemorates the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 67 years ago.

[French Minister of Justice visits the ICC and announces a contribution of €750,000 to the Trust Fund for Victims](#)

07/12/2015

On 7 December 2015, French Minister of Justice Christiane Taubira announced a voluntary contribution of €750,000 to the Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) at the International Criminal Court (ICC). The contribution is the single largest French donation to the TFV to date.

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

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:: INGO/Consortia/Joint Initiatives Watch

We will monitor media releases and other announcements around key initiatives, new research and major organizational change from a growing number of global NGOs, collaborations, and initiatives across the human rights, humanitarian response and development spheres of action.

This Watch section is intended to be indicative, not exhaustive. We will not include fund raising announcements, programs events or appeals, and generally not include content which is primarily photo-documentation or video in format.

Amref Health Africa [to 12 December 2015]

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

Amref Health Africa Celebrates 29th Graduation Ceremony

Published: 11 December 2015 Carolynne Khamala

Joyful graduates celebrated their academic achievements with family and friends at Amref Health Africa's 29th graduation ceremony in Nairobi on Wednesday this week.

Training Health Workers to Tackle 'Lifestyle Diseases'

Published: 10 December 2015 Marie Kinyanjui

GlaxoSmithKline and Amref Health Africa have launched a new programme to train health workers on management of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The three-year programme will train 2,500 health workers including nurses, clinical officers, laboratory technicians,...

Amref Health Africa Statement of Business Ethics

Published: 09 December 2015 Carolynne Khamala

Message from the Group CEO This statement outlines the integrity and ethical standards expected of employees, partners, suppliers and service providers when doing business with and for Amref Health Africa.

Aravind Eye Care System [to 12 December 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

BRAC [to 12 December 2015]

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

6 December 2015

Young coders develop app solutions on social problems

"BRACathon"- BRAC's first ever hackathon attracted more than 120 budding app developers and students to compete for prize and developing useful mobile applications to contribute in social innovation. The 36 hour long BRACathon took place from 4-5 December 2015 in BRAC University. 27 teams including IT students and tech start-ups participated.

The theme of BRACathon was technology for social good. The participating teams were given 11 problems including TB prevention, micro-learning, microfinance data access, crowdsourcing

information for city roads improvement, bKash user interface etc. Students from BRAC University, NSU, IUB, BUET, Ahsanullah University and technology start-ups including EMPOWER, Miyaki participated in this competition...

CARE International [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Investing in the future of South Sudan must bring peace](#)

SOUTH SUDAN

11 DECEMBER 2015

CARE's new briefing note – "Our small peace cannot survive alone". Lessons in peacebuilding and economic development in South Sudan – argues that the Compromise Peace Agreement signed in August presents an opportunity for South Sudanese authorities and the international community to adopt a new approach, one that balances community reconciliation with economic development.

[Global countdown starts for Paris climate deal](#)

FRANCE

10 DECEMBER 2015

The endgame for the UN climate deal has begun with only a few days left until countries are expected to adopt a new agreement to tackle climate change. In response to the draft Paris outcome text released on the 9th of December.

Casa Alianza [to 12 December 2015]

Covenant House [to 12 December 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

Clubhouse International

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

No new digest content identified.

Danish Refugee Council [to 12 December 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

ECPAT [to 12 December 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Fountain House [to 12 December 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Handicap International [to 12 December 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Heifer International [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Heifer International Weekly](#)

Tuesday, Dec. 08, 2015

[Heifer International Awarded \\$1.5 Million Grant to Expand Disaster Risk Reduction Work](#)

December 7, 2015 LITTLE ROCK, Ark.

Heifer International has received a \$1.5 million grant to help fund phase two of the RISE-UP: Resilience Initiatives through Sustainable Enterprises and Upgrade of Community Preparedness project. The money will extend work in the Philippines while expanding the work to Guatemala, two of the most disaster-prone countries in which we work.

The grant from the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation will help strengthen the disaster preparedness and risk reduction capacities of up to 7,200 at-risk small-scale farming families—4,200 in Guatemala and 3,000 in the Philippines—by providing essential training and resources that sustain their livelihoods and increase their resiliency in the face of disaster.

HelpAge International [to 12 December 2015]

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

[We can't ignore the consequences of climate change and an ageing world, says HelpAge International](#)

Adapting to climate change today will protect older people from natural disasters, droughts and famine tomorrow, says HelpAge International.

Posted: 09 December 2015

[Paris climate conference: first week sees positive commitments but neglects older people, says HelpAge International](#)

The first week of the Paris climate change conference is a welcome step forward but the wellbeing of older people needs specific focus, says HelpAge International.

Posted: 07 December 2015

IRC International Rescue Committee [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Refugees in the U.S.: Latest IRC updates on Storify](#)

Posted by The IRC on December 8, 2015

The United States has a long tradition of offering refuge to those fleeing persecution and war. Get the latest updates on the IRC's refugee resettlement work in the U.S., including our response to Texas's efforts to ban the arrival of Syrian refugees.

ICRC [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Red Cross Red Crescent leaders and States take decisive steps to advance principled humanitarian action](#)

News release

11 December 2015

The 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent has closed with a call for greater collaboration between States, humanitarian organizations and other stakeholders to address escalating humanitarian needs.

[No agreement by States on mechanism to strengthen compliance with rules of war](#)

News release

10 December 2015

Geneva (ICRC) – After four years of extensive consultations, States have been unable to agree on a new mechanism proposed by the ICRC and the government of Switzerland to strengthen compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL). The decision was taken at the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which draws to a close today in Geneva.

Instead, States agreed to launch an inter-governmental process to find ways to enhance the implementation of IHL. This process should culminate in four years, when the outcome will be presented at the next International Conference.

"It is disappointing that States could not agree on the original proposal, which addressed all the concerns raised during the consultation process," said ICRC president Peter Maurer. "International humanitarian law is flouted almost every day, in every conflict around the world. By failing to support this initiative, States missed an opportunity to help to protect millions of people."

The new mechanism would have involved setting up an annual meeting of states party to the Geneva Conventions, a non-politicized forum for them to share best practices and technical expertise.

At the conference, many States reaffirmed their commitment to respecting IHL, including through bilateral dialogue with the ICRC. Mr Maurer welcomed this, and said that the ICRC will pursue a strengthened dialogue with States on their IHL obligations.

[More is needed to protect the dignity and safety of migrants, says Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement](#)

News release

09 December 2015

Governments as well as aid and humanitarian organizations need to do more to protect and promote the dignity and safety of all migrants, and to ensure their access to essential services. This was the message delivered today by leaders of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement during a high-level event on migration at the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

IRCT [to 12 December 2015]

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

News

[UN Committee against Torture issues recommendations on rehabilitation and documentation of torture to Denmark and Jordan](#)

11 December 2015

News

[Freedom from Torture: A pioneer in torture rehabilitation celebrates 30th anniversary](#)

09 December 2015

News

[IRCT to mark Human Rights Day with exhibition on torture at UN headquarters](#)

08 December 2015

News

[Latest issue of Torture Journal examines use of counseling by paraprofessionals and the effect immigration status has on rehabilitation processes](#)

07 December 2015

Islamic Relief [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Food, health, and water](#)

Plans are being made to help more people in Yemen access food, health and safe water.

[undated]

...Islamic Relief is currently working in 16 of the 22 governorates affected since March, and has distributed goods to 3,042,922 people.

In a new project that will be rolled out until April, food, health and hygiene goods will be distributed to nearly 7,000 families. This includes food baskets, medicines and medical supplies for six health facilities, bringing in safe water, and distributing hygiene kits containing items such as toothpaste and soap.

Islamic Relief has already provided food to more than 2.5 million people, and has equipped 21 hospitals and clinics across the country, even negotiating blockades, to support doctors and nurses working to treat the unwell and injured in difficult circumstances.

On Universal Children's Day, on November 20, experts in Yemen provided a free medical check up to more than 1,500 children who had been orphaned, giving medicines where required...

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières [to 12 December 2015]

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

Press release

[MSF Delivers Petition Calling For Investigation Into Kunduz Hospital Attack](#)

WASHINGTON, D.C., DECEMBER 9, 2015 — The international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) today delivered a petition signed by more than 547,000 people to the White House, calling for President Obama to consent to an independent investigation of the deadly U.S. airstrikes on MSF's trauma hospital in Kunduz, Afghanistan.

Press release

[Syria: Increased Fighting and Bombing Jeopardize Medical Care and Essential Aid](#)

December 07, 2015

BARCELONA, SPAIN/GAZIANTEP, TURKEY—An upsurge in fighting and bombing over the past week in northern Syria's Azaz District, near the Turkish border, is jeopardizing medical activities in the few hospitals and health posts that are still functioning, the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said today, warning that it may be forced to close its own hospital in Aleppo province.

Field News

[Chad: MSF Teams Provide Support after Deadly Attack in Koulfoua Island](#)

December 07, 2015

A triple suicide attack that took place on the island of Koulfoua in the Lake Chad area in [Chad](#) on Saturday morning has reportedly killed 30 people and wounded up to 200. Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) teams in the area immediately mobilized to provide support to the Chadian Ministry of Health.

Mercy Corps [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Mercy Corps Applauds UN Security Council Adoption of Youth, Peace and Security Resolution](#)

December 10, 2015

Historic move underscores the essential role youth play in promoting peace and countering violent extremism

Portland, Ore — The global organization [Mercy Corps](#) commends the United Nations Security Council for adopting a [new resolution](#) prioritizing youth and youth-led organizations in peacebuilding and violence prevention efforts, and thanks the government of Jordan and the 10,000 young peace builders who participated in this year's first-ever Global Forum on Youth, Peace, and Security for leading this landmark initiative.

"In places fraught by conflict, instability, violence and economic crisis, youth are critical partners to help move their communities toward stability, prosperity and resilience," says Andrea Koppel, vice president of Global Engagement and Policy at Mercy Corps. "Recognition by the United Nations of the urgent need to engage youth directly in decision making is essential to prevent violence and create lasting peace."

Mercy Corps has worked with the United Network of Young Peacebuilders since 2011 to advocate for the inclusion of youth and youth-led organizations in peace-building initiatives and lay the foundation for this resolution...

[Mercy Corps-Managed Microfinance Program Yields Unprecedented Return for Mongolia](#)

Mongolia, December 10, 2015

\$10 million return to be invested in Mongolia Resilient Communities Program

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia – A program that started with a small investment to support pastoral herders has grown into one of the country's major financial institutions in less than 15 years. As a result of this unprecedented financial success -- and in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) -- \$10 million will be redeployed for the benefit of Mongolians in a resilience program designed and administered by [Mercy Corps](#). The funds will come from shares sold this week to the [National Bank of Canada](#).

[TenGer Financial Group](#) evolved from an international development project implemented as the country transitioned from a centralized state to a free-market economy. Funded initially with

roughly \$1 million from USDA and USAID and managed by Mercy Corps, the program has helped tens of thousands of pastoralists and small businesses to access fundamental financial tools such as savings accounts, lines of credit and insurance policies...

[Airstrikes along Turkish Border Jeopardize Cross-Border Aid to Syria, Says Mercy Corps](#)

Syria, December 7, 2015

Mercy Corps continuing aid efforts amid increasing danger

Portland, Ore.— The ongoing violence in Syria, which has resulted in nearly five years of catastrophic conditions for the country's citizens, is now severely restricting the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Intensification in airstrikes against towns located between Aleppo City and the Syria-Turkey border threatens critical supply routes for humanitarian aid. Because of its large team working closely with local partners and the prepositioning of aid and supplies, Mercy Corps is able to continue providing assistance in the war-torn nation.

Operation Smile [to 12 December 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 12 December 2015]

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

[Yemen: Women are key to finding political solution at peace talks](#)

11 December 2015

Negotiations to end a bloody conflict in Yemen have a far better chance of long term success if women have a place at the table, says Oxfam. The current conflict has had a devastating impact on women and girls with millions hungry, out of school and lacking vital healthcare. Women are also facing a rise in sexual and domestic violence. Yet political discussions about peace and the country's future are still largely run by men and those who have taken up arms...

Norwegian Refugee Council [to 12 December 2015]

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

Climate Change - COP21

[NRC in Paris](#)

Ane Høyem (10.12.2015)

NRC will advocate towards negotiators at COP21 to ensure that displacement and human mobility is included in the agreement. NRC will also play a role by organizing or presenting at 11 different events in Paris over the next two weeks.

Kampala Convention

[Tool to protect](#)

Tuva Raanes Bogsnes (10.12.2015)

Internal displacement continues to impose hardship upon millions of people in Africa. The Kampala Convention continues to provide a solid hope and the collective resolve in alleviating continued suffering.

The African Union Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa – more commonly known as The Kampala Convention obliges African governments to protect the rights of people who are forced to flee their homes by armed conflict, violence, human rights violations and disasters...

Pact [to 12 December 2015]

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

Selected Press Releases, Blog Posts

December 10, 2015

[Helping vulnerable people exercise their voice, access their rights](#)

"Our Rights. Our Freedoms. Always." That's the theme for this year's Human Rights Day. At Pact, we believe all individuals are entitled to fair treatment under the law and protection from harm. That's why, across Africa, Asia and Latin America, we help people understand and seize their rights. In South Sudan, the world's newest country, more than...

Partners In Health [to 12 December 2015]

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

Dec 10, 2015

[House Calls Help Mother Continue Treatment in Russia](#)

PIH ensures women who are HIV-positive receive daily medication and food at home in Russia.

Dec 07, 2015

[Meet University Hospital's OB-GYN Residents](#)

Zanmi Lasante, as Partners In Health is known in Haiti, began training obstetrics and gynecology residents at University Hospital in 2014. Read about the first class here.

Dec 07, 2015

[Addressing the Root Cause of Illness](#)

PIH fights illness and the poverty that causes it.

PATH [to 12 December 2015]

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

Press release

[Leading global health innovator celebrates 35 years in Vietnam](#)

US Deputy Chief of Mission attends PATH anniversary event

Hanoi, December 8, 2015—A leading US-based global health organization, PATH, celebrated 35 years of partnership and innovation in Vietnam. US Deputy Chief of Mission Susan Sutton joined the anniversary event to celebrate the milestone and highlight achievements of PATH partnerships. The event follows the recent 20th anniversary of US-Vietnam health cooperation and normalized bilateral relations.

"PATH's work in Vietnam continues to represent the best in global health innovation. Our collaboration with the government and many development and private-sector partners has saved and protected many lives," said PATH president and CEO Steve Davis. "Moving into a new era of health and development goals, PATH is committed to continue working with current and new partners to accelerate health innovation in Vietnam."...

Plan International [to 12 December 2015]

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

Publications & Research

[Plan International Nepal Annual Highlights 2015](#)

11 December 2015

Plan International Nepal works in Health, Water, sanitation and hygiene, Basic Education, Household Economic Security, Child protection and Child Centred Disaster Risk Management and has been working in Nepal since 1978. This report is a summary of progress made between July 2014 and June 2015.

The report covers Plan International's response to the earthquake, and to-date we have reached 196,000 individuals including 82,000 children.

It also highlights the achievements made across all programmes, the Because I am a Girl campaign, sponsorship, partnerships and finances.

Save The Children [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Save the Children Condemns Fatal School Bombing in Northern Syria](#)

December 11, 2015

[The Noerr Programs Surpasses \\$1 Million in Donations for Save the Children's U.S. Programs](#)

December 11, 2015

[Ethiopia Drought: Save the Children Urges International Community to Heed Early Warnings of Looming Hunger Crisis](#)

December 7, 2015

SOS-Kinderdorf International [to 12 December 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Tostan [to 12 December 2015]

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

December 10, 2015

[On Human Rights Day: A Look Back at How the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Fundamentally Changed Tostan's Program](#)

Tostan describes its work as a "nonformal, human rights-based educational program." But what does that actually mean, and how important is the human rights aspect? As it ...

December 8, 2015

[Senegalese Youth Use Radio in Efforts To End FGC](#)

Emerging from the group is the voice of a woman. She tells her story—that of a girl who was married at the age of 15 and became the mother of a baby girl by the time she was ...

Women for Women International [to 12 December 2015]

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

[In Solidarity With Women, For Women](#)

December 10, 2015 | Huffington Post

Model and humanitarian Philomena Kwao marks Human Rights Day by sharing how women are often denied their rights during conflict, and how Women for Women International's model of investing in women leads to inspiring renewal and hope for survivors.

[The Side of War That We Can't Afford to Overlook Anymore](#)

December 10, 2015 | Huffington Post

During an interview with Oprah Winfrey, WfWI Founder Zainab Salbi shares how women are key to keeping life going during war. "Peace is not the ending of fighting only," Salbi says. "Peace is actually the building of life."

["I Thought Only Men Had Rights"](#)

December 9, 2015 | Huffington Post

Knowing their rights is the foundation of women's economic, political, and social empowerment, but too many women worldwide don't even know they have basic human rights. For Human Rights Day, WfWI CEO Jennifer L. Windsor shares the transformative stories of three women who learned their rights for the first time, and the changes they were able to bring to their lives.

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ChildFund Alliance [to 12 December 2015]

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

[ChildFund is providing food and support for families in Ethiopia](#)

Author Child Fund Alliance

[Undated]

Drought has struck East Africa and an estimated 8.2 million children and families in Ethiopia are suffering from a food shortage that is escalating by the day.

After two seasons of poor rains, crop growth has stalled, seeds are not germinating, vegetation is drying up and livestock are dying.

The drought has affected more than 211,421 people across ChildFund's program areas, including 73,997 children, and is expected to get worse and continue well into 2016.

Our Members are providing support including the provision of protein-rich supplementary food to children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers...

CONCORD [to 12 December 2015]

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

European NGO confederation for relief and development

No new digest content identified.

Disasters Emergency Committee [to 12 December 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

The Elders [to 12 December 2015]

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

9 December 2015

[Do you actually know your human rights?](#)

In 1950 the UN General Assembly proclaimed 10 December as Human Rights Day, to bring attention to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the common standard for all peoples and all nations. But do you know them? The Elders challenge you to find out.

[Take the quiz](#)

Press release 8 December 2015

[Venezuelans to be congratulated for their deep commitment to democratic practice](#)

The Elders congratulate the Venezuelan people on the recent election result and calls on all parties to address challenges that arise through appropriate legal channels.

Opinion Hina Jilani 8 December 2015

[A stronger UN means empowered human rights defenders](#)

To mark Human Rights Day on 10 December, Hina Jilani argues that a stronger UN would deliver more universally implemented human rights. And this year, both are needed more than ever.

END Fund [to 12 December 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Gavi [to 12 December 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Global Fund [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Global Fund Encourages People to Speak Out against Fraud and Corruption](#)

08 December 2015

GENEVA - On International Anti-Corruption day, 9 December, the Global Fund's Office of the Inspector General is launching a campaign to raise awareness about fraud and abuse. Called 'I

Speak Out Now!', the campaign is designed to encourage people to denounce any wrongdoing that prevents the medicines, health products and services from reaching those who need them.

By the end of 2015, the Office of the Inspector General, the Global Fund's independent assurance structure, estimates it will have received around 200 allegations of fraud and abuse. This represents an increase of 30 percent compared to last year, largely attributable to better visibility of its whistle-blowing channels. On average, over a third of allegations become investigations, which result in recommendations to recover misspent funds and actions to strengthen the Global Fund's impact in the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

The objective of the campaign is to improve the quality and timeliness of allegations that the Office of the Inspector General receives so that the Global Fund can intervene earlier to prevent small scale irregularities from becoming systemic cases of wrongdoing. Targeted audiences include Global Fund staff and grant implementers. Anti-fraud and corruption materials will also be piloted in three countries representative of the Global Fund portfolio: Ukraine, Côte d'Ivoire and Malawi. The Office of the Inspector General plans to extend the campaign to other countries in 2016...

Hilton Prize Coalition [to 12 December 2015]

<http://prizecoalition.charity.org/>

An Alliance of Hilton Prize Recipients

No new digest content identified.

InterAction [to 12 December 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Start Network [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies]

No new digest content identified.

Muslim Charities Forum [to 12 December 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

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Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) [to 12 December 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

CHS International Alliance [to 12 December 2015]

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

11/12/2015

[Core Humanitarian Standard Training Handbook now available in English and French](#)

The handbook used by trainers in our two-day Introduction to the CHS workshop is now available to download for those who want to design and/or deliver training on the CHS.

10/12/2015

[New resources: key tools for people management free to members](#)

Three key tools for people management have been revised in line with the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) to support human resources (HR) practitioners in development and humanitarian organisations.

08/12/2015

[New online resource centre launches](#)

Our new resource centre has launched with over 1000 quality, accountability, and people management resources to support humanitarian and development practitioners. The centre brings together the extensive HAP International and People In Aid online libraries following their merger, as well as new resources aligned to the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS).

EHLRA/R2HC [to 12 December 2015]

<http://www.elrha.org/resource-hub/news/>

[3D Printing Part of Sustainable Humanitarian Aid to Refugees](#)

07.12.2015

According to leading authority Kilian Kleinschmidt refugee camps need to be reconceptualised and new approaches for aid must be explored.

For Killian the fact that refugee camps are conceptualised as a temporary resettlements is problematic "The average stay today in a camp is 17 years. That's a generation". The ability to empower refugees and enable them to meet their needs.

3D printing is one key aspect due to the capacity it hold for low cost production. In recent years he has been working to set up the Fab Lab in a Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan in order to enable refugees to produce the items they need, generate their own energy and much more. But it's a slow process. [See the full article by Hannah Rose Mendoza on [3D Print](#)]

Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) [to 12 December 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

The Sphere Project [to 12 December 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP) [to 12 December 2015]

<https://phap.org/>

No new digest content identified.

.....

Center for Global Development [to 12 December 2015]

<http://www.cgdev.org/page/press-center>

Selected Press Releases, Blog Posts, Publications

[Focus on FY2016: Which Countries Will MCC Select This Year?](#)

12/8/15

Sarah Rose

The Millennium Challenge Corporation's (MCC's) board of directors is scheduled to meet on December 16. When it does, the members will vote on which countries will be eligible for MCC assistance for fiscal year (FY) 2016. As always, the board is faced with some hard decisions.

[Doing Business Differently with Subnationals: Recommendations for Global Health Donors in Highly Decentralized Countries](#)

12/8/15

Amanda Glassman and Anit Mukherjee

In the big decentralized countries where global disease burden is concentrated, such as India and Indonesia, most public money for health isn't spent by the national ministry of health, the traditional counterpart for global health funders and technical agencies. Instead, most money is programmed and spent subnationally.

Greater subnational public spending reflects growing democratization, power-sharing, and local self-determination. It also responds to the conviction that local decision-makers understand local realities better than a bureaucrat sitting in the capital city. Yet evidence on the effectiveness of subnational spending on health care and outcomes is mixed at best, and incentives for greater spending and better performance can be weak.

[MCC Testimony: Lessons Learned after a Decade and Outlook for the Future](#)

12/8/15

Nancy Birdsall

On December 8, 2015, CGD President Nancy Birdsall testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee at a hearing about the Millennium Challenge Corporation: Lessons Learned after a Decade and Outlook for the Future.

[Modernizing US Security and Development Assistance in the Middle East](#)

12/7/15

Nazanin Ash and Allison Grossman

US strategy in the Middle East and North Africa has not changed in the past 40 years, favoring security approaches over political and economic development, narrow partnerships with select regime elements over broader engagement with governments and people, and short-term responses and interventions over long-term vision. Symptomatic of this strategy is the fact that US security assistance vastly outstrips economic assistance.

[Power to the States: Making Fiscal Transfers Work for Better Health](#)

12/7/15

Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers for Health Working Group

Most money and responsibility for health in large federal countries like India rests with subnational governments — states, provinces, districts, and municipalities. The policies and spending at the subnational level affect the pace, scale, and equity of health improvements in countries that account for much of the world's disease burden: India, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

[Global Public Goods That Matter for Development: A Path for US Leadership](#)

12/6/15

Nancy Birdsall and Anna Diofasi

The United States has been at the forefront of providing several development-related global public goods, including peace and security via its contributions to international peacekeeping, the monitoring of international sea trade routes, its engagement in forums such as the Financial Action Task Force to stem flows of funding to terrorist organizations, and more. Yet it has not fully capitalized on its comparative advantage in research and development at home that matters especially for the world's poor, or on its opportunities for globally transformative investments abroad in such areas as clean power and disease surveillance. We propose two areas where the United States should lead on providing even more transformative global public goods.

ODI [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Carbon capture and storage provides no justification for new coal-fired electricity, says ODI](#)

News | 9 December 2015

Analysis published by the ODI warns the added cost of CCS will simply push up electricity prices at a time when new coal-fired power is already struggling to compete with cleaner technologies.

[Rebuilding adolescent girls' lives: mental health and psychosocial support in conflict-affected Gaza, Liberia and Sri Lanka, synthesis report research tools](#)

Research reports and studies | December 2015 | Fiona Samuels, Nicola Jones, Bassam Abu Hamad, Janice Cooper, Ananda Galappatti

This output details the data collection instruments relating to the ReBUILD synthesis report with the same title.

[Climate extremes and resilient poverty reduction](#)

Research reports and studies | December 2015 | Emily Wilkinson, Katie Peters, Thomas Tanner, Catherine Simonet, Florence Pichon, Roop Kamal Singh, Erin Coughlan de Perez, Janot Mendler de Suarez, Blane Harvey, Amy Kirbyshire, Robert Muir-Wood

This report explores the relationship between climate change and poverty, focusing on climate extreme disasters.

[Imagining a new negotiation strategy for LDCs at the WTO](#)

Briefing papers | December 2015 | Maximiliano Mendez-Parra, Neil Balchin and Linda Calabrese

This brief provides insight into how changes in the world economy and in global trade have affected the negotiation positions of least developed countries (LDCs).

World Economic Forum [to 12 December 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

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

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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 12 December 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Annie E. Casey Foundation [to 12 December 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Clinton Foundation [to 12 December 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Ford Foundation [to 12 December 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

GHIT Fund [to 12 December 2015]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation [to 12 December 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation [to 12 December 2015]

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

[The Power of Effective Messaging](#)

By Tenille Metti, December 9, 2015

On November 10 and 11, we hosted our third annual Substance Use Prevention grantee and stakeholder convening in Washington, D.C. Grantees and partners came together to learn about progress in advancing screening and early intervention approaches for youth, as well as to discuss emerging issues, and network with practitioners and experts in the field...

IKEA Foundation [to 12 December 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

HHMI - Howard Hughes Medical Institute [to 12 December 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Kellogg Foundation [to 12 December 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

MacArthur Foundation [to 12 December 2015]

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

Publication

[Tracking Cyber Attacks on Journalists, Civil Society](#)

Published December 10, 2015

A number of journalists, activists, politicians, and public figures in Latin America have been targeted by a large-scale hacking campaign since 2008, according to a [report](#) from the [Citizen Lab](#), recipient of the MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions. The report highlights the threats that journalists and civil society face from determined adversaries. According to the report, the nature and geographic spread of the targets indicates that the responsible party has regional political interests and is focused on political opposition and independent press in these regions.

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Open science finds new home south of Market](#)

By Peter Sand and Ken McGary Manylabs

December 11, 2015

“The Bay Area is overflowing with money and incubators for startups. We want to provide something different — a home for ideas, projects, and people that don't fit into other places,” says Manylabs founder Peter Sand. The educational non-profit opened their new open science workspace...

[Tacana Indigenous People of Bolivia Win Prestigious Equator Prize](#)

Wildlife Conservation Society

December 10, 2015

Bolivia's Tacana indigenous council has been awarded the Equator Prize for its efforts to reduce deforestation. For 14 years, the group has worked in the Madidi landscape to implement a community-based land-use vision for their ancestral territory.

[How do agricultural and food production, distribution and consumption offer solutions to some of the world's most pressing environmental concerns?](#)

By David Diaz Martin UNEP TEEB]

December 6, 2015

The UN Environment Programme's initiative 'The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity' (TEEB) has initiated a project aiming to show how different food systems and practices can impact the environment, health outcomes and culture.

Open Society Foundation [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Engaging the Arab League in Promoting Human Rights](#)

December 8, 2015News

AMMAN—Following the Arab uprisings, the League of Arab States seemed poised to play a much-needed role on many regional issues, including promoting human rights and increasing member states' compliance with international conventions. However, the League's approach in this regard has been far from consistent. This, coupled with waning revolutionary euphoria, has dampened civil society's aspirations that the League could assume such a role. But a closer look at the organization reveals a slow shift in its positioning. Only through deeper understanding of the League can civil society engage with it to advance human rights in the region.

Today, the Open Society Foundations and the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) jointly launched The League of Arab States: A Manual for Practitioners. This essential guide provides civil society organizations with a solid understanding of the League's structures, standards, and mechanisms relating to human rights to allow them to engage better with this important organization for a stronger impact on its decision-making mechanisms...

David and Lucile Packard Foundation [to 12 December 2015]

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

No new digest content identified.

Pew Charitable Trusts [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Pew: States Should Be Clear on Purpose of Rainy Day Savings](#)

Press Release

December 08, 2015 *States' Fiscal Health*

Many states struggle with how much to save because their purpose for doing so is unclear, according to a new report from The Pew Charitable Trusts. *Why States Save: Using Evidence to Inform How Large Rainy Day Funds Should Grow* examines budget stabilization funds—often called rainy day funds—and offers recommendations to determine optimal savings goals and create enhanced budgetary flexibility over the course of the ups and downs of economic activity.

Rockefeller Foundation [to 12 December 2015]

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

[700+ Organizations in 116 Countries Say Universal Health Coverage is Right, Smart, and Overdue](#)

December 11, 2015

Global leaders urged to ensure all people can access essential health services without facing financial hardship

[Harvard University, Wildlife Conservation Society launch new 'Planetary Health Alliance' with support from The Rockefeller Foundation](#)

December 11, 2015

Unprecedented effort to address major public health threats caused by human impacts on the natural world

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Joint Statement on the Institute of Medicine's Progress Report on the Future of Nursing](#)

Fri Dec 04 10:49:00 EST 2015

RWJF has supported nursing initiatives for more than four decades. Now, more than ever, the role that nurses play in improving individual health—and the health care system we all rely upon—is clear.

Wellcome Trust [to 12 December 2015]

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

[Scientists genetically engineer patients' own cells to attack cancer](#)

In a pioneering trial taking place in London, doctors are harnessing patients' own immune systems in an effort to find a new effective treatment for resistant head and neck cancer.

10 December 2015

[Progressing clinical academic careers in the UK](#)

A review exploring the experiences of early-career clinical academics across the UK has highlighted that while many successfully advance to research leadership positions, widespread barriers to both clinical and academic progression are faced by many of those aspiring to pursue a clinical academic career.

9 December 2015

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

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:: Journal Watch

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

American Journal of Disaster Medicine

Spring 2015, Volume 10, Number 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Infection Control

December 2015 Volume 43, Issue 12, p1269-1382, e83-e106

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Preventive Medicine

December 2015 Volume 49, Issue 6, p811-988, e89-e134

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Public Health

Volume 105, Issue 12 (December 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

December 2015; 93 (6)

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

[Incidence of Pneumococcal Pneumonia Among Adults in Rural Thailand, 2006–2011: Implications for Pneumococcal Vaccine Considerations](#)

Barameht Piralam, Sara M. Tomczyk, Julia C. Rhodes, Somsak Thamthitawat, Christopher J. Gregory, Sonja J. Olsen, Prabda Praphasiri, Pongpun Sawatwong, Sathapana Naorat, Somrak Chantra, Peera Areerat, Cameron P. Hurst, Matthew R. Moore, Charung Muangchana, and Henry C. Baggett

Am J Trop Med Hyg 2015 93:1140-1147; Published online October 26, 2015,
doi:10.4269/ajtmh.15-0429

Abstract

The incidence of pneumococcal pneumonia among adults is a key driver for the cost-effectiveness of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine used among children. We sought to obtain more accurate incidence estimates among adults by including results of pneumococcal urine antigen testing (UAT) from population-based pneumonia surveillance in two Thai provinces. Active surveillance from 2006 to 2011 identified acute lower respiratory infection (ALRI)-related hospital admissions. Adult cases of pneumococcal pneumonia were defined as hospitalized ALRI patients aged ≥ 18 years with isolation of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* from blood or with positive UAT. Among 39,525 adult ALRI patients, we identified 481 pneumococcal pneumonia cases (105 by blood culture, 376 by UAT only). Estimated incidence of pneumococcal pneumonia hospitalizations was 30.5 cases per 100,000 persons per year (2.2 and 28.3 cases per 100,000 persons per year by blood culture and UAT, respectively). Incidence varied between 22.7 in 2007 and 43.5 in 2010, and increased with age to over 150 per 100,000 persons per year among persons aged ≥ 70 years. Viral coinfections including influenza A/B, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and adenovirus occurred in 11% (44/409) of pneumococcal pneumonia cases tested. Use of UAT to identify cases of pneumococcal pneumonia among adults in rural Thailand substantially increases estimates of pneumococcal pneumonia burden, thereby informing cost-effectiveness analyses and vaccine policy decisions.

BMC Health Services Research

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

(Accessed 12 December 2015)

Research article

[A systematic review of factors that affect uptake of community-based health insurance in low-income and middle-income countries](#)

Esther Adebayo, Olalekan Uthman, Charles Wiysonge, Erin Stern, Kim Lamont, John Ataguba
BMC Health Services Research 2015, 15:543 (8 December 2015)

BMC Infectious Diseases

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

(Accessed 12 December 2015)

Research article

[Cost-effectiveness analysis of human papillomavirus vaccination in South Africa accounting for human immunodeficiency virus prevalence](#)

Xiao Li, Martinus Stander, Georges Van Kriekinge, Nadia Demarteau
BMC Infectious Diseases 2015, 15:566 (11 December 2015)

Abstract

Background

This study aims at evaluating the cost-effectiveness of a 2-dose schedule human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme of HPV and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) naïve 12-year-old girls, in addition to cervical cancer (CC) screening alone, in South Africa. The study aims to account for both the impact of the vaccine among girls who are HIV-positive (HIV+) as well as HIV-negative (HIV-) population.

Methods

A previously published Markov cohort model was adapted to assess the impact and cost-effectiveness of a HPV vaccination programme in girls aged 12 years (N = 527 900) using the AS04-adjuvanted HPV-16/18 vaccine from a public payer perspective. Two subpopulations were considered: HIV- and HIV+ women. Each population followed the HPV natural history with different transition probabilities. Model input data were obtained from the literature, local databases and Delphi panel. Costs and outcomes were discounted at 5 %. Extensive sensitivity analyses were conducted to assess the robustness of the evaluation.

Results

Implementation of the AS04-adjuvanted HPV-16/18 vaccine in combination with current cytological screening in South African girls could prevent up to 8 869 CC cases and 5 436 CC deaths over the lifetime of a single cohort. Without discounting, this HPV vaccine is dominant over screening alone; with discounting, the incremental cost-effectiveness ratio is ZAR 81 978 (South African Rand) per quality-adjusted life years (QALY) gained. HPV vaccination can be considered cost-effective based on World Health Organization (WHO) recommended threshold (3 x gross domestic product/capita = ZAR 200 293). In a scenario with a hypothetical targeted vaccination in a HIV+ subpopulation alone, the modelled outcomes suggest that HPV vaccination is still cost-effective, although the incremental cost-effectiveness ratio increases to ZAR 102 479. Results were sensitive to discount rate, vaccine efficacy, HIV incidence and mortality rates, and HPV-related disease transition probabilities.

Conclusions

The AS04-adjuvanted HPV-16/18 vaccine can be considered cost-effective in a South African context although the cost-effectiveness is expected to be lower in the HIV+ subpopulation than in the overall female population. With improved access to HIV treatment, the HIV mortality and incidence rates are likely to be reduced, which could improve cost-effectiveness of the vaccination programme in South Africa.

BMC Medical Ethics

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

(Accessed 12 December 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Medicine

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

(Accessed 12 December 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

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

(Accessed 12 December 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Public Health

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

(Accessed 12 December 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Research Notes

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

(Accessed 12 December 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMJ Open

2015, Volume 5, Issue 12

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

[Reviewed earlier]

British Medical Journal

12 December 2015 (vol 351, issue 8035)

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Brown Journal of World Affairs

Volume XXI Issue 1 Fall–Winter 2014

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Bulletin of the World Health Organization

Volume 93, Number 12, December 2015, 817-892

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/93/12/en/>

[Reviewed earlier]

Complexity

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Conflict and Health

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

[Accessed 12 December 2015]

Research

[Psychological distress and its associations with past events in pregnant women affected by armed conflict in Swat, Pakistan: a cross sectional study](#)

Khan MN, Chiumento A, Dherani M, Bristow K, Sikander S and Rahman A Conflict and Health 2015, 9:37 (10 December 2015)

Abstract

Background

The public health significance of maternal mental health is well established. Armed conflicts expose populations to events that could have long-term negative consequences for mental health of pregnant women and their children. This study explores the prevalence and associated risk factors for psychological distress of women during pregnancy, including exposure to past conflict-related potentially traumatic events, in a population exposed to armed conflict in the Swat region of Pakistan.

Methods

A community-based cross-sectional survey of 349 pregnant women in two union councils in Swat was conducted. Psychological distress was measured using the Self-Reporting Questionnaire (SRQ). Conflict-related potentially traumatic events (PTEs) were measured through an adapted version of the Harvard Trauma Questionnaire. Information was also collected on major life events (Life Events Checklist), social support (Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support), and demographic and socio-economic variables.

Results

Prevalence of current psychological distress was 38.1 % (95 % CI: 33.1, 43.3). Psychological distress was significantly associated with three or more potentially traumatic events (PTEs) experienced during the conflict (OR = 2.62, 95 % CI: 1.22, 5.61); three or more major life events in the year following the conflict (OR = 3.25, 95 % CI: 1.82, 5.82) and inversely associated with family support (OR = 0.91, 95 % CI: 0.88, 0.95).

Conclusion

This is one of the first community based cross sectional surveys in Swat valley, Pakistan to assess the prevalence of psychological distress during pregnancy in an area affected by conflict. Over a third of women show evidence of significant psychological distress. Exposure to potentially traumatic events remained independently associated with psychological distress 1 year after conflict ended, suggesting that conflict exposure may have long-term impacts upon maternal mental health. Combining this with findings relating to the cumulative impact of major life-events, and the protective factor of family support highlights the importance of developing culturally appropriate psychological interventions accessible to pregnant women rebuilding their lives following conflict.

Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation

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

(Accessed 12 December 2015)

[No new relevant content]

Developing World Bioethics

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Development in Practice

Volume 25, Issue 8, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology

Volume 10, Issue 6, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness

Volume 9 - Issue 06 - December 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Disasters

January 2016 Volume 40, Issue 1 Pages 1–182

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/disa.2016.40.issue-1/issuetoc>

[Integrated disaster relief logistics: a stepping stone towards viable civil–military networks? \(pages 7–25\)](#)

Peter Tatham and Sebastiaan (Bas) Rietjens

Article first published online: 13 AUG 2015 | DOI: 10.1111/disa.12131

Abstract

The twenty-first century has seen a significant rise in all forms of disasters and this has resulted in military and humanitarian organisations becoming more frequently engaged in the provision of support to those affected. Achieving an efficient and effective logistic preparation and response is one of the key elements in mitigating the impact of such events, but the establishment of mechanisms to deliver an appropriately integrated civil–military approach remains elusive. Not least because of the high percentage of assistance budgets spent on logistics, this area is considered to represent fertile ground for developing improved processes and understanding. In practice, the demands placed on civilian and military logisticians are broadly similar, as is the solution space. Speaking a common language and using common concepts, it is argued, therefore, that the logistic profession should be in the vanguard of the development of an improved civil–military interface.

Emergency Medicine Journal

December 2015, Volume 32, Issue 12

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Epidemics

Volume 13, [In Progress](#) (December 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

End of Life Journal

2015, Volume 5, Issue 1
<http://eolj.bmj.com/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Epidemiology and Infection

Volume 143 - Issue 16 - December 2015
<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayIssue?jid=HYG&tab=currentissue>
[Reviewed earlier]

The European Journal of Public Health

Volume 25, Issue 5, 1 October 2015
<http://eurpub.oxfordjournals.org/content/25/5>
[Reviewed earlier]

Eurosurveillance

Volume 20, Issue 49, 10 December 2015
<http://www.eurosurveillance.org/Public/Articles/Archives.aspx?PublicationId=11678>
[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Food Policy

Volume 58, *In Progress* (January 2016)
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/03069192>
[No new relevant content identified]

Food Security

Volume 7, Issue 5, October 2015
<http://link.springer.com/journal/12571/7/5/page/1>
[Reviewed earlier]

Forum for Development Studies

Volume 42, Issue 3, 2015
<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/sfds20/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Genocide Studies International

Volume 9 No. 1, Spring 2015
<http://www.utpjournals.press/toc/gsi/current>
Issue Focus: The Ottoman Genocides of Armenians, Assyrians, and Greeks
[Reviewed earlier]

Global Health: Science and Practice (GHSP)

September 2015 | Volume 3 | Issue 3

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Global Health Governance

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

[Accessed 12 December 2015]

[No new content]

Global Public Health

Volume 10, Issue 10, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Globalization and Health

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

[Accessed 12 December 2015]

[No new content]

Health Affairs

December 2015; Volume 34, Issue 12

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

Affordability, Access, Models Of Care & More

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Health and Human Rights

Volume 17, Issue 2 December 2015

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

Special Issue: Evidence of the Impact of Human Rights-Based Approaches to Health Editorial

[Making the Case: What Is the Evidence of Impact of Applying Human Rights-Based Approaches to Health?](#)

Paul Hunt, Alicia Ely Yamin, and Flavia Bustreo, Guest Editors

Framing the Issues

[Assessing the Impact of a Human Rights-Based Approach Across a Spectrum of Change for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health](#)

Rebekah Thomas, Shyama Kuruvilla, Rachael Hinton, Steven L. B. Jensen, Veronica Magar, and Flavia Bustreo

[Ethical and Human Rights Foundations of Health Policy: Lessons from Comprehensive Reform in Mexico](#)

Julio Frenk and Octavio Gómez-Dantés

[What Constitutes Evidence in Human Rights-Based Approaches to Health? Learning from Lived Experiences of Maternal and Sexual Reproductive Health](#)

Maya Unnithan

[Measuring the Impact of the Human Rights on Health in Global Health Financing](#)

Sara L.M. Davis

[The Universal Periodic Review: A Platform for Dialogue, Accountability, and Change on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights](#)

Kate Gilmore, Luis Mora, Alfonso Barragues, Ida Krogh Mikkelsen

Health Economics, Policy and Law

Volume 11 - Issue 01 - January 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Policy and Planning

Volume 30 Issue 10 December 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Research Policy and Systems

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

[Accessed 12 December 2015]

[No new relevant content identified]

Human Rights Quarterly

Volume 37, Number 4, November 2015

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/human_rights_quarterly/toc/hrq.37.4.html

[The Diffusion of Disability Rights in Europe](#)

pp. 831-853

[Lisa Vanhala](#)

Abstract

This article examines the spread of disability rights across European countries. Existing theoretical explanations of rights diffusion are unable to account for the pattern of adoption of disability equality norms across Europe over the last twenty years. The article argues top-down explanations need to be complemented by agent-centered approaches to convincingly account for the case of disability rights in Europe. Engagement with social movement theory that takes domestic activists and the meanings they attribute to rights seriously offers a better understanding of how and why we might see the rise of rights in one case and their rejection in another.

The UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking: A Turbulent Decade in Review

pp. 913-940

Anne T. Gallagher, Joy Ngozi Ezeilo

Abstract

In 2004, largely in response to external developments, the predecessor to the United Nations Human Rights Council appointed a Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons with an explicit mandate to address the human rights aspects of trafficking. This article critically assesses the first decade of that mandate—identifying important achievements but also acknowledging substantial challenges in securing effective responses to trafficking that both protect and advance human rights. In looking ahead it considers the broader lessons that this experience may hold for the emergent global movement against human exploitation—and the place of human rights in the dynamic but often chaotic and schismatic environment that has emerged around trafficking over the past decade.

Rights Monitoring and Assessment using Quantitative Indicators of Law and Policy: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

pp. 1071-1100

Jody Heymann, Kristen McNeill, Amy Raub

Abstract

This article proposes an approach to assessing country action on economic and social rights based on transparent, comparable measures of law and policy. Using a new data set on rights, laws, and policies in 193 UN member states, this article applies a sample set of indicators to ICESCR rights to demonstrate the utility of this approach. For each indicator, we examine whether the 163 UN member states that are states parties to the ICESCR have enacted relevant laws and policies; we then compare their performance with that of countries that have not ratified the ICESCR and examine differences before and after ICESCR ratification within countries.

Human Service Organizations Management, Leadership & Governance

Volume 39, Issue 5, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Humanitarian Exchange Magazine

Number 65 November 2015

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

Special Feature: The Crisis in Iraq

[Reviewed earlier]

Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics (formerly Human Vaccines)

Volume 11, Issue 11, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

IDRiM Journal

Vol 5, No 1 (2015) June 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Infectious Diseases of Poverty

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

[Accessed 12 December 2015]

Research Article

[Assessing Ebola-related web search behaviour: insights and implications from an analytical study of Google Trends-based query volumes](#)

Cristiano Alicino, Nicola Bragazzi, Valeria Faccio, Daniela Amicizia, Donatella Panatto, Roberto Gasparini, Giancarlo Icardi, Andrea Orsi *Infectious Diseases of Poverty* 2015, 4:54 (10 December 2015)

Abstract

Background

The 2014 Ebola epidemic in West Africa has attracted public interest worldwide, leading to millions of Ebola-related Internet searches being performed during the period of the epidemic. This study aimed to evaluate and interpret Google search queries for terms related to the Ebola outbreak both at the global level and in all countries where primary cases of Ebola occurred. The study also endeavoured to look at the correlation between the number of overall and weekly web searches and the number of overall and weekly new cases of Ebola.

Methods

Google Trends (GT) was used to explore Internet activity related to Ebola. The study period was from 29 December 2013 to 14 June 2015. Pearson's correlation was performed to correlate Ebola-related relative search volumes (RSVs) with the number of weekly and overall Ebola cases. Multivariate regression was performed using Ebola-related RSV as a dependent variable, and the overall number of Ebola cases and the Human Development Index were used as predictor variables.

Results

The greatest RSV was registered in the three West African countries mainly affected by the Ebola epidemic. The queries varied in the different countries. Both quantitative and qualitative differences between the affected African countries and other Western countries with primary cases were noted, in relation to the different flux volumes and different time courses. In the affected African countries, web query search volumes were mostly concentrated in the capital areas. However, in Western countries, web queries were uniformly distributed over the national territory. In terms of the three countries mainly affected by the Ebola epidemic, the correlation between the number of new weekly cases of Ebola and the weekly GT index varied from weak to moderate. The correlation between the number of Ebola cases registered in all countries during the study period and the GT index was very high.

Conclusion

Google Trends showed a coarse-grained nature, strongly correlating with global epidemiological data, but was weaker at country level, as it was prone to distortions induced by unbalanced media coverage and the digital divide. Global and local health agencies could usefully exploit GT data to identify disease-related information needs and plan proper communication strategies, particularly in the case of health-threatening events.

International Health

Volume 7 Issue 6 November 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Human Rights Law Review

Volume 4, Issue 2, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction

Volume 14, Part 4, Pages 323-564 (December 2015)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/22124209/14/part/P4>

[Fragmentation in disaster risk management systems: A barrier for integrated planning](#)

Original Research Article

Pages 445-456

[Claudia Rivera, Henrik Tehler, Christine Wamsler]

Abstract

The need to integrate climate change adaptation (CCA) considerations into disaster risk management (DRM) systems is widely recognised. However, successful integration, and thus the implementation of integrated planning measures, is difficult in practice. To understand and reduce the problems encountered, it is important to investigate systemic challenges. These challenges are rooted in the interaction between various stakeholders that affect DRM and the integration of CCA, directly or indirectly. This study explores the degree of integration in on-the-ground measures by studying systemic challenges, using the Nicaraguan DRM system as a case study. A theoretical framework for investigating systemic challenges in DRM systems was developed. It was then used in a retrospective analysis of the different functions of the systems in order to identify fragmentation in knowledge, information and coordination flows at local and national levels of governance. The results revealed several fragmented processes and functions in the Nicaraguan DRM system. These lead to difficulties in consolidating relevant information produced by multiple governmental authorities at different levels, and transferring this information to the local level. Fragmentation also leads, in turn, to little integration of CCA aspects into DRM in both local planning and practice.

[Analysis of key factors for waste management in humanitarian response: An interpretive structural modelling approach](#)

Original Research Article

Pages 527-535

[Ashish Trivedi, Amol Singh, Ankur Chauhan]

Abstract

Recent few years have witnessed a substantial growth in the frequency and magnitude of disasters. Natural disasters such as hurricanes and earthquakes hit a community without any prior signals or warning, resulting in high levels of devastation. This further leads to generation of waste and debris that pose threats to health and safety of associated population as well as

hinder the recovery process. Hence, there is a necessity of an effective and efficient management of disaster waste. The present research analyses the factors that affect the successful implementation of disaster waste management. Initially the study aims to identify certain key factors from the literature as well as through consultation from domain experts. Next, the contextual relationship between the factors is studied by using Interpretive Structural Modelling approach. The analysis helps in determining factors that play influential role in disaster waste management. It is revealed that geography & terrain and type of disaster have a direct impact on speed of debris management. Although these factors cannot be controlled, but they must be kept in mind while devising waste management plans in vulnerable areas. The analysis further reveals that donors, disaster affected population and local & regional administration can contribute significantly in successful implementation of a disaster waste management plan. The study highlights how these factors influence other elements in waste management process during humanitarian response. Understanding the significance of these factors and giving them priority while planning and implementing disaster waste management can lead to an efficient relief delivery.

International Journal of Infectious Diseases

December 2015 Volume 41, In Progress

<http://www.ijidonline.com/issue/S1201-9712%2815%29X0012-9>

[Addressing contact tracing challenges—critical to halting Ebola virus disease transmission](#)

Ashley L. Greiner, Kristina M. Angelo, Andrea M. McCollum, Kelsey Mirkovic, Ray Arthur, Frederick J. Angulo

p53–55

Published online: November 4 2015

Open Access

Abstract

The 2014–2015 Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak is the largest in history and the first in West Africa. Many factors underlie the extensive transmission of EVD, particularly delayed and ineffective contact tracing. Contact tracing is a key component to halting the epidemic and getting to zero cases; it includes identifying, locating, and assessing people (known as contact-persons) who have been exposed to a symptomatic EVD case patient.¹ Contact-persons are then systematically followed during the maximum Ebola virus incubation period of 21 days, to allow for immediate identification and prompt isolation if they become symptomatic, preventing onward transmission.

International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology

Volume 22, Issue 6, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Migration Review

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

JAMA

December 8, 2015, Vol 314, No. 22

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

JAMA Pediatrics

December 2015, Vol 169, No. 12

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Journal of Asian Development

Vol 1, No 1 (2015)

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Community Health

Volume 40, Issue 6, December 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Development Economics

Volume 118, Pages 1-298 (January 2016)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/03043878/118>

Conditional cash transfers, civil conflict and insurgent influence: Experimental evidence from the Philippines

Original Research Article

Pages 171-182

Benjamin Crost, Joseph H. Felter, Patrick B. Johnston

Abstract

Conditional cash transfer (CCT) programs are an increasingly popular tool for reducing poverty in conflict-affected areas. Despite their growing popularity, there is limited evidence on how CCT programs affect conflict and theoretical predictions are ambiguous. We estimate the effect of conditional cash transfers on civil conflict in the Philippines by exploiting an experiment that randomly assigned eligibility for a CCT program at the village level. We find that cash transfers caused a substantial decrease in conflict-related incidents in treatment villages relative to control villages in the first 9 months of the program. Using unique data on local insurgent influence, we also find that the program reduced insurgent influence in treated villages. An

analysis of possible spillovers yields inconclusive results. While we find no statistical evidence of spillovers, we also cannot rule out that the village-level effect was due to displacement of insurgent activity from treatment to control villages.

Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health

January 2016, Volume 70, Issue 1

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

Editorial

The 2014–2015 Ebola saga: lessons for the future

James A Ayukekbong

Author Affiliations

Section of Clinical Virology, Redeem Biomedical System, Buea, Cameroon

Extract

The duration and characteristics of the current devastating and unprecedented Ebola epidemic highlight the need for global public health surveillance to establish preparedness mechanisms for future outbreaks. Since the discovery of the virus in 1976, at least 25 Ebola outbreaks have been recorded, on average occurring every 1.5 years with case fatality rate (CFR) between 30% and 90%.^{1, 2} The largest interval between two outbreaks is 15 years, that is, from the 1979 outbreak in Sudan due to the Sudan Ebola virus and the subsequent 1994 outbreak in Gabon caused by the Zaire Ebola virus.

Remarkably, only six previous outbreaks generated >100 deaths but the approximately 11 222 deaths (as of 30 June 2015) in the ongoing epidemic is already more than seven times the number of deaths reported for all previous outbreaks combined, which is estimated to be about 1580 deaths.^{3, 4} Obviously, the present epidemic is the longest, largest and most complex Ebola outbreak since the virus was first discovered about 40 years ago. The outbreak started in December 2013 in Guinea,² spread across land borders to Sierra Leone and Liberia, and then subsequently, by some infected persons, to seven other countries (Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Spain, the UK, Germany and the USA). In some of these countries, individuals were only diagnosed as Ebola virus disease (EVD) cases after their arrival (eg, the USA), while other countries received known patients for treatment (eg, Spain). However, in these countries, the disease was rapidly contained, thanks to improved healthcare facilities, timely patient isolation and treatment. Meanwhile, the outbreak in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone continued on ...

Commentary

The impact of pornography on gender-based violence, sexual health and well-being: what do we know?

Megan S C Lim^{1,2}, Elise R Carrotte¹, Margaret E Hellard^{1,2}

Author Affiliations

¹Centre for Population Health, Burnet Institute, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

²School of Population Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Introduction

As Internet access and literacy increases, pornography has become highly accessible, cheap and diverse. Online pornography use is common in the USA, with nearly 9 out of 10 men and 1 out of 3 women aged 18–26 reporting accessing pornography online.¹ In June 2013, legal pornographic websites received more UK-based traffic than social networks, shopping, news

and media, email, finance, gaming and travel websites.² For example, popular pornography website 'pornhub' received 79 billion video views in 2014.³

Increased access to pornography online has been accompanied by rising concerns that it negatively impacts health and well-being, particularly with regard to young people. These concerns include that viewing any sexually explicit material erodes morals and that specific types of pornography, such as that depicting violence against women, leads to increased violence against women in real life. Even in the case of non-violent pornography, there is anxiety that people view pornography as 'real' rather than fantasy and that this negatively influences attitudes and real-life sexual behaviour, particularly when people's sexual experience is limited such as in adolescence.⁴ Other concerns include the scarcity of condom use in pornography (both for diminishing condom use as a social norm and for the risks to the health of performers), impacts on body image (including trends in pubic hair removal and labiaplasty), and the harms of pornography addiction.

Despite the myriad of fears about online pornography, questions remain over its actual harm. Do viewers really imitate pornography in their own lives and does this negatively influence their health and well-being? Does watching violence in pornography lead to misogyny and gender-based violence? Are young people at greater risk of the negative effects of viewing pornography (if they exist) than older adults? In this paper, we explore the most commonly cited concerns over online pornography by ...

[Ebola, viewed through a lens of African epidemiology](#)

Musa Abubakar Kana, Olufunmilayo Y Elegba, Jackie Obey, Faina Linkov, Eugene Shubnikov
J Epidemiol Community Health 2016;70:6-8 Published Online First: 5 August 2015
doi:10.1136/jech-2015-205874

[Reaching the poor with health interventions: programme-incidence analysis of seven randomised trials of women's groups to reduce newborn mortality in Asia and Africa](#)

Tanja A J Houweling, Joanna Morrison, Glyn Alcock, Kishwar Azad, Sushmita Das, Munir Hossen, Abdul Kuddus, Sonia Lewycka, Caspar W Looman, Bharat Budhathoki Magar, Dharma S Manandhar, Mahfuza Akter, Albert Lazarous Nkhata Dube, Shibanand Rath, Naomi Saville, Aman Sen, Prasanta Tripathy, Anthony Costello, for the EquiNaM group
J Epidemiol Community Health 2016;70:31-41 Published Online First: 5 August 2015
doi:10.1136/jech-2014-204685

Abstract

Background

Efforts to end preventable newborn deaths will fail if the poor are not reached with effective interventions. To understand what works to reach vulnerable groups, we describe and explain the uptake of a highly effective community-based newborn health intervention across social strata in Asia and Africa.

Methods

We conducted a secondary analysis of seven randomised trials of participatory women's groups to reduce newborn mortality in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Malawi. We analysed data on 70 574 pregnancies. Socioeconomic and sociodemographic differences in group attendance were tested using logistic regression. Qualitative data were collected at each trial site (225 focus groups, 20 interviews) to understand our results.

Results

Socioeconomic differences in women's group attendance were small, except for occasional lower attendance by elites. Sociodemographic differences were large, with lower attendance by young primigravid women in African as well as in South Asian sites. The intervention was considered relevant and interesting to all socioeconomic groups. Local facilitators ensured inclusion of poorer women. Embarrassment and family constraints on movement outside the home restricted attendance among primigravid women. Reproductive health discussions were perceived as inappropriate for them.

Conclusions

Community-based women's groups can help to reach every newborn with effective interventions. Equitable intervention uptake is enhanced when facilitators actively encourage all women to attend, organise meetings at the participants' convenience and use approaches that are easily understandable for the less educated. Focused efforts to include primigravid women are necessary, working with families and communities to decrease social taboos.

Journal of Global Ethics

Volume 11, Issue 3, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjge20/.U2V-Elf4L0I#.VAJEj2N4WF8>

Forum: The Sustainable Development Goals

Introduction: The 2030 Agenda

Eric Palmer*

DOI: 10.1080/17449626.2015.1119928

pages 262-269

Abstract

This introduction notes the contributions of authors to the second (final) issue of the Journal of Global Ethics 2015 Sustainable Development Goals Forum. It briefly explains the process through which the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have developed from their receipt in 2014 to their passage in September 2015 by the UN General Assembly, and it considers their development in prospect. The Millennium Development Goals, which spanned 1990–2015, present a case study that reveals the changeability of such long-term multilateral commitments. They were enmeshed in overlapping and inconsistent national and intergovernmental commitments reaching from 1995 to 2005, and the text of those goals also evolved, stabilizing for the last time in 2007. The SDGs and attendant commitments should be expected to evolve similarly over their 15-year run. This presents a concern, for among the three committees established by the UN to create the goals, the two committees charged with public consultation were retired as planned in 2014. The process evident thereafter has displayed a shift towards a strategy of enrolling broad public endorsement that leaves such consultation and specific responsibility to those consulted in doubt. This bodes ill for public deliberation on the goals and for public accountability as the agenda proceeds towards 2030.

Journal of Global Infectious Diseases (JGID)

October-December 2015 Volume 7 | Issue 4 Page Nos. 125-174

<http://www.jgid.org/currentissue.asp?sabs=n>

[Reviewed earlier]

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

Volume 26, Number 4, November 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Management

Volume 5 Issue 2 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health

Volume 17, Issue 6, December 2015

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

Special issue : Mental Health and Substance Use

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies

Volume 13, Issue 4, 2015

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

[The Refugee Experience of Social Cohesion in Australia: Exploring the Roles of Racism, Intercultural Contact, and the Media](#)

Justine Dandy & Rogelia Pe-Pua

pages 339-357

Abstract

In this article we examine factors that enhance or disrupt social cohesion for refugees in communities in Perth, Sydney, and Murray Bridge. The data, from 54 interviews and focus groups with 138 people, are drawn from a larger study using Jenson's multidimensional framework of social cohesion. We found that racism, intercultural contact, and the media had multiple and interrelated effects on aspects of social cohesion such as belonging, participation, and inclusion. The findings demonstrate the utility of the multidimensional framework for understanding refugees' settlement experiences and outcomes and highlight key areas for policy and practice in refugee resettlement in Australia.

Journal of Infectious Diseases

Volume 212 Issue 12 December 15, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of International Development

November 2015 Volume 27, Issue 8 Pages 1351–1545

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

Special Issue: AID, SOCIAL POLICY, AND DEVELOPMENT

[Reviewed earlier]

The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics

Fall 2015 Volume 43, Issue 3 Pages 437–666

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Medical Ethics

December 2015, Volume 41, Issue 12

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (JPIDS)

Volume 4 Issue 4 December 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Public Health Policy

Volume 36, Issue 4 (November 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of the Royal Society – Interface

06 December 2015; volume 12, issue 113

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Knowledge Management for Development Journal

Vol 11, No 1 (2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

The Lancet

Dec 12, 2015 Volume 386 Number 10011 p2365-2444 e56-e60

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

Editorial

[Remembering the right to health](#)

The Lancet

Summary

Dec 10 marks [Human Rights Day](#). This year, the day is devoted to the launch of a year-long UN campaign to celebrate the 50th anniversary of two landmark international covenants on human rights: the [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#) and the International

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which were adopted by the UN General Assembly on Dec 16, 1966.

Comment

Women's, children's, and adolescents' health needs universal health coverage

Robin Gorna, Nicole Klingen, Kunio Senga, Agnes Soucat, Keizo Takemi
2371

A worldwide shift in polio vaccines for routine immunisation

Julie R Garon, Walter A Orenstein
2375

Articles

Immunogenicity of a new routine vaccination schedule for global poliomyelitis prevention: an open-label, randomised controlled trial

Roland W Sutter, Sunil Bahl, Jagadish M Deshpande, Harish Verma, Mohammad Ahmad, P Venugopal, J Venkateswara Rao, Sharad Agarkhedkar, Sanjay K Lalwani, Abhishek Kunwar, Raman Sethi, Marina Takane, Lalitendu Mohanty, Arani Chatterjee, T Jacob John, Hamid Jafari, R Bruce Aylward

Summary

Background

Polio eradication needs a new routine immunisation schedule—three or four doses of bivalent type 1 and type 3 oral poliovirus vaccine (bOPV) and one dose of inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV), but no immunogenicity data are available for this schedule. We aimed to assess immunogenicity of this vaccine schedule.

Methods

We did an open-label, randomised controlled trial in four centres in India. After informed consent was obtained from a parent or legally acceptable representative, healthy newborn babies were randomly allocated to one of five groups: trivalent OPV (tOPV); tOPV plus IPV; bOPV; bOPV plus IPV; or bOPV plus two doses of IPV (2IPV). The key eligibility criteria were: full-term birth (≥ 37 weeks of gestation); birthweight ≥ 2.5 kg; and Apgar score of 9 or more. OPV was administered at birth, 6 weeks, 10 weeks, and 14 weeks; IPV was administered intramuscularly at 14 weeks. The primary study objective was to investigate immunogenicity of the new vaccine schedule, assessed by seroconversion against poliovirus types 1, 2, and 3 between birth and 18 weeks in the per-protocol population (all participants with valid serology results on cord blood and at 18 weeks). Neutralisation assays tested cord blood and sera collected at 14 weeks, 18 weeks, 19 weeks, and 22 weeks by investigators masked to group allocation. This trial was registered with the India Clinical Trials Registry, number CTRI/2013/06/003722.

Findings

Of 900 newborn babies enrolled between June 13 and Aug 29, 2013, 782 (87%) completed the per-protocol requirements. Between birth and age 18 weeks, seroconversion against poliovirus type 1 in the tOPV group occurred in 162 of 163 (99.4%, 95% CI 96.6–100), in 150 (98.0%, 94.4–99.6) of 153 in the tOPV plus IPV group, in 153 (98.7%, 95.4–99.8) of 155 in the bOPV group, in 155 (99.4%, 96.5–100) of 156 in the bOPV plus IPV group, and in 154 (99.4%, 96.5–100) of 155 in the bOPV plus 2IPV group. Seroconversion against poliovirus type 2 occurred in 157 (96.3%, 92.2–98.6) of 163 in the tOPV group, 153 (100%, 97.6–100.0) of 153 in the tOPV plus IPV group, 29 (18.7%, 12.9–25.7) of 155 in the bOPV group, 107 (68.6%, 60.7–75.8) of

156 in the bOPV plus IPV group, and in 121 (78·1%, 70·7–84·3) of 155 in the bOPV plus 2IPV group. Seroconversion against poliovirus type 3 was achieved in 147 (90·2%, 84·5–94·3) of 163 in the tOPV group, 152 (99·3%, 96·4–100) of 153 in the tOPV plus IPV group, 151 (97·4%, 93·5–99·3) of 155 in the bOPV group, 155 (99·4%, 96·5–100) of 156 in the bOPV plus IPV group, and 153 (98·7%, 95·4–99·8) of 155 in the bOPV plus 2IPV group. Superiority was achieved for vaccine regimens including IPV against poliovirus type 3 compared with those not including IPV (tOPV plus IPV vs tOPV alone, $p=0\cdot0008$; and bOPV plus IPV vs bOPV alone, $p=0\cdot0153$). 12 serious adverse events occurred (six in the tOPV group, one in the tOPV plus IPV group, three in the bOPV group, zero in the bOPV plus IPV group, and two in the bOPV plus 2IPV group), none of which was attributed to the trial intervention.

Interpretation

The new vaccination schedule improves immunogenicity against polioviruses, especially against poliovirus type 3.

Funding

WHO, through a grant from Rotary International (grant number 59735).

Review

[Assuring health coverage for all in India](#)

Vikram Patel, Rachana Parikh, Sunil Nandraj, Priya Balasubramaniam, Kavita Narayan, Vinod K Paul, A K Shiva Kumar, Mirai Chatterjee, K Srinath Reddy

Health Policy

[How much donor financing for health is channelled to global versus country-specific aid functions?](#)

Marco Schäferhoff, Sara Fewer, Jessica Kraus, Emil Richter, Lawrence H Summers, Jesper Sundewall, Gavin Yamey, Dean T Jamison

Viewpoint

[The health gap: the challenge of an unequal world](#)

Michael Marmot

The Lancet Infectious Diseases

Dec 2015 Volume 15 Number 12 p1361-1498

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 19, Issue 12, December 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10995/19/12/page/1>

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November 2015; 35 (8)

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September 2015 Volume 93, Issue 3 Pages 447–649

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Volume 528 Number 7581 pp163-300 10 December 2015

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[New issue; No relevant content identified]

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December 2015, Volume 21 No 12 pp1400-1520

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December 10, 2015 Vol. 373 No. 24

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December 2015; 44 (6)

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December 2015, VOLUME 136 / ISSUE 6

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[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 33, Issue 12, December 2015

<http://link.springer.com/journal/40273/33/12/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

PLOS Currents: Disasters

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

[Accessed 12 December 2015]

Demographic Determinants of Disaster Preparedness Behaviors Amongst Tehran Inhabitants, Iran

December 11, 2015 · Research Article

Background: Tehran is vulnerable to natural hazards, especially earthquakes. Disaster preparedness behaviors (DPB) are measures that can mitigate the adverse consequences of disasters. Demographic factors affect DPB, however, the role of some of these factors is not still clear. By understanding these effects, disaster specialists could design interventions toward specific demographics. In the present study, we aimed to investigate demographic determinants of DPB.

Methods: This cross-sectional survey was conducted in August 2014. The target population included inhabitants of Tehran who were 18 years or older. A total of 1250 participants were selected randomly and interviewed using a standardized questionnaire.

Results: Results of our study showed that monthly income level, previous disaster experience, residential district and occupation are demographic factors that influence DPB significantly. However, disaster preparedness was not affected by gender, educational level, number of household members, home type, home ownership and being the head of household.

Conclusion: To promote DPB in Tehran, disaster specialists should focus on improving DPB in low-income and unemployed people, and individuals who live in high risk districts, especially in those who have not experienced disasters.

Teacher-Mediated Interventions to Support Child Mental Health Following a Disaster: A Systematic Review

December 8, 2015 · Disasters

Objectives: This review sought to identify, describe and assess the effectiveness of teacher-mediated interventions that aim to support child and adolescent recovery after a natural or man-made disaster. We also aimed to assess intervention applicability to rural and remote Australian school settings.

Method: A systematic search of the academic literature was undertaken utilising six electronic databases (EBSCO, Medline, PsycINFO, Embase, ERIC and CINAHL) using terms that relate to: teacher-mediated and school-based interventions; children and adolescents; mental health and wellbeing; natural disasters and man-made disasters. This was supplemented by a grey literature search.

Results: A total of 20 articles reporting on 18 separate interventions were identified. Nine separate interventions had been evaluated using methodologically adequate research designs, with findings suggesting at least short-term improvement in student wellbeing outcomes and academic performance.

Conclusions: Although none of the identified studies reported on Australian-based interventions, international interventions could be adapted to the Australian rural and remote context using existing psychosocial programs and resources available online to Australian schools. Future research should investigate the acceptability, feasibility and effectiveness of implementing interventions modelled on the identified studies in Australian schools settings.

PLoS Currents: Outbreaks

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

(Accessed 12 December 2015)

[No new content]

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(Accessed 12 December 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

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

(Accessed 12 December 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

PLoS One

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

[Accessed 12 December 2015]

[The Global Health Impact Index: Promoting Global Health](#)

Nicole Hassoun

Research Article | published 11 Dec 2015 | PLOS ONE

10.1371/journal.pone.0141374

Abstract

Millions of people cannot access essential medicines they need for deadly diseases like malaria, tuberculosis (TB) and HIV/AIDS. There is good information on the need for drugs for these diseases but until now, no global estimate of the impact drugs are having on this burden. This paper presents a model measuring companies' key malaria, TB and HIV/AIDS drugs' consequences for global health (global-health-impact.org). It aggregates drugs' impacts in several ways—by disease, country and originator-company. The methodology can be extended across diseases as well as drugs to provide a more extensive picture of the impact companies' drugs are having on the global burden of disease. The study suggests that key malaria, TB and HIV/AIDS drugs are, together, ameliorating about 37% of the global burden of these diseases and Sanofi, Novartis, and Pfizer's drugs are having the largest effect on this burden. Moreover, drug impacts vary widely across countries. This index provides important information for policy makers, pharmaceutical companies, countries, and other stake-holders that can help increase access to essential medicines.

[Health Gains and Financial Protection from Pneumococcal Vaccination and Pneumonia Treatment in Ethiopia: Results from an Extended Cost-Effectiveness Analysis](#)

Kjell Arne Johansson, Solomon Tessema Memirie, Clint Pecenka, Dean T. Jamison, Stéphane Verguet

Research Article | published 09 Dec 2015 | PLOS ONE

10.1371/journal.pone.0142691

Abstract

Background

Pneumonia and pneumococcal disease cause a large disease burden in resource-constrained settings. We pursue an extended cost-effectiveness analysis (ECEA) of two fully publicly financed interventions in Ethiopia: pneumococcal vaccination for newborns and pneumonia treatment for under-five children in Ethiopia.

Methods

We apply ECEA methods and estimate the program impact on: (1) government program costs; (2) pneumonia and pneumococcal deaths averted; (3) household expenses related to pneumonia/pneumococcal disease treatment averted; (4) prevention of household medical impoverishment measured by an imputed money-metric value of financial risk protection; and (5) distributional consequences across the wealth strata of the country population. Available epidemiological and cost data from Ethiopia are applied and the two interventions are assessed separately at various incremental coverage levels.

Results

Scaling-up pneumococcal vaccines at around 40% coverage would cost about \$11.5 million and avert about 2090 child deaths annually, while a 10% increase of pneumonia treatment to all children under 5 years of age would cost about \$13.9 million and avert 2610 deaths annually. Health benefits of the two interventions publicly financed would be concentrated among the bottom income quintile, where 30–40% of all deaths averted would be expected to occur in the poorest quintile. In sum, the two interventions would eliminate a total of \$2.4 million of private household expenditures annually, where the richest quintile benefits from around 30% of the total private expenditures averted. The financial risk protection benefits would be largely concentrated among the bottom income quintile. The results are most sensitive to variations in vaccine price, population size, number of deaths due to pneumonia, efficacy of interventions and out-of-pocket copayment share.

Conclusions

Vaccine and treatment interventions for children, as shown with the illustrative examples of pneumococcal vaccine and pneumonia treatment, can bring large health and financial benefits to households in Ethiopia, most particularly among the poorest socio-economic groups.

PLoS Pathogens

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

(Accessed 12 December 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

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

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

(Accessed 12 December 2015)

[Inequality, climate impacts on the future poor, and carbon prices](#)

Francis Dennig, Mark B. Budolfson, Marc Fleurbaey, Asher Siebert, and Robert H. Socolow
PNAS 2015 ; published ahead of print December 7, 2015, doi:10.1073/pnas.1513967112

Significance

Hundreds of published papers produce “optimal” trajectories of global emissions of carbon dioxide, and corresponding carbon prices, over this century, taking into account future damages

inflicted by climate change. To our knowledge, in all instances the models ignore inequalities in economic variables beyond regional differences. Here, we introduce heterogeneous subregional populations (distributed by income) and explore how the optimal trajectories are affected by whether regional damage afflicts the poor predominantly. We find that when future damage falls especially hard on the poor, considerably greater global mitigation effort is optimal than when damage is proportional to income.

Abstract

Integrated assessment models of climate and the economy provide estimates of the social cost of carbon and inform climate policy. We create a variant of the Regional Integrated model of Climate and the Economy (RICE)—a regionally disaggregated version of the Dynamic Integrated model of Climate and the Economy (DICE)—in which we introduce a more fine-grained representation of economic inequalities within the model's regions. This allows us to model the common observation that climate change impacts are not evenly distributed within regions and that poorer people are more vulnerable than the rest of the population. Our results suggest that this is important to the social cost of carbon—as significant, potentially, for the optimal carbon price as the debate between Stern and Nordhaus on discounting.

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Volume 30 - Issue 06 - December 2015

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[Reviewed earlier]

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[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 8 Issue 3 November 2015

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[Reviewed earlier]

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December 2015; 25 (12)

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[New issue; No relevant content identified]

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Volume 34 Issue 4 December 2015

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[Reviewed earlier]

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November 2015 Volume 35, Issue 11 Pages 1957–2119

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/risa.2015.35.issue-11/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

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11 December 2015 vol 350, issue 6266, pages 1289-1436

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[New issue; No relevant content identified]

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[accessed 12 December 2015]

[No new content]

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Winter 2016 Volume 14, Number 1

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[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 7, Issue 11 (November 2015), Pages 14427-15784

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[Reviewed earlier]

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Vol. 43(2015) No. 3 Sep

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[Reviewed earlier]

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December 2015 Volume 20, Issue 12 Pages 1591–1854

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/tmi.2015.20.issue-12/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

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Vol. LII Nos. 1 & 2 2015 September 2015

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

Website not functioning at review.

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An International Interdisciplinary Journal for Research, Policy and Care

Volume 10, Issue 4, 2015

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n°77 - October 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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