

## ***The Sentinel***

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

***Week ending 19 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/>*

#### ***Editor's Note:***

***The Sentinel will resume publication on 2 January 2016 following an end-of-year holiday break.***

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

*A highly selective capture of strategic developments, research, commentary, analysis and announcements spanning Human Rights Action, Humanitarian Response, Health, Education, Holistic Development, Heritage Stewardship, 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.*

***Editor's Note:***

*The Security Council held significant debates and passed resolutions addressing the Syrian crisis, ISIS/ISIL financial flows, human trafficking and other issues. Please see the links in the Key Agency/IGO/Governments Watch section below.*

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**2015 Human Development Report – Work for Human Development**

United Nations Development Programme

ISBN: 978-92-1-126398-5 eISBN: 978-92-1-057615-4 288 pages

Pdf: [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2015\\_human\\_development\\_report.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2015_human_development_report.pdf)

*Press Release*

["Address Challenges and Seize Opportunities of the New World of Work", UNDP Urges](#)

*2 billion people lifted out of low human development, in last 25 years, now focus on work is needed to galvanize progress, alerts the 2015 Human Development Report.*

15/12/2015

Addis Ababa, 14 December 2015 - Fast technological progress, deepening globalization, aging societies and environmental challenges are rapidly transforming what work means today and how it is performed. This new world of work presents great opportunities for some, but also profound challenges for others. The 2015 Human Development Report, released today at a ceremony in Ethiopia, urges governments to act now to ensure no one is left behind in the fast-changing world of work.

The report, titled 'Work for Human Development', calls for equitable and decent work for all. In doing so, it encourages governments to look beyond jobs to consider the many kinds of work, such as unpaid care, voluntary, or creative work that are important for human development. The report suggests that only by taking such a broad view can the benefits of work be truly harnessed for sustainable development.

Speaking at the launch, Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, said "Employment can be a great driver of progress, but more people need to be able to benefit from sustainable work that helps them and their families to thrive."

The need for more inclusive and sustainable work opportunities was also emphasized by United Nations Development Programme Administrator Helen Clark who said: "Decent work contributes to both the richness of economies and the richness of human lives. All countries need to respond to the challenges in the new world of work and seize opportunities to improve lives and livelihoods."

With better health and education outcomes and reductions in extreme poverty, 2 billion people have moved out of low human development levels in the last 25 years, the report says. Yet in

order to secure these gains and galvanize progress, a stronger focus on decent work is needed...

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### **ILO global estimates on migrant workers**

Results and Methodology – Special focus on migrant domestic workers

ISBN: 9789221304791 (print); 9789221304807 (web pdf) :: 118 pages

PDF: [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms\\_436343.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_436343.pdf)

*Preface [excerpt]*

In today's globalized world, labour migration is a rising policy priority. Economic hardship and geopolitical crises leading to the lack of decent work are resulting in growing and diverse migratory movements. In many economies, including emerging economies, ageing populations and declining labour forces are also contributing to the growing mobility of workers. Women are joining migration flows in growing numbers as independent workers, with important consequences for gender equality in countries of origin and destination alike.

Migration flows have changed over the past few decades, growing significantly in some corridors and between countries of the South. The governance challenges have increased in complexity. There is a need to understand these dynamic migrant flows and their implications for labour markets, particularly in migrant-dominated sectors.

New thinking and new approaches to the governance of labour migration are needed: a fair sharing of the prosperity migrant workers help to create, and policies that respond equitably to the interests of countries of origin and destination, as well as to migrant workers, employers and national workers.

To be effective, such policies must be grounded in strong evidence. For this, data on the number of migrant workers, their distribution by sector and their employment patterns are badly needed. While acknowledging the many challenges of data collection and analysis in this field, the present global estimates developed by the ILO aim to fill in part the current knowledge gaps...

*Press Release*

*International Migrants Day*

**New ILO figures show 150 million migrants in the global workforce**

*A new ILO statistical study provides estimates on labour migration, including regions and industries where international migrant workers are established and a special focus on migrants in domestic work.*

News | 16 December 2015

GENEVA (ILO News) – Migrant workers account for 150.3 million of the world's approximately 232 million international migrants, according to a new study by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The report, **ILO Global Estimates on Migrant Workers**, shows migrant workers account for 72.7 per cent of the 206.6 million working age migrant population (15 years and over). The majority

– 83.7 million – are men, with 66.6 million women migrant workers.

Commenting on the report, ILO Director-General Guy Ryder said: "This analysis represents a significant contribution by the ILO in supporting member States to deliver the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly in respect to targets within Goal 8 on protecting all workers, including migrant workers, and goal 10 on the implementation of well managed migration policies. Decision makers will now have real data on which to base their policies."

Labour migration is a phenomenon that concerns all regions of the world, however almost half (48.5 per cent) of migrant workers are concentrated in two broad regions: Northern America, and Northern, Southern and Western Europe. The Arab States have the highest proportion of migrant workers as a share of all workers with 35.6 per cent.

The study also examines the distribution of the migrant workforce in broad industry groupings. The vast majority of migrant workers are in the services sectors, with 106.8 million workers accounting for 71.1 per cent of the total, followed by industry, including manufacturing and construction, with 26.7 million (17.8 per cent) and agriculture with 16.7 million (11.1 per cent). Among all migrant workers, 7.7 per cent are domestic workers.

"This estimate study shows that the vast majority of migrants migrate in search of better job opportunities. By applying a robust methodology we believe it will add significantly to our knowledge base on migration and provide a strong foundation for the development of effective migration policies," said Manuela Tomei, Director of the ILO's Conditions of Work and Equality Department (WORKQUALITY)....

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### **Right to sanitation, a distinct human right – Over 2.5 billion people lack access to sanitation**

GENEVA (18 December 2015) – The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human right to water and sanitation, Léo Heller, and the Chair of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Waleed Sadi, today welcomed the explicit recognition of the 'human right to sanitation' as a distinct right, together with the 'human right to safe drinking water' by the UN General Assembly.

Over 2.5 billion people still lack access to improved sanitation - the sanitation target under Goal 7 has been missed by one of the widest margins of all the 18 targets under the Millennium Development Goals. One billion people practise open defecation, nine out of ten in rural areas across the world.

"The right to sanitation is an essential component of the right to an adequate standard of living, inextricably linked to the highest attainable standard of health, and integrally related to the human right to water," Mr. Sadi said. "The explicit recognition of the human right to sanitation and the human right to water reaffirms that sanitation has distinct features which warrant its own separate recognition and treatment from water in some respects."

The experts explained that while sanitation does not necessarily have to be water-borne, Governments tend to focus on this type, rather than on-site sanitation such as pit latrines and septic tanks which are still widely used. As a result, individual households which rely on on-site sanitation often have to operate the entire system themselves, including collection and disposal, without government support. "The right to sanitation also requires privacy and dignity," the experts stressed.

"Sanitation and water issues need to be approached comprehensively at many levels," Mr. Heller said. "I strongly believe that the clear definitions of the human right to sanitation and the human right to water provided in the resolution will help focus international attention on sanitation issues in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."

**In the UN General Assembly resolution, adopted by consensus on 17 December, Member States recognized that 'the human right to sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.'...**

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#### **RE | SHAPING CULTURAL POLICIES – A Decade Promoting the Diversity of Cultural Expressions for Development**

UNESCO – 2015 [2005 Convention Global Report]  
ISBN 978-92-3-100136-9 :: 238 pages

Pdf: [Download the Report](#)

#### **Foreword**

For the first time at the global level, the recently adopted United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda for 2030 acknowledges the key role of culture, creativity and cultural diversity to solving sustainable development challenges. This recognition resonates with the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, the 10th anniversary of which we celebrate in 2015.

Over the last decade, this landmark Convention – now ratified by 140 Parties – has changed the overall approach on culture and cultural goods and services. It recognized the sovereign right of governments to introduce policies to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions. It highlighted the dual nature of cultural activities, goods and services: they have both an economic and a cultural dimension – providing jobs and revenues, driving innovation and sustainable economic growth, and at the same time conveying identities and values, fostering social inclusion and sense of belonging. Today, we can witness the multiple advantages of this combination, as a force for both social and economic sustainability, as a driver to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The new 2030 Agenda raises high expectations, and this is the importance of this first-ever UNESCO monitoring Report, to collect, analyse and disseminate information on the many different ways in which countries across the world are integrating culture into sustainable development policies and programmes.

This report comes in timely support for the implementation of the new Agenda, to ensure effectiveness and maximize impact, helping countries to evaluate goals, resolve policy questions, and devise new measures that meet people's demands and needs. It provides in-depth analysis of current trends, advances and challenges faced by all relevant policy actors -- with examples of innovative policies and measures that address contemporary issues including: transnational mobility, artistic freedom, access to international marketplaces, the digital environment.

It also provides – for the first time – an integrated monitoring framework in the field of culture with proposed indicators of change and progress...

*Press Release*

[First Global Report - Evaluating the Impact of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions](#)

Paris, 16 December - The rise of Internet giants, the explosion of social networks, the digital revolution - all profoundly changing the methods of production and dissemination of cultural goods such as music, film and books. Since the adoption of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, the world's cultural landscape has changed considerably. Presented at UNESCO on 16 December, the Report Re|Shaping Cultural Policies explores these changes and the policy impact of the Convention.

Adopted by UNESCO in 2005, the [Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions](#) came into force in 2007. It now has 141 signatory States and the European Union.

*Industrialized nations hold the biggest stake in exports*

Encouraging an equal flow of cultural goods and services from the developing world is a key guiding principle of the Convention. However, ten years after the adoption of the Convention, the sector remains largely dominated by industrialized countries.

Out of the \$212.8 billion in global exports of cultural goods, 46.7% is from developing nations, this compared to 25.6% in 2004. However, this overall picture is distorted by cultural exports mainly from China and India, as these two countries are increasingly competing with developed nations. Without them, the market share of the developing countries for world exports of cultural goods increased by merely 5% between 2004 and 2013.

Developed countries are increasingly importing music and audio-visual goods from developing countries. The share of these imported goods in developed countries represented 39.6% in 2013. Books and publishing form the second largest group, with 32.3% of the share of imports from developing countries.

*Digital revolution*

The expansion of social networks and user-produced content, the growing use of connected multimedia devices, and the explosion in the quantity of data available have led to the emergence of new actors and new rationales. This revolution is by no means confined to industrialized countries, many regions in the global south have made considerable progress, particularly in the field of connectivity. In Africa, the penetration rate for mobile telephony increased threefold between 2007 and 2012.

Technology also provides an opportunity for new voices to make themselves heard in public service media. We are seeing an emergence of new actors, including citizen journalists and amateur film producers, who are redefining the boundaries of journalism. Likewise, the enthusiasm of young people for film creation has been greater. The production of fiction film in developing countries rose significantly between 2005 and 2010, up from 3% in 2005 to 24% in 2013, while the production of documentaries rose from 1% to 25% over the same period. But these changes are occurring in part to the detriment of linguistic diversity. Indeed, 80% of linguistic content available on the internet is in English, Chinese, Spanish, Japanese, Portuguese, German, Arabic, French, Russian, and Korean. Another challenge identified by the Report: the rise of Internet giants may undermine access to a diversity of cultural choices, particularly in language choice. "Although the platforms provide a wide range of cultural offerings, the fact that they control not only sales but also the communication and algorithms of recommendations raises the problem of discoverability," the Report emphasizes...

[Watch the launch live](#)

[Executive Summary](#)

[Download the Report](#)

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### **ICRC: Strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, 2015**

United Nations, General Assembly, 70th session, Plenary, statement by the ICRC, New York, 10 December 2015. First, in an exceptional joint press conference held on 30 October, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon and ICRC President Peter Maurer

17-12-2015 | Statement

**First**, in an exceptional joint press conference held on 30 October, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon and ICRC President Peter Maurer underscored the importance of recognizing that **much of the human suffering we are witnessing today is the result of a blatant lack of compliance with international humanitarian law by both State and non-State parties to armed conflict. It is they – not humanitarian organizations – who bear primary legal responsibility for protecting civilians under their control and ensuring that their basic needs are met. It is also urgent for other States, both individually and collectively, to impress upon the parties to a conflict the need to abide by their legal obligations, including those governing access by impartial humanitarian organizations.**

### **Second, further efforts must be made to improve the impact of humanitarian action.**

In spite of important initiatives taken among humanitarian actors in recent years, notably in regard to coordination, the lack of access and security remains an important obstacle to the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance and protection. This owes mainly to frequent problems of acceptance among parties to a conflict. For this reason, governments should make every effort to reach a renewed consensus on apolitical humanitarian action, including by not sponsoring or limiting humanitarian action for ulterior motives. This will help bring about a working environment in which humanitarian action can reach its full potential. It is also incumbent on humanitarian organizations to live by humanitarian principles in public debates as

well as in their operations. Organizations should refrain from espousing humanitarian principles that they are not willing or able to adhere to in practice, at the cost of fuelling distrust towards the entire humanitarian sector.

**Third, greater attention and understanding should be devoted to the question of how to better include and promote local action in the overall humanitarian response.**

The ICRC's approach in this regard is to further develop the capacities of National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, support local medical services and provide the armed forces with IHL training. However, in highly polarized situations such as armed conflict, local humanitarian actors may be viewed with suspicion for a number of reasons, including a perceived or alleged ethnic, religious or political affiliation. In such cases, they may be prevented from providing humanitarian assistance to victims across enemy lines and from actively engaging in protection activities with all parties to the armed conflict.

Experience shows that, in such situations, international humanitarian organizations may subject to fewer restrictions and be more effective. The ICRC therefore believes that, in the interest of the victims, we must take full advantage of the respective strengths of both local and international organizations rather than favouring one over the other. The best approach will be based on prevailing circumstances and in a logic of complementarity and responsible partnership.

**Fourth, the links between humanitarian and development planning and financing need to be closer.**

Because many conflicts go on for years or even decades, the ICRC and other humanitarian organizations increasingly engage in development-related work, supporting basic services and critical infrastructure in areas such as health care, water and sanitation, electricity, veterinary care and agriculture. Owing to insufficient development spending, millions of people come to depend on these services to survive. Although these are long-term commitments for the humanitarian organizations – particularly when carried out in urban areas – they are subject to the constraints of short-term, annual humanitarian budgets. Existing financing models thus need to be adapted to allow humanitarian organizations to plan and budget this type of work over several years.

Humanitarian and development organizations must also learn to work together in a way that better serves the needs of their beneficiaries. The ICRC, for its part, is actively seeking to strengthen its cooperation with development organizations and work with them more systematically. The ICRC's commitment to independence and neutrality, which are critical to its ability to reach victims on all sides, may sometimes limit the situations and areas in which such cooperation can take place. There are nevertheless many ways in which cooperation is both possible and desirable.

It is the ICRC's view that real progress will hinge on the ability to address these various challenges. Key to this is the recognition that the international humanitarian system is based on three distinct pillars, namely the UN system, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs, each of which possesses its particular strengths and weaknesses. The approach should not be geared towards fusing the three – encouraging them to work the same way and on the same issues – but rather towards capitalizing on the strengths of each of them. The ICRC hopes that your deliberations and the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit will help bring about

tangible improvements in the lives of the many millions of people who fall victim to armed conflict every year, and we stand ready to share our views and experience in this regard.

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## **Commodities and Development Report 2015 - Smallholder Farmers and Sustainable Commodity Development**

UNCTAD/SUC/2014/5 :: 84 pages

Report: [http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/suc2014d5\\_en.pdf](http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/suc2014d5_en.pdf)

### *Introduction*

The contributions of family farming to food security, poverty reduction and sustainable development were specifically recognized in 2014 when the United Nations General Assembly declared that year the International Year of Family Farming. Building on this momentum, this Commodities and Development Report focuses on smallholders. The Report aims at providing a convincing demonstration of the need for devoting more attention and resources to smallholders as a way of achieving the newly agreed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relating to poverty, nutrition, hunger and environmental sustainability.

**It advocates that smallholders play a key role in the achievement of a more inclusive and socially as well as environmentally sustainable development path at the national and global levels.** This Report is timely for three reasons. First, 2015 is a pivotal year for the international development agenda, marked by the final assessment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Additionally, the Report provides a useful reminder of the importance of smallholders in achieving the environmental sustainability agenda. The Report's insights are also topical in the context of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP21 in Paris in December 2015.

**Second, concerns about food insecurity following the 2008 food crisis have led to a renewed interest in food security issues.** As will be highlighted by the evidence provided in chapter 1, smallholder farmers have long been associated with the achievement of food security. While recognizing the multiple elements that constitute food security, the Report focuses on two of them: food availability and food access. Although the Report might not be of primary relevance to issues of nutrition security and malnutrition – the so-called “hidden hunger” – its thematic analysis would be informative for stakeholders of the United Nations Secretary-General’s initiative, the Zero Hunger Challenge (ZHC) launched in 2012, whose objective is to eliminate hunger during our lifetime. The Report's findings are specifically of interest to two of the five elements of the Challenge, namely, “The sustainability of food systems” and “Attaining a 100 per cent increase in smallholder productivity and incomes.”

**Third, the Report's analysis and policy recommendations regarding the establishment of an enabling environment at the global level are relevant considering the ongoing agricultural negotiations under the Doha Round,** including at the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya. Moreover, beyond this year's events, the Report seeks to be a useful reference for policymakers and other stakeholders on smallholder issues as they embark on the implementation of the SDGs...

*Press Release*

[Business potential of smallholder farmers must be unleashed for sustainable development, report says](#)

UNCTAD/PRESS/PR/2015/050

Geneva, Switzerland, (17 December 2015)

The world's smallholder farmers manage just 12 per cent of all agricultural land, yet they produce more than 80 per cent of the world's food (in value terms). They deserve more attention therefore from policymakers to unleash their full business potential, the UNCTAD Commodities and Development Report 2015 says. As global poverty affects smallholders disproportionately, achieving poverty reduction goals will require taking a fresh look at how policies must be designed and coordinated so as to cater to their needs.

Though there are marked differences by country and region in the average size of small farms, it is estimated that more than 90 per cent of the 570 million farms worldwide are managed by an individual or a family, and that mostly they rely on family labour. Estimates further show that about 2.5 billion people depend on agricultural production systems for their livelihoods.

Smallholder farmers also play a key role in environmental sustainability objectives, including climate change mitigation, by protecting biodiversity in agriculture.

"It is now time for the international community to recognize the vital role smallholders play the world over in ensuring continued access to nutritious natural food and the achievement of global food security," UNCTAD Secretary-General Mukhisa Kituyi said. "I call on all development partners who have pledged to increase resources directed to the fight against climate change to devote special attention to smallholder farmers who are key players in sustainable agricultural practices."...

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**[Sustainable farming systems in Bangladesh and Japan receive global recognition](#)**

*Four new sites designated Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems for innovation, sustainability and adaptability*

15 December 2015, Rome - Four traditional farming systems in Bangladesh and Japan have been designated today by FAO as "Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems."

They include Bangladesh's floating gardens, a unique hydroponics production system constructed with natural grasses and plants, which have been developed in flood areas; and a trio of sites in Japan: the sustainable river fisheries utilizing Sato-kawa system in Gifu, the Minabe-Tanabe Ume approach to growing apricots on nutrient-poor slopes in Wakayama; and the Takachihogo-Shiibayama mountainous agriculture and forestry system in Miyazaki which allows agricultural and forestry production in a steep mountainous area.

The sites were officially recognized during a joint meeting of the GIAHS Steering and Scientific Committee at FAO headquarters in Rome. These new designations bring the number of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) systems to a total of 36 sites located in 15 countries in Africa, Latin America, Near East and Asia.

"In the context of today's environmental and economic challenges and climate change, small-scale and family farmers, and especially traditional agriculture, can offer real solutions for food security, the conservation of natural resources and sustainable rural development, if adequate policies and investment are directed to them", said FAO Deputy Director-General Maria Helena Semedo.

The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) which was launched by FAO in 2002 during the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, has been recently endorsed by member countries, during the 39th Session of the FAO Conference, as an FAO Corporate Programme.

#### *About the new GIAHS sites*

The new GIAHS sites include three in Japan and one in Bangladesh:

#### **Japan - Ayu of the Nagara River System**

The Nagara River is one of the cleanest rivers in Japan that provides a number of ecosystem services. Various components of the system such as river, forests and farmlands are closely linked to each other. The sustainable inland fisheries of a specific type of fish (Ayu) benefit from clean waters of the Nagara River which are maintained through upstream forest management. Local communities have lived within this linked ecosystems and have developed their livelihoods and cultural practices.

#### **Japan - Minabe-Tanabe Ume System**

Minabe-Tanabe Ume System allows for the production of high-quality Ume (Japanese apricots) and various kinds of fruits on nutrient-poor slopes. Local communities have created a thriving Ume fruit production environment by maintaining upper coppice forests for landslide prevention and maintenance of water, and Japanese honeybee for pollinators. By permitting the production of a diverse range of products, the system ensures stable livelihoods and makes communities more resilient to disasters.

#### **Japan - Takachihogō-Shiibayama Mountainous Agriculture and Forestry System**

This site is located in a steep mountainous area where flat land is extremely scarce. In this severe environment, local people have established a distinctive and sustainable system of agriculture and forestry which balances timber production with diverse farming activities -- such as terraced rice growing, shiitake mushroom cultivation, beef cattle raising, or tea cultivation. The forest is maintained as a "mosaic" of conifers and broadleaf trees using traditional practices.

#### **Bangladesh - Floating garden Agricultural Practices**

Farmers in some parts of Bangladesh where flood waters can remain for a prolonged period of time have developed a unique hydroponics system in which plants can be grown on the water on floating organic bed of water hyacinth, algae and other plant residues. This environmentally friendly traditional cultivation technique utilizes the natural resources of wetlands to grow vegetables and other crops almost all year round providing numerous social, economic, agricultural and ecological benefits to the local population.

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#### **[WTO members conclude landmark \\$1.3 trillion IT trade deal](#)**

16 December 2015 – World Trade Organization  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT

WTO members representing major exporters of information technology products agreed today (16 December) at the WTO's Tenth Ministerial Conference, in Nairobi, on **the timetable for implementing a landmark deal to eliminate tariffs on 201 IT products valued at over \$1.3 trillion per year.**

Negotiations were conducted by 53 WTO members, including both developed and developing countries, which account for approximately 90 per cent of world trade in these products. However, all 162 WTO members will benefit from the agreement, as they will all enjoy duty-free market access to the markets of the members eliminating tariffs on these products. The list of 201 products was originally agreed by the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) participants in July 2015.

"I am delighted to mark this breakthrough here today at the Ministerial Conference", said WTO Director General Roberto Azevêdo. "This is a very significant achievement. Annual trade in these 201 products is valued at \$1.3 trillion per year, and accounts for approximately 10% of total global trade. Eliminating tariffs on trade of this magnitude will have a huge impact. It will support lower prices — including in many other sectors that use IT products as inputs — it will create jobs and it will help to boost GDP growth around the world"...

...Among the products covered in this agreement are new-generation semi-conductors, GPS navigation systems, medical products which include magnetic resonance imaging machines, machine tools for manufacturing printed circuits, telecommunications satellites and touch screens.

[:: ITA press conference — Remarks by Director-General Roberto Azevêdo](#)

[:: Briefing Note: Expansion of Trade in IT Products](#)

[:: Ministerial Declaration on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products](#)

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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 19 December 2015]*

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

*Selected Press Releases/Meetings Coverage*

*18 December 2015*

*SC/12171*

[Security Council Unanimously Adopts Resolution 2254 \(2015\), Endorsing Road Map for Peace Process in Syria, Setting Timetable for Talks](#)

The Security Council today endorsed a road map for a peace process in Syria, setting out an early-January timetable for United Nations-facilitated talks between the Government and opposition members, as well as the outlines of a nationwide ceasefire to begin as soon as the parties concerned had taken initial steps towards a political transition.

18 December 2015

SG/SM/17429-SC/12172

[Secretary-General Hails Security Council Resolution as First to Focus on Political Settlement of Syria Crisis](#)

18 December 2015

DSG/SM/927-DEV/3213-OBV/1573

[On World Migrants Day, Deputy Secretary-General Warns against Falling into Trap of Fear Set by Terrorists, amid Largest Exodus since Second World War](#)

17 December 2015

SG/SM/17425-AFR/3291-HR/5285

[Secretary-General Vows Fast Action after Report Finds Misuse of Authority in United Nations Response to Central African Republic Abuse Claims](#)

17 December 2015

GA/11745

[General Assembly Adopts 64 Third Committee Texts Covering Issues Including Migrants, Children's Rights, Human Rights Defenders](#)

Acting on the recommendation of its Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural), the General Assembly adopted 57 draft resolutions and seven draft decisions today, tackling a wide range of issues from the global refugee crisis to the rights of the child, as well as human rights defenders and country-specific human rights situations.

17 December 2015

SC/12168

[Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2253 \(2015\), Security Council Expands Sanctions Framework to Include Islamic State in Iraq and Levant](#)

In a sweeping move to suppress the financing of terrorism, the Security Council today expanded and strengthened its Al-Qaida sanctions framework to include a focus on Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh) in an unprecedented meeting that heard finance ministers from around the world outline efforts to dismantle funding channels to a terrorist group now in control of large swaths of Iraq and Syria.

16 December 2015

SG/SM/17421-DEV/3212-OBV/1571

[On International Migrants Day, Secretary-General Calls for Commitment to Human-Rights-Based Responses Guided by International Law](#)

16 December 2015

DSG/SM/926-SC/12166-HR/5284

[Human Trafficking 'Slavery in the Modern Age', Says Deputy Secretary-General in Briefing to Security Council](#)

16 December 2015

SC/12165

[Security Council Presidential Statement Says Human Trafficking Might Constitute War Crimes, as Members Consider Issue for First Time](#)

The Security Council today deplored all acts of trafficking in human beings by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh), the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), Boko Haram and other terrorist groups, underscoring that certain acts associated with that practice in the context of armed conflict might constitute war crimes.

16 December 2015

GA/11744

[General Assembly, Concluding Review of World Summit on Information Society, Commits to Bridging Digital Divides, Building Connected Communities](#)

The General Assembly today reaffirmed its common desire and commitment to the vision of the World Summit on the Information Society to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, as the 193-member body concluded its two-day high-level meeting reviewing the summit outcomes.

**UN OHCHR** Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 19

December 2015]

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

[Burundi crisis: Zeid calls for robust action by international community to avert another civil war](#)

17 December 2015

[Comment by High Commissioner Zeid on the CAR review report](#)

17 December 2015

[Right to sanitation, a distinct human right – Over 2.5 billion people lack access to sanitation](#) -  
GENEVA (18 December 2015) – The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human right to water and sanitation, Léo Heller, and the Chair of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Waleed Sadi, today welcomed the explicit recognition of the 'human right to sanitation' as a distinct right, together with the 'human right to safe drinking water' by the UN General Assembly...

**Committee on the Rights of the Child** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

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

[to 19 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 19 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 19 December 2015]  
<http://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/media/press-releases/>  
*No new digest content identified.*

**UN OCHA** [to 19 December 2015]  
<http://www.unocha.org/media-resources/press-releases>  
*[We generally do not include OCHA Flash Updates on humanitarian crises in this digest]*  
18 Dec 2015  
[World: Strong and renewed commitment for Central Emergency Response Fund in 2016](#)  
Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Country: World (New York, 17 December 2015): Ten years ago, Member States of the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution, A/RES/60/124 and created the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). Established in 2005, CERF marked an innovative breakthrough in humanitarian funding as a “fund for all, by all.” It raises and pools funds before the need arises, and provides fast, predictable funding to partners...

18 Dec 2015  
[Yemen: The Task Force on Population Movement Report: 2.5 million IDPs as a result of conflict in Yemen \[EN/AR\]](#)  
Source: International Organization for Migration, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Country: Yemen Yemen, 18 December 2015 – The situation in Yemen, one of the poorest countries in the Middle East, has substantially worsened since the start of the conflict in March 2015.

16 Dec 2015  
[Yemen: Statement of the Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen, Jamie McGoldrick, during cessation of hostilities \[EN/AR\]](#)  
Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Country: Yemen The agreement by all parties to the conflict in Yemen to cease all hostilities is a long awaited opportunity for humanitarian actors to reach areas of the country that have been inaccessible for the past months, as well as to continue ongoing aid and protection services.

15 Dec 2015  
[Burundi: Burundi: Urgent action needed to prevent a humanitarian crisis](#)  
Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UN Children's Fund Country: Burundi (New York, 15 December 2015): Two United Nations Emergency Directors warned today that urgent action is needed to prevent a descent into catastrophic violence in Burundi.

**UNICEF** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*Selected press releases*

[More than 380,000 children out of school in northern Mali, three months into school year](#)

BAMAKO, Mali/GENEVA/NEW YORK, 18 December 2015 – More than 380,000 children aged 7 to 15 remain out of school in insecure regions in northern Mali, three months into the new school year and almost four years since the security situation worsened in that part of the country, UNICEF said today.

[On the Day of International Migration, UNICEF says children need urgent solutions, solidarity](#)

GENEVA, 18 December 2015 – "The year, 2015, will be remembered for the heart-breaking image of a lifeless little boy on a beach – one of many who came before him; one of many who came after him. It was a year that saw hundreds of thousands of children and their families on the move leaving behind horrors, on an odyssey of hope through Europe. It was the year of mass displacement. And there is no end in sight.

[Unicef statement on the report of the independent review on sexual exploitation and abuse of children in the Central African Republic](#)

NEW YORK, 17 December 2015 – "We are reviewing the Independent Panel's Report, especially references to those instances where UNICEF failed to implement its policy on responding to the sexual abuse and exploitation of children, in order to draw practical lessons for the future.

[More than 16 million babies born into conflict this year: UNICEF](#)

NEW YORK, 17 December 2015 – More than 16 million babies were born in conflict zones in 2015 – 1 in 8 of all births worldwide this year – UNICEF said today, a figure that underscores the vulnerability faced by increasing numbers of children.

[UNHCR and UNICEF highlight unrelenting children's crisis](#)

NAIROBI, Kenya, 15 December 2015 – The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) warned today that the children of South Sudan remain some of the most vulnerable in the world. Noting the second anniversary since violence erupted in South Sudan, the two UN agencies called for all parties to uphold their commitments to the Peace Agreement, so as to allow the almost 1.5 million South Sudanese children to return home and receive an education, and child soldiers to be released and reintegrated.

[UNICEF fears hunger in Malawi, embarks on mass screening for malnutrition across country](#)

LILONGWE, Malawi 15 December 2015 – As Malawi struggles to cope with drought and the first maize deficit in a decade, UNICEF is carrying out a mass screening for malnutrition in children under five across 25 districts – 90 per cent of the country. The response comes as reports from communities and villages indicate an increasing food shortage and hunger problem in the country.

[UNICEF: 500 children die every day from lack of safe water, sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa](#)

DAKAR, Senegal, 15 December 2015 – Around 180,000 children under 5 years old die every year – roughly 500 a day – in sub-Saharan Africa due to diarrhoeal diseases linked to inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), UNICEF said ahead of a conference in Dakar on financing for the sector.

**UNHCR** Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [to 19 December 2015]

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

[UNHCR report confirms worldwide rise in forced displacement in first half 2015](#)

9 December 2015

With almost a million people having crossed the Mediterranean as refugees and migrants so far this year, and conflicts in Syria and elsewhere continuing to generate staggering levels of human suffering, 2015 is likely to exceed all previous records for global forced displacement, UNHCR warned in a new report today.

UNHCR's Mid-Year Trends 2015 report, covering the period from January to end June, and looking at worldwide displacement resulting from conflict and persecution, shows markers firmly in the red in each of the three major categories of displacement – Refugees, asylum-seekers, and people forced to flee inside their own countries.

The global refugee total, which a year ago was 19.5 million, had as of mid-2015 passed the 20 million threshold (20.2 million) for the first time since 1992. Asylum applications were meanwhile up 78 percent (993,600) over the same period in 2014. And the numbers of internally displaced people jumped by around 2 million to an estimated 34 million. Taking into account that the report covers only internally displaced people protected by UNHCR (the global total including people both in and outside UNHCR's care is only available in mid-2016), 2015 is on track to see worldwide forced displacement exceeding 60 million for the first time – 1 in every 122 humans is today someone who has been forced to flee their home.

High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres said: "Forced displacement is now profoundly affecting our times. It touches the lives of millions of our fellow human beings – both those forced to flee and those who provide them with shelter and protection. Never has there been a greater need for tolerance, compassion and solidarity with people who have lost everything."...

[UNHCR and UNICEF highlight unrelenting Children's Crisis](#)

NAIROBI, 15 December 2015 – The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) warned today that the children of South Sudan remain some of the most vulnerable in the world. Noting the second anniversary since violence erupted in South Sudan, the two UN agencies called for all parties to uphold their commitments to the Peace Agreement, so as to allow the almost 1.5 million South Sudanese children to return home and receive an education, and child soldiers to be released and reintegrated.

Over the past two years, 1.65 million people have become internally displaced, and more than 650,000 South Sudanese have sought international protection as refugees in neighbouring Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, and Uganda. Without more global attention and support, an entire generation of children from the world's newest nation could be lost.

[Donors promise initial US\\$ 687.2 million for UNHCR operations in 2016, the highest amount ever](#)

9 December 2015

**IOM / International Organization for Migration** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

[International Migrants Day 2015 - Statement & Video](#)

12/18/15

Switzerland - IOM released the following statement from Director General William Lacy Swing to mark International Migrants Day.

[EU Migrant, Refugee Arrivals by Land and Sea Approach One Million in 2015](#)

12/18/15

Greece - IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix reports that a total of 990,671 migrants and refugees have entered Europe in 2015.

[Displacement and Returns Continue in Iraq: IOM](#)

12/18/15

Iraq - The IOM Iraq Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) identifies 3,195,390 internally displaced Iraqis (532,565 families), from 1 Jan 2014 through 3 Dec 2015.

[IOM Monitors Migrant, Refugee Arrivals in Europe](#)

12/15/15

Greece - IOM estimates 45,255 migrants and refugees have reached the Greek islands from Turkey since the beginning of December.

**UN Women** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

[UN Women statement on the municipal elections in Saudi Arabia](#)

Date: 18 December 2015

[UN Women Statement for International Migrants Day](#)

Date: 18 December 2015

[Statement by UN Women Executive Director on the adoption of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#)

Date: 17 December 2015

[Joint Statement by Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and Zainab Hawa Bangura on the signing on 15 December 2015 of the agreement on conflict victims between the Government of Colombia and FARC-EP](#)

Date: 17 December 2015

This statement is attributable to Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, and Zainab Hawa Bangura, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict

[UN Women introduces new policy brief series to pave the way for gender equality and women's rights](#)

Date: 16 December 2015

The UN Women policy brief series synthesizes research findings, analysis and policy recommendations on gender equality and women's rights in an accessible format. The series aims to bridge the research and policy divide by identifying areas that require urgent policy attention and propose a set of suitable measures to address them

[Press release: UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality awards USD 7.3 million for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals](#)

*Fund for Gender Equality's global grant-making portfolio hits 80 Countries in six years*

(New York, 16 December, 2015) — UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality (FGE) today announced USD 7.26 million in grants to 24 innovative programmes across the globe to boost women's economic empowerment and political leadership and participation. The high-impact programmes designed by women-led civil society organizations have been selected to jumpstart the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 28 countries. UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality will provide technical and financial assistance to maximize impact and sustainability of these interventions...

**WHO & Regionals** [to 19 December 2015]

[Health and human rights](#)

Fact sheet N°323

December 2015

Key facts

- :: The WHO Constitution enshrines "...the highest attainable standard of health as a fundamental right of every human being."
- :: The right to health includes access to timely, acceptable, and affordable health care of appropriate quality.
- :: Yet, about 100 million people globally are pushed below the poverty line as a result of health care expenditure ever year.
- :: Vulnerable and marginalized groups in societies tend to bear an undue proportion of health problems.
- :: Universal health coverage is a means to promote the right to health.

[Launch of WHO mobile phone application for nutrition](#)

December 2015 -- Access the latest WHO nutrition guidelines, recommendations and related information for nutrition interventions, wherever you are, with the eLENA (e-Library of Evidence for Nutrition Actions) mobile phone application.

[Global Alert and Response \(GAR\) – Disease Outbreak News \(DONs\)](#)

- :: [17 December 2015](#) Human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus – China
- :: [15 December 2015](#) Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus – Lao People's Democratic Republic
- :: [15 December 2015](#) Microcephaly – Brazil
- :: [15 December 2015](#) Cholera – Democratic Republic of the Congo

[WHO Regional Offices](#)

[WHO African Region](#) AFRO

- :: [The African Programme for Onchocerciasis Control \(APOC\) closes and a new body set up to eliminate Neglected Tropical Diseases](#)

KAMPALA, 17 December 2015:- The African Programme for Onchocerciasis Control (APOC) founded in 1995 has been formally closed and a new entity – the Expanded Special Project for the Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases (ESPEN), with an expanded mandate, proposed to replace it. ESPEN was formally introduced to delegates at the 21st session of the Joint Action Forum (JAF) of the African Programme for Onchocerciasis Control (APOC) that has concluded in Kampala, Uganda.

[WHO Region of the Americas](#) PAHO

No new digest content identified.

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

:: [Make focused, accelerated efforts to prevent, reduce newborn deaths: WHO](#)

SEAR/PR/1617

New Delhi, 14 December 2015: Nearly 7400 new-borns die every day in the WHO South-East Asia Region causing untold misery to mothers and families. Two-thirds of these deaths can be prevented by adopting proven and cost-effective measures, World Health Organization today said seeking focused efforts by governments and partners to prevent newborn deaths with a sense of urgency.

“Scaling up interventions with good quality care around the time of childbirth and during the first days after birth can substantially prevent complications and infections in new-borns, which are the main causes of newborn deaths,” Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia Region, said here as health partners signed a pledge to reduce newborn deaths.

Led by WHO; UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank, UNAIDS and UNWOMEN pledged to jointly support the countries in the Region to prioritize accelerated reduction in newborn deaths by ensuring equitable access to essential life-saving interventions for mothers and babies across the Region...

[WHO European Region](#) EURO

:: [Will there be sufficient health professionals to meet future needs?](#) 18-12-2015

:: [European health report available in French, German and Russian](#) 16-12-2015

[WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region](#) EMRO

:: [WHO: Urgent support needed to provide health services for 15 million people in Yemen](#)

Geneva, 15 December 2015 – WHO and health partners are appealing for US\$ 31 million to ensure the continuity of health services for nearly 15 million people in Yemen affected by the ongoing conflict. Funding is urgently needed as the Yemeni health system has collapsed, leaving millions of vulnerable people without the care and medications they urgently need. Conflict is making the delivery of health services and supplies extremely challenging, health facilities and ambulances have been damaged, and there is a shortage of health workers, limiting access to health care.

[WHO Western Pacific Region](#)

:: [Universal Health Coverage – a Foundation for the Sustainable Development Goals](#)

MANILA, 12 December 2015 – Held every year since 2012 on 12 December, Universal Health Coverage (UHC) day gathers partners globally to reaffirm the urgency for greater action and progress towards UHC. WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific calls for countries to ensure good quality health services are accessible to all as it celebrates UHC Day. Dr. Shin

Young-soo, WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific said, "Every country – no matter how rich or poor – can do something now to improve access to good quality services, to improve financial protection and to improve efficiency."

**UNAIDS** [to 19 December 2015]

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

[UNAIDS strongly backs the Global Fund's call for increased resources to help end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria](#)

18 December 2015

**UNFPA** United Nations Population Fund [to 19 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**UNDP** United Nations Development Programme [to 19 December 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

[Helen Clark: Speech at briefing session ECOSOC Dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system in the context of 2030 Agenda \(phase 2\)](#)

Dec 17, 2015 United Nations, New York

[Helen Clark: Speech at the launch of the 2015 Human Development Report](#)

Dec 14, 2015 UNECA Conference Center - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**UN Division for Sustainable Development** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**UN Statistical Commission :: UN Statistics Division** [to 19 December 2015]

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

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

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

[Results from open consultation on 'grey' indicators are now available](#)

A document containing the inputs provided by the Observers of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and other stakeholders during the open consultation on proposed global SDG Indicators coded as "grey" has been posted online.

[Results from the open consultation on 'green' indicators are now available](#)

A document containing the inputs provided by the Observers of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and other stakeholders during the open consultation on proposed global SDG Indicators coded as "green" has been posted online.

**UNEP** United Nations Environment Programme [to 19 December 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

[New GRASP Partners Increase Asian, African Impact](#)

Two organizations join the Great Apes Survival Partnership

16/12/2015

["Address Challenges and Seize Opportunities of the New World of Work", UNDP Urges](#)

2 billion people lifted out of low human development, in last 25 years, now focus on work is needed to galvanize progress, alerts the 2015 Human Development Report.

15/12/2015

**UNISDR** UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 19 December 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

[Uganda moves on Sendai Framework](#)

Without addressing the growing levels of disaster and climate risk, the Government of Uganda fears that 43% of the population could regress into poverty

16 Dec 2015

[Typhoon early action shows worth](#)

More than 700,000 people in the central Philippines have been evacuated to safety ahead of a powerful typhoon in the latest example of the country's 'early warning early action' approach to protect lives, livelihoods and assets.

15 Dec 2015

**UN DESA** United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 19 December 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

[A new revamped website on social policy and development issues](#)

16 December 2015, New York

The UNDESA's Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) has launched its new and improved website at: <http://social.un.org> or <http://undesadspd.org>

**UNESCO** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

[The role of universities in supporting UNESCO designated sites, beacons of sustainability](#)

18 December 2015

[1954 Convention: New members elected to protect cultural property](#)

18 December 2015

[United Nations General Assembly WSIS+10 High-Level Meeting adopts a milestone outcome document](#)

18 December 2015

[UNESCO calls for change in the way we look at migrants](#)

17 December 2015

[UN General Assembly adopts a new resolution on culture and sustainable development](#)

17 December 2015

[First Global Report - Evaluating the Impact of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions](#)

16 December 2015

[UNESCO Director-General and President Vladimir Putin discuss protection of cultural heritage in conflict zones in Iraq and Syria](#)

15 December 2015

**UNODC** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 19 December 2015]

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

18/12/2015 - [Statement on International Migrants Day](#)

17/12/2015 - [Remarks of UNODC Executive Director, Yury Fedotov, at the United Nations Security Council thematic debate on "Trafficking in Persons in Situations of Conflict: ISIL and Beyond"](#)

15/12/2015 - [Opium production in Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic stabilizes at high levels, says UNODC report](#)

**UN-HABITAT** United Nations Human Settlements Programme [to 19 December 2015]

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

[\[Selected Announcements\]](#)

[Launch of the Cities Alliance Joint Work Program on Resilient Cities](#)

15 Dec 2015, Paris – William Cobbett, Director of Cities Alliance launched the initiative during the United Nations Climate Change Conference – COP21, explaining that the New Cities Alliance Joint Work Program on Resilient Cities brings together expertise...

**FAO** Food & Agriculture Organization [to 19 December 2015]

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

[\[Selected Announcements\]](#)

[Resurgence in global wood production](#)

In 2014, growth in wood products, including industrial roundwood, sawnwood, wood-based panels and pulp and paper, ranged from 1 to 5 percent, surpassing the pre-recession levels of 2007, according to new data published by FAO today. The fastest growth was registered in Asia-Pacific and Latin America and Caribbean.

18-12-2015

[Sustainable farming systems in Bangladesh and Japan receive global recognition](#)

Four new sites have been designated today by FAO as “Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems” for innovation, sustainability and adaptability.

15-12-2015

**IFAD** International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 19 December 2015]

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

18 December 2015

[UN agency to promote profitable rural smallholder enterprises in Paraguay](#)

18 December 2015

[UN agency to help Bolivian government raise economic prosperity in rural areas](#)

18 December 2015

[UN agency invests in linking smallholder farmers to commercial markets in Bhutan](#)

**ILO** International Labour Organization [to 19 December 2015]

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

International Migrants Day

[New ILO figures show 150 million migrants in the global workforce](#)

*A new ILO statistical study provides estimates on labour migration, including regions and industries where international migrant workers are established and a special focus on migrants in domestic work.*

News | 16 December 2015

GENEVA (ILO News) – Migrant workers account for 150.3 million of the world's approximately 232 million international migrants, according to a new study by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The report, [ILO Global Estimates on Migrant Workers](#), shows migrant workers account for 72.7 per cent of the 206.6 million working age migrant population (15 years and over). The majority – 83.7 million – are men, with 66.6 million women migrant workers.

**ICAO** International Civil Aviation Organization [to 19 December 2015]

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

[ICAO Welcomes COP21 Agreement, Will Continue to Provide Leadership and Coordinate Action on International Aviation's Environmental Goals](#)

15/12/15

**IMO** International Maritime Organization [to 19 December 2015]

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

[Full speed ahead with climate-change measures at IMO following Paris Agreement](#)

14/12/2015

IMO welcomes historic achievement of the 2015 Paris Climate Change conference.

**WMO** World Meteorological Organization [to 19 December 2015]

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

[WMO applauds Paris Agreement](#)

[15 December 2015](#)

The World Meteorological Organization strongly commends the world's Governments for adopting the Paris Agreement last Saturday – and salutes the scientists whose work convinced the international community of the need for urgent action on climate change.

"The Paris Agreement is a diplomatic triumph that reconfirms the invaluable role played by the United Nations in promoting global cooperation and action on humanity's most pressing challenges," said WMO Secretary-General Michel Jarraud. "This Agreement will serve as an essential tool for guiding and motivating action by local and national Governments, businesses, and civil society. The hard work of translating the written text into real actions begins now."

[Historic Paris Agreement on Climate Change](#)

[14 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.

**UNIDO** United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 19 December 2015]

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

[website not responding at inquiry]

**UNWTO** World Tourism Organization [to 19 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**ITU** International Telecommunications Union [to 19 December 2015]

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

[ITU members agree international standard for Big Data](#)

*Building on cloud computing to provide Big Data services*

Geneva, 18 December 2015 – ITU members have approved the first ITU standard on Big Data. The international standard details the requirements, capabilities and use cases of cloud-based Big Data as well a high-level 'system context' view and its relationships with other entities. The Big Data paradigm provides an effective, scalable solution to deal with growing volumes of data and uncover patterns or other information capable of making data manageable and profitable.

Advances in information and communication technology (ICT) are enabling masses of data to be generated, transmitted and stored, and this explosive growth is increasing in pace. Datasets

have become so large and complex, and are generated so fast, that traditional approaches to data processing are proving inadequate. Achieving efficient analysis of data within required timeframes is a significant challenge, one that industry will address using technologies in the field of Big Data.

The new standard, Recommendation ITU-T Y.3600 "Big data – cloud computing based requirements and capabilities", was developed by ITU-T's expert group responsible for future networks, cloud computing and network aspects of mobile communications, ITU-T Study Group 13.

### [Expert group identifies emerging demands of '5G' to fuel ITU standardization](#)

#### *Open-source communities to join ITU study of networking innovations*

Geneva, 17 December – The ITU-T Focus Group on network aspects of IMT-2020 ('5G') has received an extension to its lifetime, with a mandate to undertake in-depth studies into areas such as 'network softwarization' and slicing, emerging networking technologies, mobile backhaul and fronthaul, and end-to-end quality of service (QoS). New Terms of Reference call for the group to engage open-source communities, influencing and taking advantage of their work by introducing them to the challenges that telecoms players must overcome in the development of the 5G ecosystem.

The Focus Group's vision of the 5G era is of a highly dynamic information and communication technology (ICT) industry characterized by the entrance of new players to the networking business and new opportunities for telecoms companies. The approach to year 2020 will play host to the emergence of new business models capitalizing on the transformative effects of softwarization and the associated convergence of open-source and telecoms communities...

### [Partners launch action plan to close digital gender gap](#)

#### *Women's participation in digital society integral to achieving Agenda 2030*

New York, 15 December 2015 – An ['Action Plan to Close the Digital Gender Gap'](#) was launched today at a side event on "Women's Empowerment in the Digital Age" during the High-Level Meeting of the World Summit of the Information Society currently taking place in New York (WSIS+10). It was co-organized by ITU and the governments of Costa Rica, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia and the United States, together with UN Women, Microsoft, Mozilla and the Association for Progressive Communication.

The Action Plan sets out a framework for critical actions to foster and accelerate inclusive and sustainable development by closing the digital gender gap and harness the transformative potential of ICTs for women's empowerment. Women's equal and meaningful participation in the digital society is seen as both integral to the realization of women's rights in the 21st century, as well as the realization of a just, inclusive and rights-based information society aimed at achieving global objectives around gender equality and women's empowerment by 2030...

### [Top UN Board supports ongoing implementation of World Summit on the Information Society \(WSIS\) process](#)

#### *Role of ICTs seen as critical in achieving sustainable development goals*

New York, 15 December 2015 – The United Nations Chief Executives Board (CEB), comprising of heads of UN agencies, today issued its resounding support for the WSIS process. In particular, they endorsed the pivotal role of ICTs in driving progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In a joint statement to the United Nations General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+10), the CEB drew a

direct relationship between the WSIS process and the “momentous” adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It reaffirmed the important role of information and communication technologies (ICT) as a critical enabler for advancing the globally agreed development goals...

**WIPO** World Intellectual Property Organization [to 19 December 2015]

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

[Global Patent Filings Rise in 2014 for Fifth Straight Year; China Driving Growth](#)

Innovators filed some 2.7 million patent applications to mark another worldwide annual rise in 2014, as application activity in China outstripped the combined total in its next-closest followers, the United States and Japan.

Dec 14, 2015 [PR/2015/786](#)

**CBD** Convention on Biological Diversity [to 19 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

:::::

**US Department of State** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*Selected Announcements*

12/18/15

[International Migrants Day](#); Secretary of State John Kerry; Washington, DC

12/18/15

[Remarks at the United Nations Security Council Meeting on Syria](#); Secretary of State John Kerry; New York, NY

12/16/15

[U.S. Department of State Partners With International Council of Museums To Fight Illicit Traffic of Libyan Cultural Heritage](#); Office of the Spokesperson; Washington, DC

**USAID** [to 19 December 2015]

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

[United States Announces \\$88 Million in Humanitarian Aid for Ethiopia](#)

December 18, 2015

*New aid will address the humanitarian crisis and the impact of El Niño*

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced an additional \$88 million in humanitarian assistance for Ethiopia today to address the humanitarian crisis resulting from the impacts of the El Niño phenomenon. The additional aid brings the total U.S. humanitarian assistance for Ethiopia to more than \$435 million since the start of fiscal year 2015 and increases funding for nutrition, water, food, sanitation, and hygiene support.

[USAID Awards \\$5 Million to Off Grid Electric](#)

December 17, 2015

*Funding Will Help Start-Up Reach One Million Homes in Tanzania*

The U.S. Agency for International Development's U.S. Global Development Lab today announced \$5 million in follow-on funding to Off Grid Electric. The award, funded through the Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) program, will allow Off Grid Electric to test its model at scale and catalyze additional investments to reach more than one million households.

[The U.S. Announces \\$173 Million in Additional Emergency Food Assistance for South Sudan](#)

December 15, 2015

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is providing an additional \$173 million in lifesaving emergency food assistance for those suffering from hunger as a result of the conflict that broke out in South Sudan two years ago.

**DFID** [to 19 December 2015]

<https://www.gov.uk/government/announcements>

[PM: Government has met commitment to resettle 1,000 refugees by Christmas](#)

16 December 2015 DFID and Number 10 Press release

["80% of people with disabilities live in developing countries. And the barriers that people face aren't just physical"](#)

15 December 2015 DFID Speech

["By working together will we be able to ensure that we leave no one behind"](#)

15 December 2015 DFID Speech

[Integrating East Africa: progress, challenges and future prospects.](#)

15 December 2015 DFID and FCO Speech

**ECHO** [to 19 December 2015]

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

[EU provides €5 million in humanitarian aid for the Burundian crisis](#)

17/12/2015

The European Commission has today released €5 million in new humanitarian assistance to help the increasing number of Burundians affected by the ongoing instability in the country.

[Commission adopts record humanitarian budget amid increasing global needs](#)

16/12/2015

The European Commission has adopted its humanitarian aid budget for 2016. With nearly €1.1 billion as an initial allocation, it is the highest budget for life-saving relief in man-made and natural disasters to date.

::::::

**African Union** [to 19 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]*

*No new digest content identified.*

**The African Development Bank Group** [to 19 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]*

[Egypt, the new chair of the ADEA steering committee and STC-EST bureau for the next 2 years](#)

18/12/2015 - Egypt's Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Ashraf El-Shihy, has been elected, Chair of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) Steering Committee (SC). He replaces the former Chairperson, Cameroon's Minister of Education Alim Youssouf Hadidja.

[AfDB approves regional hydropower PPP to increase electricity supply and integration in Burundi, DRC, Rwanda](#)

18/12/2015 - The African Development Bank Group approved today USD 138 million of loans and grants toward a project which will help develop the energy sector in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda through the construction of the Ruzizi III Hydropower Plant and associated transmission line. The project is expected to increase electricity trading between the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (ECGLC) through the supply of reliable and sustainable clean energy.

[The African Development Fund Board injects USD 21 million to finance Mozambique's economic governance and inclusive growth program Phase II](#)

18/12/2015 - The Board of Directors of the African Development Fund (ADF) on 15th December 2015 approved a grant worth USD 21 million to finance Mozambique's Economic Governance and Inclusive Growth Program Phase II (EGIGP).

[AfDB invests in Women-owned SMEs in Africa through Alitheia Identity Fund \(AIF\)](#)

18/12/2015 - The Bank Group's (AfDB) Board of Directors, met on December 17, 2015 in Abidjan, and approved USD 12.5 million equity investment in Alitheia Identity Fund (AIF or the Fund).

[Inaugural conference discusses the role of research in transforming Africa's agriculture](#)

17/12/2015 - The African Development Bank (AfDB) with its partners held an inaugural two-day conference to discuss the continent's agricultural potential and how to address constraints that continue to hamper the sector's performance.

[AfDB, Egypt ink US \\$500-million loan agreement to support the country's ongoing reforms](#)

17/12/2015 - The African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Government of Egypt have signed on Thursday, December 17 a loan agreement of US \$500 million aimed at supporting the Government's ongoing bold economic reform program and sustaining strong economic growth.

[COP21: AfDB joins Inclusive Green Growth Partnership to accelerate financing of green growth projects](#)

17/12/2015 - The African Development Bank announced on Thursday, December 17 that it has joined the Inclusive Green Growth Partnership, a new collaboration between the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), multilateral development banks and United Nations agencies to

address policy barriers and promote social inclusion at the country level to accelerate financing for green growth projects. The Partnership was launched during the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris (COP21).

[Egypt: AfDB Board approves 2015/16-2019/20 Country Strategy Paper and US \\$500-million loan for Economic Governance and Energy Support Program](#)

17/12/2015 - The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) approved on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 in Abidjan the Country Strategy Paper (CSP) of the Arab Republic of Egypt for 2015/16-2019/20. The Board also approved a US \$500 million loan entitled the Economic Governance and Energy Support Program (EGESP).

["Violence against women and girls harms the development of Africa": AfDB concludes 16 days of activism](#)

17/12/2015 - The Office of the Special Envoy on Gender of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) concluded its campaign to mark 16 days of activism in solidarity with the UN's UNiTE "Orange the World: End all Violence against Women and Girls". From November 25 to December 10, the AfDB ran a sensitization campaign at its headquarters in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, and across its 35 field offices in Africa.

**Asian Development Bank** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*News*

16 Dec 2015 | News Release

[ADB Approves Reforms Package to Speed Loan Delivery, Enhance Operational Efficiency](#)

15 Dec 2015 | News Release

[TAPI Shareholders Agreement Signed at Groundbreaking Ceremony](#)

MARY, TURKMENISTAN – The shareholders of TAPI Pipeline Company Limited have signed the Shareholders Agreement at a groundbreaking ceremony here to commemorate the beginning of construction of the Turkmen portion of the planned 1,800 km Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) natural gas pipeline project.

14 Dec 2015 | News Release

[Statement by ADB President Takehiko Nakao Following the Conclusion of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change COP21 Meeting in Paris](#)

**Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**ASEAN** Association of Southeast Asian Nations [to 19 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.]*

*No new digest content identified.*

**European Union** [to 19 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]*

[Joint Statement on the International Migrants' Day](#)

Date: 18/12/2015

European Commission - Statement Brussels, 18 December 2015 Today the European Union recognises the 232 million international migrants worldwide. More people than at any other time have left their homes, either to seek refuge and safety from war and persecution or to escape poverty and find secure livelihoods elsewhere.

[EU provides €5 million in humanitarian aid for the Burundian crisis](#)  

Date: 17/12/2015

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 17 December 2015 Over 220 000 people are now estimated to have fled the country. The European Commission has today released €5 million in new humanitarian assistance to help the increasing number of Burundians affected by the ongoing instability in the country.

[State of Play: Measures to Address the Refugee Crisis](#) 

Date: 17/12/2015

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 17 December 2015 State of Play: Measures to Address the Refugee Crisis Updated on 17 December The European Agenda on Migration adopted by the Commission in May 2015 set out the need for a comprehensive approach to migration management.

**OECD** [to 19 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]*

*No new digest content identified.*

**Organization of American States (OAS)** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** [to 19 December 2015]

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

[OIC Welcomes the Unveiling of an Islamic Alliance to Combat Terrorism](#)

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has assured its support for all international and regional efforts aimed at combating terrorism, and renewed its solidarity with all initiatives aimed at achieving security and peace in the Member States and the entire world to serve the interests of the people and to support stability...

...Madani pointed out that the increase in terrorist crimes confers upon Member States a historic responsibility and makes it imperative to intensify joint action to deal with this

phenomenon in all its dimensions.

In this regard, Madani welcomed the announcement of an Islamic Coalition to combat terrorism which brings together several OIC Member States. He underscored the unwavering position of the OIC that terrorism has no religion or identity, and must take into account, in addition to security and military considerations, the political, social and economic contexts that provide favorable conditions for the spread of terrorism and violent extremism such as economic deprivation, exclusion, devastation, marginalization, forced disintegration of political, legal, social and cultural institutions. It is also important to examine the underlying reasons behind sectarian violence and attempts to politicize denominational differences and to focus on sectarian affiliation as a core identity, as well as the infiltration by third parties into terrorist and extremist groups in order to serve their own political agendas, he added.

15/12/2015

### **Group of 77** [to 19 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 19 December 2015]

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

17 Dec 2015 - [Business potential of smallholder farmers must be unleashed for sustainable development, report says](#)

17 Dec 2015 - [Technology is key driver of development, United Nations General Assembly hears at high-level meeting](#)

16 Dec 2015 - [African countries export just 0.3 per cent of world's high-tech products](#)

15 Dec 2015 - [Expanded list of duty-free technology products to boost international trade and development, research reveals](#)

### **World Trade Organisation** [to 19 December 2015]

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

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

[Azevêdo welcomes efforts to help implement Trade Facilitation Agreement](#)

Director-General Roberto Azevêdo welcomed on 17 December the pledges made by governments and private sector entities to help developing and least-developed countries implement the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), declaring efforts to provide support have "got off to a good start".

[WTO trade facilitation in action — launch of Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation: Speech by Director-General Roberto Azevêdo](#)

Speech

### [WTO members conclude landmark \\$1.3 trillion IT trade deal](#)

WTO members representing major exporters of information technology products agreed today (16 December) at the WTO's Tenth Ministerial Conference, in Nairobi, on the timetable for implementing a landmark deal to eliminate tariffs on 201 IT products valued at over \$1.3 trillion per year.

### **IMF** [to 19 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 19 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]*

#### [International Migration at All-Time High](#)

WASHINGTON, December 18, 2015 – The number of international migrants is expected to surpass 250 million this year, an all-time high, as people search for economic opportunity. And, fast growing developing...

Date: December 18, 2015 Type: Press Release Language: English

#### [Op-Ed by World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim: Climate Action After Paris](#)

At the United Nations climate conference in Paris, courageous and visionary leaders recognized that people rarely change the world when they work within the constraints of what they think is possible....

Date: December 17, 2015 Type: Opinion Language: English

#### [Uniting Behind Universal Health Coverage](#)

Conference on Universal Health Coverage in the New Development Era:Toward Building Resilient Health SystemsWorld Bank Group President Jim Yong KimTokyo, Japan December 16, 2015 Good morning. I'm extremely...

Date: December 16, 2015 Type: Speeches and Transcripts Language: English

#### [Despite \\$28 Billion Drop in Global Private Infrastructure Investment in Energy, Transport, and Water, Strong Showing of Renewable Energy Projects](#)

WASHINGTON, December 15, 2015—Despite a sharp decline in private investment in energy, transport, and water infrastructure in developing countries in the first six months of 2015, investment in renewable...

Date: December 15, 2015 Type: Press Release Language: English

#### [World Bank Approves US\\$1.5 Billion to Support India's Universal Sanitation Initiatives](#)

*More than 500 million rural people to gain access to toilets and other sanitation facilities with a focus on behavior change*

WASHINGTON, December 15, 2015 - The World Bank today approved a US\$1.5 billion loan for the [Swachh Bharat Mission \(SBM\) Support Operation Project](#) to support the Government of India in its efforts to ensure all citizens in rural areas have access to improved sanitation – such as a toilet or latrine with a focus on changing behaviors – in ending the practice of open defecation by 2019.

Specifically, this project will support the rural component, known as SBM – Gramin (SBM-G), over a five-year period using a new performance-based program which links funds directly to results, ensuring that benefits are delivered to the people in need – more than 60 percent of India's rural population.

Today, of the 2.4 billion people who lack access to improved sanitation globally, more than 750 million live in India, with 80 percent living in rural areas. More than 500 million of the rural population in India continue to defecate in the open, suffering from preventable deaths, illness, stunting, harassment and economic losses.

The SBM-G program focuses on ensuring usage of toilets along with their construction. States and their implementing agencies will be given incentives for meeting performance standards. Performance will be measured against the states' ability to reduce open defecation, sustaining their open defecation free (ODF) status and improving solid and liquid waste management in rural areas. The financing mechanism promotes the leadership of the states, which will have flexibility in innovating and adopting their own delivery models...

Date: December 15, 2015 Type: Press Release Language: English

#### [Call for Ideas to Improve Development Response for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons](#)

WASHINGTON, December 14, 2015 — As the number of refugees and internally displaced persons fleeing conflict, violence and persecution reaches historic highs, the World Bank's [Global Program on Forced Displacement \(GPFD\)](#) is calling for proposals for innovative and transformational ideas that can improve the development response to forced displacement. Displacement tends to be protracted, and development programs in origin, host, transit, and destination countries are urgently needed to complement humanitarian assistance.

Innovative ideas may include analytical work, use of new technologies, or development projects. Many such ideas are often at the inception stage, requiring further work to be sufficiently detailed and specific for donors or investors to support them. GPFD will provide up to \$40,000 for selected teams to develop their idea into a full concept note which would meet World Bank Group standards. The deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest is January 24, 2016...

Date: December 14, 2015 Type: Press Release Language: English

#### **IPU Inter-Parliamentary Union** [to 19 December 2015]

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

#### [IPU gravely concerned over Burundi crisis](#)

17 DECEMBER 2015

The Inter-Parliamentary Union is gravely concerned about the worsening violence in Burundi, which has left hundreds of people dead and has forced hundreds of thousands to flee their homes. IPU is urging the authorities to do their duty to protect human life and prevent further bloodshed. The Organization has made clear its readiness to work with the Parliament of Burundi to foster inclusive dialogue. It has urged Parliament to ensure it is part of the solution and not part of the problem. IPU has been particularly concerned by reports of incitement to violence against the opposition, especially the bloody confrontation during the weekend of 12 –

13 December. IPU Secretary General Martin Chungong said urgent work was needed to heal Burundi's divisions before the situation deteriorated further. "It is not too late to prevent this unfolding tragedy becoming a catastrophe if all those in positions of leadership and authority commit themselves to a swift return to peace and security for all citizens," he said. "We urge the Parliament of Burundi and its members to place themselves at the heart of this process of peacemaking and dialogue, and to lead by example at this critical point in their country's history. "MPs have a unique position as influencers of opinion and representatives of all sectors of society, and that influence must be used for peace. The importance of finding a resolution to this crisis cannot be overstated," Secretary General Chungong added.

### [IPU hails progress on women Speakers](#)

16 DECEMBER 2015

IPU has welcomed a series of breakthroughs for female MPs who have become Speakers or Deputy Speakers of parliament. Dr Amal Al Qubaisi is the first female Speaker of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Parliament and the first woman to hold the position in any Arab national parliament. Dr Al Qubaisi is a long-standing major contributor to IPU's work, particularly on gender, youth and peace issues. In neighbouring Oman, another milestone was reached when Dr Suad Mohammed Al Lawatiar became the first female Deputy Speaker after a vote by members of the State Council. In another first, Margaret Mensah-Williams, President of IPU's Coordinating Committee of Women MPs, was named as Speaker of Namibia's upper house of parliament, the National Council. She is the first woman to hold the post. Her election takes the global total of women Speakers of Parliament in the world to 49, representing close to 18 per cent of all Speakers, according to [IPU figures](#). Mensah-Williams has demonstrated strong leadership in combating violence against women, boosting women's rights and empowering women, and has for many years played an active and leading role in IPU's work.

### [Burkina Faso law to tackle violence against women and girls](#)

16 DECEMBER 2015

The brief coup in Burkina Faso has not halted progress to democracy and legal reforms, including the new law on violence against women. ©AFP/NurPhoto/Arne Gillis

IPU has welcomed a new law aimed at combating violence against women and girls, passed by the National Transitional Council in Burkina Faso before the recent crisis. The legislation outlaws all forms of violence against women, including physical, sexual, psychological, economic and cultural, and provides for systems to support and protect victims. Courts will have the power to jail or fine perpetrators. IPU has been working for a number of years to support MPs and civil society in Burkina Faso in their efforts to combat violence against women, including in raising awareness and providing expertise on legal reforms. More than a third of the country's female population are believed to experience physical violence, most of it committed by spouses or other family members. Many girls are married before the age of 18, some still undergo FGM (female genital mutilation) and a significant number of elderly or widowed women are victims of mistreatment and exclusion.

### [Uganda MPs focus on next steps on health](#)

16 DECEMBER 2015

The Ugandan Parliament has begun setting its priorities for improving women's, children's and adolescents' health after reviewing its 2012-2015 parliamentary advocacy strategy. The issues identified to carry forward include seeking a clause in the constitution on the right to healthcare for women, children and adolescents; tabling bills on health and a national health

insurance scheme; taking more steps to improve birth registration; and trying to ensure the recruitment of extra health practitioners, especially in rural areas. Launching the review process, Speaker of Parliament Rebecca Kadaga praised MPs and others who had contributed to the progress already made. "I want to thank the partners for all the support rendered to us for advocacy; I also thank the IPU for its support." she said, adding that maternal health had been given the importance it deserved. Since the launch of the strategy, progress has been made on drafting bills on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) and national health insurance, birth registration and on efforts to ensure budgetary allocation for health is increased to 15 per cent. IPU has fully supported Uganda in its efforts to improve MNCH, including accelerating the reduction in maternal and newborn death rates. Uganda's advocacy strategy was developed after the adoption of IPU's landmark resolution on Access to Health as a basic Right: The role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to securing the health of women and children (PDF) at its 126th Assembly in Kampala in 2012.

### **International Criminal Court (ICC)** [to 19 December 2015]

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

[Statement to the United Nations Security Council on the Situation in Darfur, pursuant to UNSCR 1593 \(2005\)](#)

15/12/2015

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

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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 19 December 2015]

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

[Amref Health Africa and Busia County Government sign agreement for Digital Health Villages](#)

Published: 16 December 2015 Marie Kinyanjui

Amref Health Africa in Kenya and Samsung have launched a one-of-a-kind project in Busia County that will see the establishment and installation of a Digital Health Village – a solution that will use solar power to improve the lives of the county's residents.

### **KISSMEE – Teaching Middle-Class Women How to Breastfeed**

Published: 16 December 2015 Marie Kinyanjui

New programme seeks to improve nutrition of mothers and their babies through training and support.

**Scholarships for the Midwifery Symposium 2016**

Published: 14 December 2015 Marie Kinyanjui

UNFPA, the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), WHO, Jhpiego, Johnson and Johnson, Laerdal Global Health, Amref Health Africa and other collaborating multilateral, civil society and private sector partners are now accepting applications for 30 scholarships for the upcoming Midwifery Symposium 2016; "Young Midwives in the Lead", 14-16 May, 2016, and the Women Deliver conference 16-19 May 2016, in Copenhagen, Denmark.

**Aravind Eye Care System** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**BRAC** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**CARE International** [to 19 December 2015]

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

[Critical moment to avoid massive malnutrition in Ethiopia with more than 10 million people in need of food assistance](#)

ETHIOPIA

14 DECEMBER 2015

"Right now families in drought-stricken areas are about to exhaust all available resources to cope with the scarcity of food and water. There is no time to lose in ensuring that they get the assistance they need before it is too late," says Garth Van't Hul, CARE's country director in Ethiopia.

**Casa Alianza** [to 19 December 2015]

**Covenant House** [to 19 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 19 December 2015]

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

## [Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs Visits Kakuma Refugee Camp](#)

17.12.15

The Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs Kristian Jensen visited Kakuma refugee camp on 16 December 2015. During the visit, the Minister and his delegation got an opportunity to visit a number of programmes being carried out by various humanitarian agencies including the Danish Refugee Council's (DRC) upcoming youth centre for refugees in Kakuma 4 camp.

## [Understanding and Addressing Root Causes of Displacement](#)

15.12.15

This year's High Commissioner (UNHCR) Dialogue on Protection Challenges seeks to better understand and address the root causes of forced displacement. The Danish Refugee Council is participating in the Protection Dialogue on root causes. Read our position paper towards this understanding here.

:: [Read the DRC perspective here](#)

## **ECPAT** [to 19 December 2015]

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

### [NEW RESEARCH: Piracy Website Advertising in Brazil and its Linkages to Child Exploitation Material](#)

Posted on 12/18/2015, 11:44

A study released today shows that piracy websites visited by Brazilian children and young people are filled with "high risk" advertisements marketing child pornography, prostitution, gambling and data theft.

The study was carried out for ECPAT International by Dr. Paul Watters, Professor of Information Technology at the University of Massey in New Zealand, an author of several studies on this topic in different parts of the world.

English: [http://ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Piracy%20Website%20Advertising%20in%20Brazil\\_ENG.pdf](http://ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Piracy%20Website%20Advertising%20in%20Brazil_ENG.pdf)

Portuguese: [http://ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Piracy%20Website%20Advertising%20in%20Brazil\\_PORTUGUESE.pdf](http://ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Piracy%20Website%20Advertising%20in%20Brazil_PORTUGUESE.pdf)

## **Fountain House** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

## **Handicap International** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

## **Heifer International** [to 19 December 2015]

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

[Heifer International Weekly](#)

Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2015

**HelpAge International** [to 19 December 2015]

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

[New Tanzanian ministry for older people is a positive step, says HelpAge International](#)

Older people in Tanzania are to have a specific ministry devoted to their welfare for the first time in the country's history.

Posted: 16 December 2015

**IRC International Rescue Committee** [to 19 December 2015]

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

[The difficult questions Syrian children ask their parents about the escape to Europe — latest Medium post](#)

Posted by The IRC on December 17, 2015

Forcibly uprooted from their homes, millions of Syrian children are growing up knowing nothing but war and terror. The IRC spoke with six families on the Greek island of Lesbos about the difficult questions their children ask about their escape to Europe.

[A warm, safe welcome for refugees landing on Lesbos](#)

Posted by The IRC on December 17, 2015

The IRC is preparing to open a reception center in northern Lesbos, often the first stop for thousands of exhausted refugees seeking safety in Europe

**ICRC** [to 19 December 2015]

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

[New member of ICRC appointed](#)

News release

17 December 2015

Geneva (ICRC) – The Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), has appointed Laura Sadis as its newest member.

Ms Sadis, from Lugano in Switzerland, is a chartered tax adviser and holds a degree in political economy from the University of Zurich...

[Strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, 2015](#)

United Nations, General Assembly, 70th session, Plenary, statement by the ICRC, New York, 10 December 2015. First, in an exceptional joint press conference held on 30 October, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon and ICRC President Peter Mau

17-12-2015 | Statement

[Syria: 60,000 people given aid in Homs after ceasefire agreement](#)

The ICRC and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) have started to deliver food and other aid to thousands of people in the Al-Waer district of Homs after a ceasefire agreement was reached between the Government of Syria and armed opposition groups.

16-12-2015 | News release

[Lebanon: ICRC and UNRWA join forces again to help Palestine refugees](#)

Beirut – Particularly vulnerable Palestine refugees from Syria in Lebanon will receive assistance to cope with the coming winter through a programme launched by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).  
16-12-2015 | News release

[\*\*Report: Sexual violence in armed conflict: Underlying causes and prevention strategies\*\*](#)

Building on the previous panel discussion "Responding to sexual violence in conflict: can we do better?", the ICRC and the Geneva Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action (CERAH) convened a follow-up livestreamed conference on 12 November...  
16-12-2015 | Report

[\*\*Nagorno Karabakh: ICRC submits updated list of missing persons\*\*](#)

More than 20 years after the ceasefire agreement, families still do not know what happened to relatives who went missing during the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.  
15-12-2015 | News release

**IRCT** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*News*

[\*\*IRCT calls on Morocco to release Ali Aarrass' medical documents\*\*](#)

17 December 2015

**Islamic Relief** [to 19 December 2015]

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

[\*\*Migrant: what's in a name\*\*](#)

December 18, 2015

*There are many reasons for someone to leave their home.*

It could be because of conflict, crippling economic poverty, wellbeing; perhaps the ground has become too dry to farm and they have nothing to eat, maybe a natural disaster has destroyed their home, possibly they are want a better life for their children.

A migrant is simply a person who moves from one place to another in order. Within the term 'migrant', are asylum seekers, refugees or internally-displaced people, as well as migrant workers. While Islam has no linguistic differentiation between these terms, international law makes the distinction. Those who flee their home country become refugees or asylum seekers, while those who stay in their country are referred to as internally-displaced people, or IDPs.

For International Migrants Day, Islamic Relief is examining the situation of people who remain within their country's borders.

Currently, there are around 38 million IDPs in the world, compared to 19.8 million refugees...

**MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*Field news*

[\*\*Kenya: Cholera Outbreak Spreads to Dadaab Refugee Camp\*\*](#)

December 17, 2015

A [cholera](#) epidemic that has been spreading in [Kenya](#) for over a year has now hit the Dadaab refugee camp complex, on the border with Somalia. So far around 541 people have reportedly been affected, the majority of whom are living in Dagahaley camp.

*Field news*

[Deadly Shipwreck Highlights Need for Safe Passage Into Europe](#)

December 17, 2015

A boat carrying about 85 people capsized off the northern coast of Lesbos, Greece, yesterday, causing at least two deaths, said the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), which rescued survivors through a joint effort with Greenpeace.

**Mercy Corps** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Operation Smile** [to 19 December 2015]

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

:: [Program Schedule](#)

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

**OXFAM** [to 19 December 2015]

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

[Two years on: Flawed peace deal in South Sudan leads to continued suffering](#)

14 December 2015

On the second anniversary of the start of the conflict in South Sudan, civilians are paying the price of the warring parties' failure to implement the peace agreement signed in August. Two years on, out of 32 key requirements that should have already been implemented as part of the deal only three have been fully accomplished. Fighting continues despite the ceasefire, with civilians being targeted and new battle lines being drawn in less affected areas.

**Norwegian Refugee Council** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*Ethiopia*

[Ethiopia hit by the worst drought in decades](#)

Patrik Ekløf (18.12.2015)

"The longer it takes for the humanitarian assistance to reach the people in need, the larger the impact of the drought will have in the worst affected areas of Ethiopia and the region", says Deputy Secretary General Geir Olav Lisle. He has just returned from a visit to the Sitti Zone in the north-eastern part of the Somali region of Ethiopia.

Key issues:

:: 10.2 million people in need of humanitarian food assistance

:: 435,000 children severely acute malnourished  
:: 1.4 billion USD humanitarian appeal for 2016 launched

**Pact** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases, Blog Posts*

December 18, 2015

[\*\*Pact creates new unit to connect with social enterprise investments\*\*](#)

Last month, Pact's Board of Directors approved a strategic investment in innovative funding mechanisms through the creation of a new business unit called Pact Ventures.

Pact works in more than 30 countries around the world to help people and communities build their capacity to generate income, improve access to quality health services, and gain lasting benefit from the sustainable use of the natural resources around them. To date, that work has been funded by international donors through grants and cooperative agreements. However, as traditional donor funding has stagnated, Pact, like many of its international NGO peers, has begun to look to the growth of impact investing, which seeks to create both social and financial returns, as a potential new way to further its work and increase its impact.

Pact created Pact Ventures as an intentional and strategic response to this emerging opportunity. Pact Ventures is charged with creating partnerships with the private sector, both traditional corporations and the fast-growing landscape of social enterprises and impact investors, to create new endeavors that connect the best contributions of cross-sector actors while advancing Pact's social mission at scale. Pact Ventures will build on Pact's global assets to add resources and innovative new business models in the geographies and technical areas where Pact is strongest...

**Partners In Health** [to 19 December 2015]

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

[\*\*Small Team, Big Impact: 15 Years of Better Care for Russian TB Patients\*\*](#)

Posted on December 18, 2015

**PATH** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*Announcement | December 18, 2015*

[\*\*PATH announces call for applications to organize regional caucuses at the Women Deliver 4th Global Conference\*\*](#)

Regional caucuses will bring together diverse stakeholders to identify ways to advance global goals for women and girls

**Plan International** [to 19 December 2015]

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

[\*\*Plan International Begins Delivering Emergency Aid in Areas Hit By Typhoon Melor\*\*](#)

16 December 2015

Humanitarian response teams from child rights organization Plan International have begun arriving in communities severely affected by this week's Typhoon Melor in The Philippines and are preparing to distribute aid to families in urgent need.

**Save The Children** [to 19 December 2015]

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

[Congressional Appropriations Bill A Victory for Kids](#)

Washington, D.C. (December 18, 2015) — Save the Children and Save the Children Action Network (SCAN) today commended the passage of the Fiscal Year 2016 (FY 16) Omnibus Appropriations bill, which calls for increased investments for children around the world.

The spending bill, passed by the House and the Senate today and expected to be signed into law by President Obama, increases funding for maternal and child health and nutrition while prioritizing early childhood education programs, such as Preschool Development Grants, Head Start and other early learning programs.

[Ethiopia Drought: Schools Closing, Livestock Dying, and Wells Drying Up](#)

December 18, 2015

[Save the Children and 100 Resilient Cities to Focus on Children in Resilience-Building Efforts](#)

FAIRFIELD, Conn. (Dec. 16, 2015)— [100 Resilient Cities— Pioneered by The Rockefeller Foundation](#) (100RC) today announced a partnership with Save the Children, which will offer critical resilience building support to 100RC's member cities initially in Asia. Through the partnership, Save the Children will work on an individual basis with 100RC member cities to build custom approaches to develop early childhood education services, improve children's health and nutrition, address child poverty and ensure children's rights. The partnership will bring tactical support to cities, enabling them to create new programs or expand efforts in member cities through Asia.

Save the Children joins a prestigious group of other 100RC "Platform Partners" that have committed to helping cities around the world prepare for, withstand, and bounce back from the 'shocks' – catastrophic events like hurricanes, fires, and floods – and 'stresses' – slow-moving disasters like water shortages, homelessness, and unemployment – which are increasingly part of 21st Century life. The Platform Partners are a vital component of 100RC's efforts, both providing cities with tools they need to build resilience and influencing the market as other resilience tools are developed...

**SOS-Kinderdorf International** [to 19 December 2015]

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

[Caring for refugee children and restoring their rights](#)

02.12.2015 - SOS Children's Villages International calls on authorities to fulfil the rights of refugee and migrant children by increasing safe and legal ways for children and their families to come to Europe, ensuring dignified and humane reception facilities, not detaining children, and helping families stay together.

**Tostan** [to 19 December 2015]

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

December 16, 2015

[Conflict Resolution at the Domestic and Community-Level: The Men and Women of the Gambia Show Us How It's Done](#)

Sona Jatta is a native of Njum Bakary in the Upper River Region (URR) of The Gambia. She is part of the Tostan program as a member of the Community Management Committee (CMC) ...

**Women for Women International** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

:::::

**ChildFund Alliance** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**CONCORD** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*European NGO confederation for relief and development*

*No new digest content identified.*

**Disasters Emergency Committee** [to 19 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 19 December 2015]

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

*Guest blog William French 15 December 2015*

[As COP21 ends, the fight for responsible politics begins](#)

Our Head of International Media William French returns from a successful COP21 and argues that politicians and the press need to talk honestly about the tough choices ahead to make the global climate deal work.

*Opinion Mary Robinson 14 December 2015*

[Paris agreement gives us momentum to build on](#)

At the successful conclusion of the COP21 climate summit, Mary Robinson welcomes the new Paris Agreement, giving the world the opportunity to create a sustainable future.

*Opinion Mary Robinson, Kofi Annan 13 December 2015*

[An agreement for humanity: the Elders welcome COP21 climate deal](#)

The Elders congratulate the signatories of the COP21 climate deal in Paris for reaching “an agreement for humanity” which, if implemented fully and in good faith, could herald a turning point in the fight against climate change, poverty and injustice.

**END Fund** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Gavi** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Global Fund** [to 19 December 2015]

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

[Global Fund Outlines Investment Case to End Epidemics](#)

17 December 2015

TOKYO - The Global Fund today presented its investment case for raising US\$13 billion for its next three-year cycle of funding, outlining how partners in global health can contribute to ending HIV, tuberculosis and malaria as epidemics by 2030.

A US\$13 billion investment for the 2017-2019 funding cycle would save up to eight million lives, avert up to 300 million infections and new cases of HIV, TB and malaria, and lay the groundwork for potential economic gains of up to US\$290 billion in the years ahead. Strong investment in global health can significantly bolster international stability and security, while creating greater opportunity, prosperity, and well-being.

The Investment Case was reviewed and discussed by global health leaders at the Preparatory Meeting of the Global Fund Fifth Replenishment in Tokyo, hosted by the Government of Japan in conjunction with an international conference on universal health coverage...

...Programs supported by the Global Fund saved 17 million lives by the end of 2014. By leveraging advances in science and applying innovative solutions, the partnership is on track to reach 22 million lives saved by the end of 2016, the eve of a new Replenishment period. Every three years, the Global Fund seeks financial support for its mission through a Replenishment pledging conference, to be held in mid-2016...

[Private Sector Strongly Supports the Global Fund](#)

16 December 2015

TOKYO - Private sector organizations, charities and foundations made record-breaking commitments to support the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria through an early announcement of pledges amounting to US\$37 million ahead of the Global Fund Fifth Replenishment to be held in 2016...

**Hilton Prize Coalition** [to 19 December 2015]

<http://prizecoalition.charity.org/>  
*An Alliance of Hilton Prize Recipients*  
*No new digest content identified.*

**InterAction** [to 19 December 2015]  
<http://www.interaction.org/media-center/press-releases>  
*No new digest content identified.*

**Start Network** [to 19 December 2015]  
[http://www.start-network.org/news-blog/#.U9U\\_O7FR98E](http://www.start-network.org/news-blog/#.U9U_O7FR98E)  
*[Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies]*  
*No new digest content identified.*

**Muslim Charities Forum** [to 19 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.*

:::::

**Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP)** [to 19 December 2015]  
<http://www.alnap.org/>  
*No new digest content identified.*

**CHS International Alliance** [to 19 December 2015]  
<http://chsalliance.org/news-events/news>  
18/12/2015  
[CHS Guidance Notes and Indicators launched in French](#)

Following the launch of the CHS Guidance Notes and Indicators in English last month, this document is now available in French.

**EHLRA/R2HC** [to 19 December 2015]  
<http://www.elrha.org/resource-hub/news/>  
*No new digest content identified.*

**Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA)** [to 19 December 2015]  
<http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/>  
*No new digest content identified.*

## **The Sphere Project** [to 19 December 2015]

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

### [Sphere Board sets future course of action, elects new leadership](#)

14 December 2015 | Sphere Project

Meeting in Geneva in mid-November, the Sphere Project Board of directors welcomed a new member to the Sphere companion standards family and endorsed moving ahead with the Global Humanitarian Standards Partnership. They also elected new officers and gave the green light for the full integration of the Core Humanitarian Standard with its indicators and guidance notes into the Sphere Handbook...

#### *...Global Humanitarian Standards Partnership moves ahead*

The Sphere Board also endorsed the creation of a Global Humanitarian Standards Partnership. The purpose of the partnership is to strengthen the promotion of principled, evidence-based humanitarian response. By better coordinating their action and through enhanced mutual learning and joint advocacy, the humanitarian-setting initiatives involved will be able to build greater ownership by individuals, communities and organisations.

The partnership also intends to improve and further develop consistent standards models and approaches in order to continue building greater coherence and compatibility amongst humanitarian standards.

The decision to move ahead was based on the recommendation made by the current Sphere companion standards and the support of other partners, as well as the findings of a scoping study that showed widespread support for the proposed partnership among humanitarian practitioners...

#### *New Board officers and members*

RedR UK CEO [Martin McCann](#) was elected Chair of the Sphere Project Board. McCann has over three decades of experience in both international development and humanitarian work. He joined the Sphere Board in June 2012.

The Board elected [Julien Schopp](#) as Vice Chair. Schopp is the Director of Humanitarian Practice at InterAction. He has worked in the humanitarian sector for nearly 20 years and joined the Sphere Board in 2012.

The Board expressed its gratitude to Unni Krishnan from Plan International, who concluded his term as Chair at this meeting as well as to Carsten Völz, who stepped down as Vice Chair earlier this year as he ended his work relationship with Oxfam International.

Barbara Mineo, Humanitarian Director of Oxfam Intermon was welcomed as a new Board member. She replaces Carsten Völz...

## **Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP)** [to 19 December 2015]

<https://phap.org/>

*No new digest content identified.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Center for Global Development** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases, Blog Posts, Publications*

[Aligning Incentives, Accelerating Impact: Next Generation Financing Models for Global Health](#)  
12/15/15

*Next Generation Financing Models in Global Health Working Group*

Founded in 2002, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund) is one of the world's largest multilateral health funders, disbursing \$3–\$4 billion a year across 100-plus countries. Many of these countries rely on Global Fund monies to finance their respective disease responses—and for their citizens, the efficient and effective use of Global Fund monies can be the difference between life and death.

**ODI** [to 19 December 2015]

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

[What works in improving the living conditions of slum dwellers: a review of the evidence across four programmes](#)

Research reports and studies | December 2015 | Paula Lucci, Tanvi Bhatkal, Amina Khan and Tom Berliner

This paper reviews the evidence on what works in improving the living conditions in slum settlements. It focuses on physical living conditions such as access to land, housing and utilities, as these are among the most salient challenges facing the urban poor.

[Kenya ending drought emergencies policy review: Scenarios for building resilience in ASALs](#)

Working and discussion papers | December 2015 | Elizabeth Carabine, Marie-Agnes Jouanjean, Josephine Tsui

A review of policies in the IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development) member states in the Horn of Africa region's arid and semi-arid lands.

[Challenges to a comprehensive EU migration and asylum policy](#)

Research reports and studies | December 2015 | Raphaelle Faure, Mikaela Gavas and Anna Knoll

This research report sets out three reasons behind the European Union's failure to deliver a comprehensive and effective approach to the Syrian refugee crisis.

[Why people move: understanding the drivers and trends of migration to Europe](#)

Research reports and studies | December 2015 | Clare Cummings, Julia Pacitto, Deletta Lauro and Marta Foresti

While Europe is in need of an effective policy response to the migration crisis, policy-makers lack an understanding of what drives people to migrate. This Rapid Evidence Assessment seeks to fill this gap.

[Use of country systems in fragile states](#)

Research reports and studies | December 2015 | Tom Hart, Sierd Hadley and Bryn Welham

'Leaving no one behind' increasingly means working in fragile states. We present several principles that can guide decisions on the use of country systems in these areas.

[The role and impact of philanthropic and religious schools in developing countries](#)

Bibliography and literature reviews | December 2015 | Joseph Wales, Monazza Aslam, Sebastien Hine, Shenila Rawal and Leni Wild

Can philanthropic and religious schools improve education for children in developing countries? A rigorous review of the evidence.

**World Economic Forum** [to 19 December 2015]

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

[New International Alliance to Speed Implementation of WTO Trade Facilitation Deal](#)

*Community News* 17 Dec 2015

:: The Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, a major business-led initiative, was launched today to assist developing countries and speed implementation of the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement

:: The landmark trade agreement could add over \$1 trillion to global trade flows with huge gains for developing markets; but implementation will require significant private-sector support

:: The new alliance is hosted by the World Economic Forum, the Center for International Private Enterprise and the International Chamber of Commerce, with support from the governments of Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States; the Australian government will add to the donor support shortly

Nairobi, Kenya, 17 December 2015 – The World Economic Forum, the Center of International Private Enterprise and the International Chamber of Commerce along with the governments of Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States have today launched a major new partnership to support effective implementation of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) landmark Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)—which could reduce trade costs by an average of 14.3% and create up to 20 million jobs, mostly in developing countries.

The Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation will provide a unique platform to leverage business expertise and resources in the implementation of customs and border reforms. While it is widely recognized that private-sector engagement will be critical for successful implementation of the TFA, the alliance is the first initiative to provide a global platform to bring business closer to the process of enacting reforms under the agreement...

*[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 19 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Annie E. Casey Foundation** [to 19 December 2015]

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

## [New Casey Foundation Initiative Aims to Improve Job Prospects for Young Adults](#)

Posted December 16, 2015

The Annie E. Casey Foundation announced today that it plans to award \$6 million in grants over the next four years to increase job opportunities for America's young adults in five cities, enabling them to begin building careers and develop the skills employers need.

## **Clinton Foundation** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*Press Release*

## [Clinton Development Initiative and Visa Announce Partnership to Link Farmers in Rwanda to Digital Payments](#)

December 15, 2015

*Partnership will connect smallholder farmers to digital payments and bank accounts that improve financial literacy and security*

New York — The Clinton Development Initiative (CDI), an initiative of the Clinton Foundation, and Visa today announced a partnership to enable farmers in Rwanda to conduct business transactions digitally. This effort will connect individual farmers and cooperatives with banks, agrodealers, retailers, commodity processors, crop buyers, and other producers, creating a digital payments ecosystem. These connections help improve farmers' financial security and empower them economically to make purchases with greater knowledge and ease.

CDI's work in Rwanda focuses on helping farmers improve their livelihoods through better training, improved connection to markets and inputs, and stronger linkages between farmers, producers, and other stakeholders in the agricultural sector. This work, coupled with Visa's expertise in global electronic payment systems and promoting financial literacy, will allow farmers to take a larger role in agricultural financing...

## **Ford Foundation** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*News* — December 16, 2015

## [Foundation to renovate landmark NYC headquarters, create global center for philanthropy and civil society](#)

The foundation is embarking on a mission-driven renovation of its landmark NYC headquarters, bringing it up to municipal code while expanding spaces for convening and creating a global center for social justice.

## **GHIT Fund** [to 19 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.*

2015.12.17 *Events*

## [Event Report: International Conference on Universal Health Coverage in the New Development Era](#)

The Government of Japan, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE) co-hosted the International Conference on Universal Health

Coverage (UHC) in the New Development Era: Toward Building Resilient and Sustainable Health Systems on December 16, 2015 in Tokyo, Japan. The conference explored the role of the UHC in the transition from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in enhancing preparedness and responses to health crises based on lessons learned from the recent Ebola crisis. Experts in global health, such as leaders from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Global Fund, World Bank Group, and World Health Organization participated.

**William and Flora Hewlett Foundation** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Conrad N. Hilton Foundation** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**IKEA Foundation** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**HHMI - Howard Hughes Medical Institute** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Kellogg Foundation** [to 19 December 2015]

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

[Dr. Cathann Kress named new trustee at annual meeting](#)

Board of trustees also elects Ramón Murguía as new board chair, trustees and officers  
Dec. 17, 2015

**MacArthur Foundation** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*Publication*

[Juvenile Justice Reform Takes Root Across States](#)

Published December 14, 2015

Every state has implemented developmentally-appropriate juvenile justice reform over the last 15 years, according to [a report](#) supported by the MacArthur Foundation's [Models for Change](#) initiative. The report provides a snapshot of nationwide progress as states have evolved many tough on crime policies that treat young offenders as adults to foster a system that considers youth's developmental needs and capacity for change. From state efforts to raise the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to protecting juvenile records, the report illustrates a growing understanding of the intersection of adolescent neurological development and juvenile justice –

a field bolstered by the MacArthur Research Network on Adolescent Development and Juvenile Justice – that is driving reform in support of better outcomes for young offenders and their communities.

**Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation** [to 19 December 2015]

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

[Foundations unite to support access to clinical notes for 50 million patients nationwide](#)

December 15, 2015

BOSTON—Cambia Health Foundation, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Peterson Center on Healthcare, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation today jointly announced \$10 million in new funding to spread access to clinical notes to 50 million patients nationwide...

**Open Society Foundation** [to 19 December 2015]

*No new digest content identified.*

**David and Lucile Packard Foundation** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Pew Charitable Trusts** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Rockefeller Foundation** [to 19 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** [to 19 December 2015]

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

[Report Finds Gaps in Country's Ability to Prevent Infectious Disease Outbreaks](#)

Thu Dec 17 10:00:00 EST 2015

Washington, D.C.—A [report](#) released today found that more than half (28) of states score a five or lower out of 10 key indicators related to preventing, detecting, diagnosing and responding to outbreaks. The report, from Trust for America's Health (TFAH) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), concluded that the United States must redouble efforts to better protect the country from new infectious disease threats, such as MERS-CoV and antibiotic-resistant superbugs, and resurging illnesses like whooping cough, tuberculosis and gonorrhea.

Five states—Delaware, Kentucky, Maine, New York and Virginia—tied for the top score, achieving eight out of 10 indicators. Seven states—Idaho, Kansas, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon and Utah—tied for the lowest score at three out of 10...

## Four Foundations Come Together to Fund Expansion of the OpenNotes Movement

Tue Dec 15 09:00:00 EST 2015

Cambia Health Foundation, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Peterson Center on Healthcare and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation announce \$10 million in funding to spread access to clinical notes to 50 million patients nationwide via OpenNotes.

OpenNotes is a national initiative that urges doctors and other clinicians to offer patients ready access to their visit notes. Neither a software program nor a new technology, experts say this change in practice represents an aggressive step in the movement toward greater transparency in health care. The results of an OpenNotes experiment involving 100 primary care doctors and 20,000 of their patients were published three years ago in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Since then, the OpenNotes movement has spread well beyond primary care to more than 5 million Americans.

## **Wellcome Trust** [to 19 December 2015]

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

### Wellcome Trust reaction to the Paris Agreement on climate change

Wellcome Trust Director Jeremy Farrar has issued the following statement in reaction to the international agreement on climate change reached at COP21.

14 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>

[Reviewed earlier]

**BMC Health Services Research**

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

(Accessed 19 December 2015)

*Research article*

**Intellectual capital in the healthcare sector: a systematic review and critique of the literature**

Jenna M. Evans, Adalsteinn Brown and G. Ross Baker

BMC Health Services Research 2015 15:556

Published on: 15 December 2015

*Abstract*

*Background*

Variations in the performance of healthcare organizations may be partly explained by differing "stocks" of intellectual capital (IC), and differing approaches and capacities for leveraging IC. This study synthesizes what is currently known about the conceptualization, management and measurement of IC in healthcare through a review of the literature.

*Methods*

Peer-reviewed papers on IC in healthcare published between 1990 and 2014 were identified through searches of five databases using the following key terms: intellectual capital/assets, knowledge capital/assets/resources, and intangible assets/resources. Articles deemed relevant for inclusion underwent systematic data extraction to identify overarching themes and were assessed for their methodological quality.

*Results*

Thirty-seven papers were included in the review. The primary research method used was cross-sectional questionnaires focused on hospital managers' perceptions of IC, followed by semi-structured interviews and analysis of administrative data. Empirical studies suggest that IC is linked to subjective process and performance indicators in healthcare organizations. Although the literature on IC in healthcare is growing, it is not advanced. In this paper, we identify and examine the conceptual, theoretical and methodological limitations of the literature.

*Conclusions*

The concept and framework of IC offer a means to study the value of intangible resources in healthcare organizations, how to manage systematically these resources together, and their mutually enhancing interactions on performance. We offer several recommendations for future research.

*Research article*

**[Use of peers, community lay persons and Village Health Team \(VHT\) members improves six-week postnatal clinic \(PNC\) follow-up and Early Infant HIV Diagnosis \(EID\) in urban and rural health units in Uganda: A one-year implementation study](#)**

Zikulah Namukwaya, Linda Barlow-Mosha, Peter Mudiope, Adeodata Kekitiinwa, Joyce Namale Matovu, Ezra Musingye, Jane Ntongo Ssebaggala, Teopista Nakyanzi, Jubilee John Abwooli, Dorothy Mirembe, Julianne Etima, Edward Bitarakwate, Mary Glenn Fowler and Philippa Martha Musoke

BMC Health Services Research 2015 15:555

Published on: 15 December 2015

**BMC Infectious Diseases**

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

(Accessed 19 December 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

**BMC Medical Ethics**

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

(Accessed 19 December 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

**BMC Medicine**

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

(Accessed 19 December 2015)

*Guideline*

**[How should individual participant data \(IPD\) from publicly funded clinical trials be shared?](#)**

Individual participant data (IPD) from completed clinical trials should be responsibly shared to support efficient clinical research, generate new knowledge and bring benefit to patients.

C. Tudur Smith, C. Hopkins, M. R. Sydes, K. Woolfall, M. Clarke, G. Murray and P. Williamson

BMC Medicine 2015 13:298

Published on: 17 December 2015

*Commentary*

**[Subnational benchmarking of health systems performance in Africa using health outcome and coverage indicators](#)**

National health systems performance (HSP) assessments and benchmarking are critical to understanding how well the delivery of healthcare meets the needs of citizens.

Abdisalan Mohamed Noor

BMC Medicine 2015 13:299

Published on: 14 December 2015

### **BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth**

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

(Accessed 19 December 2015)

*Research article*

#### **Innovative approaches for improving maternal and newborn health - A landscape analysis**

Essential interventions can improve maternal and newborn health (MNH) outcomes in low- and middle-income countries, but their implementation has been challenging.

Karsten Lunze, Ariel Higgins-Steele, Aline Simen-Kapeu, Linda Vesel, Julia Kim and Kim Dickson  
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth 2015 15:337

Published on: 17 December 2015

### **BMC Public Health**

<http://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles>

(Accessed 19 December 2015)

*Research article*

#### **Implementation of a national school-based Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine campaign in Fiji: knowledge, vaccine acceptability and information needs of parents**

S. F. La Vincente, D. Mielnik, K. Jenkins, F. Bingwor, L. Volavola, H. Marshall, P. Druavesi, F. M. Russell, K. Lokuge and E. K. Mulholland

BMC Public Health 2015 15:1257

Published on: 18 December 2015

*Research article*

#### **Challenges to the surveillance of non-communicable diseases – a review of selected approaches**

The rising global burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) necessitates the institutionalization of surveillance systems to track trends and evaluate interventions. However, NCD surveillance capacities var ...

Mareike Kroll, Revati K Phalkey and Frauke Kraas

BMC Public Health 2015 15:1243

Published on: 16 December 2015

### **BMC Research Notes**

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

(Accessed 19 December 2015)

*Research article*

#### **MERS-CoV geography and ecology in the Middle East: analyses of reported camel exposures and a preliminary risk map**

Middle Eastern respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) has spread rapidly across much of the Middle East, but no quantitative mapping of transmission risk has been developed to date.

Tarian Reeves, Abdallah M. Samy and A. Townsend Peterson

**BMJ Open**

2015, Volume 5, Issue 12

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**British Medical Journal**

19 December 2015 (vol 351, issue 8038)

<http://www.bmj.com/content/351/8038>

*Editorials Christmas 2015*

**[Responding to the needs of refugees](#)**

BMJ 2015; 351 doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.h6731> (Published 16 December 2015) Cite this as: BMJ 2015;351:h6731

Frank Arnold, convenor, anti-torture initiative<sup>1</sup>, Cornelius Katona, lead<sup>23</sup>, Juliet Cohen, head of doctors<sup>4</sup>, Lucy Jones, UK programme manager<sup>5</sup>, David McCoy, director<sup>16</sup>

[Author affiliations](#)

*Knowledge of and skills in human rights medicine will be needed*

At the time of writing it is unclear how many people will eventually receive refuge in Britain from encampments in countries surrounding Syria through the UN vulnerable persons relocation scheme. The government's current commitment to receive a maximum of 20 000 over five years, if delivered at a constant rate, would result in 4000 arrivals a year.<sup>1</sup> It is also unclear when they will arrive and what financial and other arrangements are being made for local councils to support them. But even if the UK maintains its decision to opt out of the EU refugee sharing scheme, the number of asylum seekers reaching the UK by other routes may increase, given that more than half a million people seeking protection arrived in Europe by sea in 2015.

Whatever the numbers, many will have high levels of complex physical, psychological, social, and legal needs arising from their experiences in their countries of origin or during their often prolonged and dangerous journeys. This is particularly the case for people admitted under the UN relocation scheme, which emphasises vulnerability and damage as primary selection criteria.<sup>2</sup>

These health needs will interact with each other and with wider social needs (housing, schooling, linguistic, and cultural support) to produce challenges that exceed the experience of most UK clinicians. The issues that the responsible practices and hospitals will need to address are many and complex but largely predictable (box). The current crisis must be met by a plan to train and support clinicians to assist this vulnerable group. Such a plan would also benefit the many traumatised, tortured, and ill refugees, asylum seekers, and undocumented migrants who are already in the country.

*Common interacting medical needs of refugees*

**Psychological**

:: Post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health problems resulting from trauma

### Physical

- :: Consequences of torture such as damage to feet from repeated blunt trauma or brachial plexus damage after suspension by hyper-extended arms
- :: Screening for sexually transmitted diseases (if rape revealed)
- :: Traumatic war injuries

### Social and legal

- :: Adequate interpreting
- :: Access to primary and secondary care and difficulties of negotiating exemption from overseas visitors charging regulations
- :: Protection from subsequent unsafe repatriation or redress may require careful documentation of medical evidence of human rights abuses, including photographs or clinical notes of physical or psychological damage on arrival

So what needs to happen? Government departments should make use of standard handheld records of medical information gleaned during selection for relocation and ensure that the data follow the patients to their new practitioners. The European Union is developing such a record.<sup>3</sup> For people who require secondary care the Home Office should provide immigration status documents and circulate them with advice to relevant officers to prevent inappropriate attempts to charge user fees. The entitlements of migrants to care are complex, but survivors of torture and other human rights abuses do not have to pay under the current regulations.<sup>4</sup> And unless a general practice has a policy requiring all new registrants to supply documents, to do so for migrants only would constitute impermissible discrimination.<sup>5</sup>

As health professionals, we are occupationally and morally required to offer the highest standard of healthcare to all patients, including survivors of human rights abuses who arrive on these shores.<sup>6</sup> But clinicians need to be trained and supported to help this vulnerable group. The knowledge and skills in human rights medicine and psychology developed by a relatively small number of specialist health professionals within the NHS and third sector organisations needs to be harnessed and used wisely to enable this to happen. These organisations include Freedom from Torture ([www.freedomfromtorture.org](http://www.freedomfromtorture.org)), the Helen Bamber Foundation ([www.helenbamber.org](http://www.helenbamber.org)), and Doctors of the World ([www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/pages/UK-Programme](http://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/pages/UK-Programme)). The Royal Society of Medicine is hosting training sessions organised by Medact on clinical aspects of torture and trauma. Public Health England, which has a helpful Migrant Health Guide,<sup>7</sup> the royal colleges, the BMA, and other health professional bodies can also facilitate relevant educational initiatives. Close collaboration between the statutory and charity sectors will be crucial.

The voice and mandate of health professionals also needs to be used to prevent xenophobia and tackle the root causes of the refugee crisis. We should make good use of the expressions of goodwill and solidarity from much of the UK population towards those who need help and highlight the past and potential long term economic and social contributions that such refugees have and can make in the UK. We should also seek to educate and engage the UK health community about the need to promote peace and human security, particularly in north Africa and the Middle East. The refugee crisis will not be resolved otherwise.

<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 19 December 2015]  
*Research*  
**Providing surgery in a war-torn context: the Médecins Sans Frontières experience in Syria**

Trelles M, Dominguez L, Tayler-Smith K, Kisswani K, Zerboni A, Vandenborre T, Dallatomasina S, Rahmoun A et al. *Conflict and Health* 2015, 9:36 (15 December 2015)

*Abstract*

*Background*

Since 2011, civil war has crippled Syria leaving much of the population without access to healthcare. Various field hospitals have been clandestinely set up to provide basic healthcare but few have been able to provide quality surgical care. In 2012, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) began providing surgical care in the Jabal al-Akrad region of north-western Syria. Based on the MSF experience, we describe, for the period 5th September 2012 to 1st January 2014: a) the volume and profile of surgical cases, b) the volume and type of anaesthetic and surgical procedures performed, and c) the intraoperative mortality rate.

*Methods*

A descriptive study using routinely collected MSF programme data. Quality surgical care was assured through strict adherence to the following minimum standards: adequate infrastructure, adequate water and sanitation provisions, availability of all essential disposables, drugs and equipment, strict adherence to hygiene requirements and universal precautions, mandatory use of sterile equipment for surgical and anaesthesia procedures, capability for blood transfusion and adequate human resources.

*Results*

During the study period, MSF operated on 578 new patients, of whom 57 % were male and median age was 25 years (Interquartile range: 21–32 years). Violent trauma was the most common surgical indication (n=254, 44 %), followed by obstetric emergencies (n=191, 33 %) and accidental trauma (n=59, 10 %). In total, 712 anaesthetic procedures were performed. General anaesthesia without intubation was the most common type of anaesthesia (47 % of all anaesthetics) followed by spinal anaesthesia (25 %). A total of 831 surgical procedures were performed, just over half being minor/wound care procedures and nearly one fifth, caesarean

sections. There were four intra-operative deaths, giving an intra-operative mortality rate of 0.7 %.

#### Conclusions

Surgical needs in a conflict-afflicted setting like Syria are high and include both combat and non-combat indications, particularly obstetric emergencies. Provision of quality surgical care in a complex and volatile setting like this is possible providing appropriate measures, supported by highly experienced staff, can be implemented that allow a specific set of minimum standards of care to be adhered to. This is particularly important when patient outcomes - as a reflection of quality of care - are difficult to assess.

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

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

(Accessed 19 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/ida/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>

[Reviewed earlier]

#### **Emergency Medicine Journal**

December 2015, Volume 32, Issue 12  
<http://emj.bmjjournals.org/content/current>  
[Reviewed earlier]

### **Epidemics**

Volume 13, In Progress (December 2015)  
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/17554365>  
[Reviewed earlier]

### **End of Life Journal**

2015, Volume 5, Issue 1  
<http://eolj.bmjjournals.org/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 50, 17 December 2015  
<http://www.eurosurveillance.org/Public/Articles/Archives.aspx?PublicationId=11678>  
*Research Articles*  
[\*\*Assessment of the MSF triage system, separating patients into different wards pending Ebola virus laboratory confirmation, Kailahun, Sierra Leone, July to September 2014\*\*](#)  
by F Vogt, G Fitzpatrick, G Patten, R van den Bergh, K Stinson, L Pandolfi, J Squire, T Decroo, H Declerck, M Van Herp

### **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)**

December 2015 | Volume 3 | Issue 4  
<http://www.ghspjournal.org/content/current>  
*Editorial*

### **Behavior Change Fast and Slow: Changing Multiple Key Behaviors a Long-Term Proposition?**

An intensive radio campaign in rural areas of Burkina Faso addressed multiple key behaviors to reduce child mortality, using a randomized cluster design. After 20 months, despite innovative approaches and high reported listenership, only modest reported change in behavior was found, mainly related to care seeking rather than habitual behavior such as hand washing. Various methodologic difficulties may have obscured a true greater impact. Analysis of the intervention after its full 35-month duration may reveal more impact, including on actual child mortality. Improving a number of key behaviors is essential to child survival efforts, and much of it may require strong and sustained efforts.

Glob Health Sci Pract 2015;3(4):521-524. First published online November 3, 2015.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.9745/GHSP-D-15-00331>

### *Original Articles*

### **The Saturation+ Approach to Behavior Change: Case Study of a Child Survival Radio Campaign in Burkina Faso**

This randomized radio campaign focused on the 3 principles of the Saturation+ approach to behavior change: (1) saturation (high exposure to messages), (2) science (basing design on data and modeling), and (3) creative storytelling. Locally developed short spots and longer dramas targeted multiple child survival-related behaviors and were delivered entirely by local radio stations. Innovative partnerships with radio stations provided free airtime in return for training, equipment, and investment in solar power.

Joanna Murray, Pieter Remes, Rita Ilboudo, Mireille Belem, Souleymane Salouka, Will Snell, Cathryn Wood, Matthew Lavoie, Laurent Deboise, Roy Head

Glob Health Sci Pract 2015;3(4):544-556. First published online November 3, 2015.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.9745/GHSP-D-15-00049>

## **Monitoring and Evaluating the Transition of Large-Scale Programs in Global Health**

Monitoring and evaluating large-scale global health program transitions can strengthen accountability, facilitate stakeholder engagement, and promote learning about the transition process and how best to manage it. We propose a conceptual framework with 4 main domains relevant to transitions—leadership, financing, programming, and service delivery—along with guiding questions and illustrative indicators to guide users through key aspects of monitoring and evaluating transition. We argue that monitoring and evaluating transitions can bring conceptual clarity to the transition process, provide a mechanism for accountability, facilitate engagement with local stakeholders, and inform the management of transition through learning.

James Bao, Daniela C Rodriguez, Ligia Paina, Sachiko Ozawa, Sara Bennett  
Glob Health Sci Pract 2015;3(4):591-605. <http://dx.doi.org/10.9745/GHSP-D-15-00221>

### ***FIELD ACTION REPORTS***

#### **Introduction of Mobile Health Tools to Support Ebola Surveillance and Contact Tracing in Guinea**

An informatics system consisting of a mobile health application and business intelligence software was used for collecting and analyzing Ebola contact tracing data. This system offered potential to improve data access and quality to support evidence-based decision making for the Ebola response in Guinea. Implementation challenges included software limitations, technical literacy of users, coordination among partners, government capacity for data utilization, and data privacy concerns.

Jilian A Sacks, Elizabeth Zehe, Cindil Redick, Alhoussaine Bah, Kai Cowger, Mamady Camara, Aboubacar Diallo, Abdel Nasser Iro Gigo, Ranu S Dhillon, Anne Liu  
Glob Health Sci Pract 2015;3(4):646-659. First published online November 12, 2015.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.9745/GHSP-D-15-00207>

### **Global Health Governance**

<http://blogs.shu.edu/ghg/category/complete-issues/spring-autumn-2014/>  
[Accessed 19 December 2015]  
[No new content]

### **Global Public Health**

Volume 11, Issue 1-2, 2016  
<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rgph20/current>

#### ***Special Issue: Conceptualising the agency of highly marginalised women: Intimate partner violence in extreme settings***

*Guest Editors' Introduction*

#### **Conceptualising the agency of highly marginalised women: Intimate partner violence in extreme settings**

Catherine Campbell\* & Jenevieve Mannellb  
pages 1-16  
DOI: 10.1080/17441692.2015.1109694

*Abstract*

How is the agency of women best conceptualised in highly coercive settings? We explore this in the context of international efforts to reduce intimate partner violence (IPV) against women in heterosexual relationships. Articles critique the tendency to think of women's agency and programme endpoints in terms of individual actions, such as reporting violent men or leaving violent relationships, whilst neglecting the interlocking social, economic and cultural contexts that make such actions unlikely or impossible. Three themes cut across the articles. (1) Unhelpful understandings of gender and power implicit in commonly used 'men-women' and 'victim-agent' binaries obscure multi-faceted and hidden forms of women's agency, and the complexity of agency-violence intersections. (2) This neglect of complexity results in a poor fit between policy and interventions to reduce IPV, and women's lives. (3) Such neglect also obscures the multiplicities of women's agency, including the competing challenges they juggle alongside IPV, differing levels of response, and the temporality of agency. We outline a notion of 'distributed agency' as a multi-level, incremental and non-linear process distributed across time, space and social networks, and across a continuum of action ranging from survival to resistance. This understanding of agency implies a different approach to those currently underpinning policies and interventions.

### **Globalization and Health**

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

[Accessed 19 December 2015]

*Review*

#### **Short term global health experiences and local partnership models: a framework**

Contemporary interest in short-term experiences in global health (STEGH) has led to important questions of ethics, responsibility, and potential harms to receiving communities. Lawrence C. Loh, William Cherniak, Bradley A. Dreifuss, Matthew M. Dacso, Henry C. Lin and Jessica Evert

Globalization and Health 2015 11:50

Published on: 18 December 2015

*Research*

#### **Towards a simple typology of international health partnerships**

International health partnerships are one approach to capacity building in health systems. The evidence base for institutional partnerships for health service development remains weak... Suzanne Edwards, Dan Ritman, Emily Burn, Natascha Dekkers and Paula Baraitser

Globalization and Health 2015 11:49

Published on: 15 December 2015

### **Health Affairs**

December 2015; Volume 34, Issue 12

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

#### ***Affordability, Access, Models Of Care & More***

[Reviewed earlier]

### **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**

[Reviewed earlier]

**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 19 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](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/human_rights_quarterly/toc/hrq.37.4.html)

[Reviewed earlier]

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

Volume 39, Issue 5, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Humanitarian Exchange Magazine**

Number 65 November 2015

[http://odihpn.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/HE\\_65\\_web.pdf](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.idpjurnal.com/content>

[Accessed 19 December 2015]

[No new relevant content identified]

**International Health**

Volume 7 Issue 6 November 2015

<http://inthealth.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>

[Reviewed earlier]

**International Journal of Infectious Diseases**

December 2015 Volume 41, In Progress

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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

Volume 23, Issue 1, 2016

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

*Original Articles*

**Revisiting the national corporate social responsibility index**

DOI:10.1080/13504509.2015.1099121

Antonis Skouloudisa\*, David Isaacb & Kostis Evangelinosc

pages 61-70

*Abstract*

This paper relies on Gjølberg's national corporate social responsibility (CSR) index while its purpose is twofold. First, it seeks to extend the methodological instrument for assessing national CSR and, second, it applies the new approach to a much larger pool of countries

(n = 86) in an attempt to provide a global CSR outlook. The emergent picture from the study is one of deficient CSR penetration and wide variation among countries where most of the assessed countries are still lagging in the endorsement of international CSR initiatives and schemes. Findings offer fertile ground to theorists and researchers for a deeper investigation of the national specificity of CSR and to further identify institutional determinants that shape the social responsiveness and self-regulation of business entities. The study has also implications for managers and top executives to consider as it infers that the national background can be influential in the development of a CSR agenda and can condition the level of CSR penetration.

### **International Migration Review**

Winter 2015 Volume 49, Issue 4 Pages 843–1070, e33–e48  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/imre.2015.49.issue-3/issuetoc>  
MIGRATION AND HEALTH

#### **[How Migrant Status Affects Health Beyond Socioeconomic Status: Evidence from Austria \(pages 843–877\)](#)**

Sascha Sardadvar  
Article first published online: 2 SEP 2014 | DOI: 10.1111/imre.12108

#### **[Explaining the Mexican-American Health Paradox Using Selectivity Effects \(pages 878–906\)](#)**

Jose N. Martinez, Ernesto Aguayo-Tellez and Erick Rangel-Gonzalez  
Article first published online: 11 NOV 2014 | DOI: 10.1111/imre.12112

#### **[The Decade of Immigrant Dispersion and Growth: A Cohort Analysis of Children of Immigrants' Educational Experiences 1990–2002 \(pages 1001–1041\)](#)**

Stephanie Potocznick and Margarita Mooney  
Article first published online: 2 SEP 2014 | DOI: 10.1111/imre.12111

**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 15, 2015, Vol 314, No. 23  
<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>  
[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Asian Development**Vol 1, No 1 (2015)

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Community Health**

Volume 40, Issue 6, December 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Development Economics**

Volume 118, Pages 1-298 (January 2016)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health**

January 2016, Volume 70, Issue 1

<http://jech.bmjjournals.org/content/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Global Ethics**

Volume 11, Issue 3, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjge20/.U2V-Elf4L0l#.VAJEj2N4WF8>***Forum: The Sustainable Development Goals***

[Reviewed earlier]

**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](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 3 2015

<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/toc/jhlscm/5/3>**Borrowing theories in humanitarian supply chain management**Tunca Tabaklar, Árni Halldórsson, Gyöngyi Kovács, Karen Spens (pp. 281 - 299)

**Measuring humanitarian supply chain performance in a multi-goal context**

Ira Haavisto , Jarrod Goentzel (pp. 300 - 324)

**Hybrid simulation modeling for humanitarian relief chain coordination**

Caroline C Krejci (pp. 325 - 347)

**How standards and modularity can improve humanitarian supply chain responsiveness: The case of emergency response units**

Marianne Jahre , Nathalie Fabbe-Costes (pp. 348 - 386)

**Centralized vehicle leasing in humanitarian fleet management: the UNHCR case**

Nathan Kunz , Luk N. Van Wassenhove , Rob McConnell , Ketil Hov (pp. 387 - 404)

**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>

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Infectious Diseases**

Volume 212 Issue 19 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.bmjjournals.org/content/current>  
[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (JPIDS)**  
Volume 4 Issue 4 December 2015  
<http://jpids.oxfordjournals.org/content/current>  
[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Public Health Policy**  
Volume 36, Issue 4 (November 2015)  
<http://www.palgrave-journals.com/jphp/journal/v36/n4/index.html>  
[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of the Royal Society – Interface**  
06 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 19, 2015 Volume 386 Number 10012 p2445-2540 e61  
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/issue/current>  
*Editorial*  
**[Health security: the defining challenge of 2016](#)**  
The Lancet  
*Summary*  
This end-of-year double issue of The Lancet is a moment to pause, reflect on the passing year, and consider how the journey through 2015, with its planned milestones and unforeseen global events, might shape the path ahead in 2016. This Year in Medicine crystallises the key moments of 2015: a year that continued to be dominated by the Ebola outbreak; adoption by nations of 17 Sustainable Development Goals, setting the health agenda for the next 15 years; and appalling acts of war and terrorism, which have seen murderous violence in, for example, Syria, Paris, and California.

*Editorial*  
**[Time to eliminate rabies](#)**  
The Lancet  
*Summary*

On Dec 10, WHO and the World Organisation for Animal Health, in collaboration with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the Global Alliance for the Control of Rabies, launched a global framework to eliminate rabies by 2030. This initiative marks the first time that the human and animal health sectors have come together to adopt a common strategy to tackle this devastating, but massively neglected, disease.

*This Year in Medicine*

### **2015: review of the year**

Farhat Yaqub

The year, progress was made for Ebola virus disease, genetic disorders, and the health of the planet and its population, with two new global agendas agreed. Farhat Yaqub reports

*Viewpoint*

### **The medical response to multisite terrorist attacks in Paris**

Martin Hirsch, Pierre Carli, Rémy Nizard, Bruno Riou, Barouyr Baroudjian, Thierry Baubet, Vibol Chhor, Charlotte Chollet-Xemard, Nicolas Dantchev, Nadia Fleury, Jean-Paul Fontaine, Youri Yordanov, Maurice Raphael, Catherine Paugam Burtz, Antoine Lafont, health professionals of Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris (APHP)

### **The Lancet Infectious Diseases**

Dec 2015 Volume 15 Number 12 p1361-1498

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Maternal and Child Health Journal**

Volume 19, Issue 12, December 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Medical Decision Making (MDM)**

January 2016; 36 (1)

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

### **Mind the Gap! A Multilevel Analysis of Factors Related to Variation in Published Cost-Effectiveness Estimates within and between Countries**

Christian E. H. Boehler, PhD, Joanne Lord, PhD

Institute for Prospective Technological Studies, Joint Research Centre—European Commission, Seville, Spain (CEHB)

Health Economics Research Group, Brunel University, Uxbridge, UK (JL)

#### ***Abstract***

Background. Published cost-effectiveness estimates can vary considerably, both within and between countries. Despite extensive discussion, little is known empirically about factors relating to these variations.

Objectives. To use multilevel statistical modeling to integrate cost-effectiveness estimates from published economic evaluations to investigate potential causes of variation.

Methods. Cost-effectiveness studies of statins for cardiovascular disease prevention were identified by systematic review. Estimates of incremental costs and effects were extracted from reported base case, sensitivity, and subgroup analyses, with estimates grouped in studies and in countries. Three bivariate models were developed: a cross-classified model to accommodate data from multinational studies, a hierarchical model with multinational data allocated to a single category at country level, and a hierarchical model excluding multinational data.

Covariates at different levels were drawn from a long list of factors suggested in the literature.

Results. We found 67 studies reporting 2094 cost-effectiveness estimates relating to 23 countries (6 studies reporting for more than 1 country). Data and study-level covariates included patient characteristics, intervention and comparator cost, and some study methods (e.g., discount rates and time horizon). After adjusting for these factors, the proportion of variation attributable to countries was negligible in the cross-classified model but moderate in the hierarchical models (14%–19% of total variance). Country-level variables that improved the fit of the hierarchical models included measures of income and health care finance, health care resources, and population risks.

Conclusions. Our analysis suggested that variability in published cost-effectiveness estimates is related more to differences in study methods than to differences in national context.

Multinational studies were associated with much lower country-level variation than single-country studies. These findings are for a single clinical question and may be atypical.

## **The Milbank Quarterly**

A Multidisciplinary Journal of Population Health and Health Policy

September 2015 Volume 93, Issue 3 Pages 447–649

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

[Reviewed earlier]

## **Nature**

Volume 528 Number 7582 pp307-430 17 December 2015

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

Review

### **Rarity in mass extinctions and the future of ecosystems**

Pincelli M. Hull, Simon A. F. Darroch & Douglas H. Erwin

The fossil record provides a nuanced view of ecosystem collapse over intervals of mass extinction, with abundant, biomineralizing and widespread species preferentially preserved; here the authors collate evidence for 'mass rarity' during these intervals, and suggest that the increasing rarity of modern species, rather than their outright extinction, may be a better metric for comparing the current biodiversity crisis to the 'Big Five' mass extinctions in the Earth's history.

## **Nature Medicine**

December 2015, Volume 21 No 12 pp1400-1520

<http://www.nature.com/nm/journal/v21/n12/index.html>

[Reviewed earlier]

**New England Journal of Medicine**  
December 17, 2015 Vol. 373 No. 25  
<http://www.nejm.org/toc/nejm/medical-journal>  
[New issue; No relevant content identified]

**Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly**  
December 2015; 44 (6)  
<http://nvs.sagepub.com/content/current>  
[Reviewed earlier]

**Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration**  
OxMo Volume 5, No. 1 – August 2015  
<http://oxmofm.com/current-issue/>  
[Reviewed earlier]

**Pediatrics**  
December 2015, VOLUME 136 / ISSUE 6  
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/136/6?current-issue=y>  
[Reviewed earlier]

**PharmacoEconomics**  
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 19 December 2015]  
[No new content]

**PLoS Currents: Outbreaks**  
<http://currents.plos.org/outbreaks/>  
(Accessed 19 December 2015)  
[No new relevant content]

**PLoS Medicine**  
<http://www.plosmedicine.org/>  
(Accessed 19 December 2015)  
[No new relevant content identified]

**PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases**

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

(Accessed 19 December 2015)

*Review*

**Earth Observation, Spatial Data Quality, and Neglected Tropical Diseases**

Nicholas A. S. Hamm, Ricardo J. Soares Magalhães, Archie C. A. Clements

Published: December 17, 2015

DOI: 10.1371/journal.pntd.0004164

*Abstract*

Earth observation (EO) is the use of remote sensing and in situ observations to gather data on the environment. It finds increasing application in the study of environmentally modulated neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). Obtaining and assuring the quality of the relevant spatially and temporally indexed EO data remain challenges. Our objective was to review the Earth observation products currently used in studies of NTD epidemiology and to discuss fundamental issues relating to spatial data quality (SDQ), which limit the utilization of EO and pose challenges for its more effective use. We searched Web of Science and PubMed for studies related to EO and echinococcosis, leptospirosis, schistosomiasis, and soil-transmitted helminth infections. Relevant literature was also identified from the bibliographies of those papers. We found that extensive use is made of EO products in the study of NTD epidemiology; however, the quality of these products is usually given little explicit attention. We review key issues in SDQ concerning spatial and temporal scale, uncertainty, and the documentation and use of quality information. We give examples of how these issues may interact with uncertainty in NTD data to affect the output of an epidemiological analysis. We conclude that researchers should give careful attention to SDQ when designing NTD spatial-epidemiological studies. This should be used to inform uncertainty analysis in the epidemiological study. SDQ should be documented and made available to other researchers.

**PLoS One**

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

[Accessed 19 December 2015]

*Research Article*

**Global Update and Trends of Hidden Hunger, 1995–2011: The Hidden Hunger Index**

Julie C. Ruel-Bergeron, Gretchen A. Stevens, Jonathan D. Sugimoto, Franz F. Roos, Majid Ezzati, Robert E. Black, Klaus Kraemer

Published: December 16, 2015

DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0143497

*Abstract*

**Background**

Deficiencies in essential vitamins and minerals—also termed hidden hunger—are pervasive and hold negative consequences for the cognitive and physical development of children.

**Methods**

This analysis evaluates the change in hidden hunger over time in the form of one composite indicator—the Hidden Hunger Index (HHI)—using an unweighted average of prevalence estimates from the Nutrition Impact Model Study for anemia due to iron deficiency, vitamin A deficiency, and stunting (used as a proxy indicator for zinc deficiency). Net changes from 1995–2011 and population weighted regional means for various time periods are measured.

**Findings**

Globally, hidden hunger improved (-6.7 net change in HHI) from 1995–2011. Africa was the only region to see a deterioration in hidden hunger (+1.9) over the studied time period; East Asia and the Pacific performed exceptionally well (-13.0), while other regions improved only slightly. Improvements in HHI were mostly due to reductions in zinc and vitamin A deficiencies, while anemia due to iron deficiency persisted and even increased.

#### Interpretation

This analysis is critical for informing and tracking the impact of policy and programmatic efforts to reduce micronutrient deficiencies, to advance the global nutrition agenda, and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, there remains an unmet need to invest in gathering frequent, nationally representative, high-quality micronutrient data as we renew our efforts to scale up nutrition, and as we enter the post-2015 development agenda.

#### Funding

Preparation of this manuscript was funded by Sight and Life. There was no funding involved in the study design, data collection, analysis, or decision to publish.

### **PLoS Pathogens**

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

(Accessed 19 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 19 December 2015)

#### [\*\*Changing recruitment capacity in global fish stocks\*\*](#)

Gregory L. Britten, <sup>b,1</sup> Michael Dowd, <sup>c</sup> and Boris Worm <sup>a</sup>

#### Author Affiliations

#### *Significance*

Marine fish stocks play an important role in marine ecosystems and provide a source of protein for billions of people worldwide. Recent environmental changes have affected the distribution of many stocks, but it is yet unclear whether their productivity is affected as well. We show that recruitment capacity (the ability of stocks to produce surviving offspring) has been significantly altered by both environmental changes and biological changes brought about by overfishing. In total, these effects have reduced recruitment capacity by 3% of the historical maximum per decade, on average. This paper helps us to understand and track previously unrecognized changes in fish stock productivity during the early stages of their life cycle.

#### *Abstract*

Marine fish and invertebrates are shifting their regional and global distributions in response to climate change, but it is unclear whether their productivity is being affected as well. Here we tested for time-varying trends in biological productivity parameters across 262 fish stocks of 127 species in 39 large marine ecosystems and high-seas areas (hereafter LMEs). This global meta-analysis revealed widespread changes in the relationship between spawning stock size and the production of juvenile offspring (recruitment), suggesting fundamental biological change in fish stock productivity at early life stages. Across regions, we estimate that average recruitment capacity has declined at a rate approximately equal to 3% of the historical maximum per decade. However, we observed large variability among stocks and regions; for example, highly

negative trends in the North Atlantic contrast with more neutral patterns in the North Pacific. The extent of biological change in each LME was significantly related to observed changes in phytoplankton chlorophyll concentration and the intensity of historical overfishing in that ecosystem. We conclude that both environmental changes and chronic overfishing have already affected the productive capacity of many stocks at the recruitment stage of the life cycle. These results provide a baseline for ecosystem-based fisheries management and may help adjust expectations for future food production from the oceans.

### **Prehospital & Disaster Medicine**

Volume 30 - Issue 06 - December 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Preventive Medicine**

Volume 80, Pages 1-106 (November 2015)

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

### ***Special Issue: Behavior change, health, and health disparities***

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Public Health Ethics**

Volume 8 Issue 3 November 2015

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

### ***Special Symposium: Antimicrobial Resistance***

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Qualitative Health Research**

December 2015; 25 (12)

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

### **Refugee Survey Quarterly**

Volume 34 Issue 4 December 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Reproductive Health**

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

[Accessed 19 December 2015]

No new content]

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

September 2015 Vol. 38, No. 3  
<http://www.paho.org/journal/>  
[Reviewed earlier]

**Risk Analysis**

November 2015 Volume 35, Issue 11 Pages 1957–2119  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/risa.2015.35.issue-11/issuetoc>  
[Reviewed earlier]

**Science**

18 December 2015 vol 350, issue 6267, pages 1437-1580  
<http://www.sciencemag.org/current.dtl>

*Policy Forum*

*Science Governance*

**[A more systematic approach to biological risk](#)**

Megan J. Palmer<sup>1</sup>, Francis Fukuyama<sup>2,3</sup>, David A. Relman<sup>1,3,4,\*</sup>

Author Affiliations

<sup>1</sup>Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA.

<sup>2</sup>Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law, and Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA.

<sup>3</sup>Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA.

<sup>4</sup>Department of Medicine, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA.

Management of emerging risks in life science and technology requires new leadership and a sober assessment of the legacy of Asilomar

**Social Science & Medicine**

Volume 146, Pages 1-348 (December 2015)  
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/02779536/146>

***Special issue section Violence, Health and South-North Collaboration: Furthering an Interdisciplinary Agenda***

**[Children's exposure to community and war violence and mental health in four African countries](#)**

Original Research Article

Pages 292-299

Holly Foster, Jeanne Brooks-Gunn

Abstract

In this article we review the mental health consequences of children's exposure to community and war violence (ETV) in four African countries: South Africa, Sierra Leone, Gambia and Rwanda. A focus on Africa is particularly pressing because of children's high levels of community and war ETV in countries therein. Regions of Africa present important macro-contexts for understanding children's various types of violence exposure amidst war and economic disadvantage. Findings of the review across 20 quantitative studies from 2004 to 2015 indicate consistent associations between exposure to war and community violence and

children's symptoms of Post-traumatic Stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and aggression. School climate and family support mitigate these ETV influences upon children: however, more research is needed on the buffering effects of such resources. The effects of war violence are mediated by perceived discrimination in communities post-conflict. We integrate findings across studies to synthesize knowledge on children's ETV in Africa around a model of its correlates, mediators, and moderators in relation to mental health. Emerging research points to avenues for prevention and future inquiry.

### **Stock-outs, uncertainty and improvisation in access to healthcare in war-torn Northern Uganda**

Original Research Article

Pages 316-323

Herbert Muyinda, James Mugisha

#### *Abstract*

Stock-outs, also known as shortages or complete absence of a particular inventory, in public health facilities have become a hallmark in Uganda's health system making the notions of persistent doubt in access to healthcare – uncertainty, and doing more with less – 'improvisation', very pronounced. The situation becomes more critical in post-conflict areas with an overwhelming burden of preexisting and conflict-related ailments amidst weak health systems. Particularly in the war-torn Northern Uganda, the intersection between the effects of violent conflict and shortage of medications is striking. There are problems getting the right type of medications to the right people at the right time, causing persistent shortages and uncertainty in access to healthcare. With reference to patients on Antiretroviral Therapy (ART), we present temporal trends in access to healthcare in the context of medication shortages in conflict-affected areas. We examine uncertainties in access to care, and how patients, medical practitioners, and the state – the key actors in the domain of supplying and utilizing medicines, respond. Our observation is that, while improvisation is a feature of biomedicine and facilitates problem solving in daily life, it is largely contextual. Given the rapidly evolving contexts and social and professional sensitivities that characterize war affected areas, there is a need for deliberate healthcare programs tailored to the unique needs of people and to the shaping of appropriate policies in post-conflict settings, which call for more North-South collaboration on equal terms.

### **Preventing gender-based violence engendered by conflict: The case of Côte d'Ivoire**

Original Research Article

Pages 341-347

Morkeh Blay-Tofey, Bandy X. Lee

#### *Abstract*

Despite a growing awareness of the increased prevalence of intimate partner violence and sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict settings, much less is known about the dynamics, as well as the interventions that would be effective at individual, relational, and structural levels. In addition to the human capital lost by conflict violence, gender-based violence (GBV) poses a grave threat to the post-conflict rehabilitation process. With regard to violence that occurs during and post conflict, research must take into consideration the different types of violence that share similar causes as the larger conflict as well as become widespread as a result of the conflict and use existing frameworks to build future interventions. Researchers are trying to understand the interplay of personal, situational, and socio-cultural factors in conflict settings that combine to cause GBV and lead to guidelines for program planning to address the health

and social needs of survivors as well as to prevent further GBV. These actions result from a growing recognition that violence represents a serious public health problem, is an important cause of many physical and psychological illnesses, and can cause social disruptions that impede reconstruction efforts for generations. This review studies the manifestations of GBV during and following the Ivoirian Civil War, juxtaposes them against narratives, as well as lists relevant interventions at the individual, relational, community, and institutional levels. Part of a growing literature that aims to better understand the nature of violence during and after conflict and to plan effective responses to it, this study hopes to suggest solutions for the situation of Côte d'Ivoire and elsewhere.

**'He always thinks he is nothing': The psychosocial impact of discrimination on adolescent refugees in urban Uganda**

Original Research Article

Pages 173-181

Lindsay Stark, Willyanne DeCormier Plosky, Rebecca Horn, Mark Canavera

*Abstract*

Armed conflict causes massive displacement, erodes the social fabric of communities, and threatens the healthy development of a nation's future – its youth. Although more than half of the world's registered refugees under the age of eighteen currently reside in urban areas, research on the unique needs of and realities experienced by this population remain limited. In Uganda, as in many refugee-receiving countries, most regulated refugee protections and entitlements fail to extend beyond the confines of official settlements or camps. This dearth of support, in combination with few material resources, uncertain local connections, and little knowledge of the language, leaves refugee families vulnerable to the added burden of an unwelcome reception in cities. Drawing on qualitative data from a study conducted in March and April 2013 with Congolese and Somali adolescents, caregivers, and service providers in refugee settlements in Kampala, this manuscript explores the pervasive nature of discrimination against urban refugees and its effects upon adolescent well-being. Findings suggest that discrimination not only negatively impacts acculturation as youth pursue social recognition in the classroom and among neighborhood peers, but it also impedes help-seeking behavior by caregivers and restricts their ability to ameliorate protection concerns, thereby lowering adolescents' psychosocial well-being. Youth reported low self-worth, withdrawal from school, and an adverse turn toward street connections. Targeted and innovative strategies along with reformed policies that address the unique challenges facing urban refugees are paramount to ensuring that young people in this population experience greater protection, well-being, and future success.

**Stability: International Journal of Security & Development**

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

[accessed 19 December 2015]

[No new content]

**Stanford Social Innovation Review**

Winter 2016 Volume 14, Number 1

<http://ssir.org/>

[Reviewed earlier]

**Sustainability**

Volume 7, Issue 11 (November 2015), Pages 14427-15784

<http://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/7/11>

[Reviewed earlier]

**TORTURE Journal**

Volume 25, Nr. 2, 2015

<http://www.irct.org/Default.aspx?ID=5768>

[Reviewed earlier]

**Tropical Medicine and Health**

Vol. 43(2015) No. 4

[https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/tmh/43/0/\\_contents](https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/tmh/43/0/_contents)

*Original Papers*

**[Occupational Stress among Textile Workers in the Democratic Republic of Congo](#)**

Panda Lukongo Kitronza, Philippe Mairiaux

Released: December 12, 2015

[Advance Publication] Released: August 20, 2015

*Field Reports*

**["Ten Minimum Requirement": A Management Tool to Improve Quality of Healthcare Services in Lao People Democratic Republic \(Lao PDR\)](#)**

Koji Wada, Sommana Rattana, Chanphomma Vongsamphanh

Released: December 12, 2015

[Advance Publication] Released: October 03, 2015]

**Tropical Medicine & International Health**

December 2015 Volume 20, Issue 12 Pages 1591–1854

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/tmi.2015.20.issue-12/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

**UN Chronicle**

Vol. LII Nos. 1 & 2 2015 September 2015

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

*Website not functioning at review.*

**Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies**

*An International Interdisciplinary Journal for Research, Policy and Care*

Volume 10, Issue 4, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rvch20/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

## World Heritage Review

n°77 - October 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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