

**ge<sup>2</sup>p<sup>2</sup>**

center for governance, evidence, ethics, policy, practice

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

## ***The Sentinel***

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

***Week ending 5 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:*

*David R. Curry*

*Editor &*

*Founding Director*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**Editor's Note:**

*COP21 is at its mid-point, with another week on negotiations, side events and press conferences ahead. We have included some key, strategic announcements below and will provide a more complete capture in the weeks ahead.*

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

2015, November 30 to December 11 - PARIS

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

LPA Action Day: Closing 5 December 2015

:: François Hollande, President of the Republic, France [video]

:: Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations [video]



**[The Emissions Gap Report 2015](#)**

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

November 2015 :: 98 pages ISBN: 978-92-807-3491-1

Full Report pdf: [http://uneplive.unep.org/media/docs/theme/13/EGR\\_2015\\_301115\\_lores.pdf](http://uneplive.unep.org/media/docs/theme/13/EGR_2015_301115_lores.pdf)

*Overview*

The sixth UNEP Emissions Gap Report provides a scientific assessment of the impacts of the submitted Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) on anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases. Like in the previous reports, this year's report then compares the resulting emission level in 2030 with what science tells us is required to be on track towards the agreed political target of a temperature increase no more than 2°C by the end of the century. The report also provides data for the aspirational target of an increase below 1.5°C. In addition the report analyzes selected areas where enhanced action can be taken and how these actions can be accelerated and scaled up to close the 'gap'.

The following key questions are addressed:

:: What are the latest estimates of long-term emissions consistent with the target of holding the global temperature rise within 2°C/1.5°C above pre-industrial levels?

:: What is the progress on implementation of the 'Copenhagen Pledges' and other national commitments

:: Will the combined INDCs for 2030 (if fully implemented) be enough to stay within the emission range required to be consistent with the temperature target?

:: What are possible contributions in some of the key areas where action can be accelerated to enhance the ambition of national pledges both in the period before 2020 and after 2020?

This year, International Cooperative Initiatives (ICIs) and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) have been in the focus of the assessment. In addition an update is provided on the areas assessed in the earlier reports.

[Executive Summary \(English\)](#)

[Executive Summary \(French\)](#)  
[Executive Summary \(Spanish\)](#)  
[Executive Summary \(Arabic\)](#)  
[Executive Summary \(Russian\)](#)  
[Executive Summary \(Chinese\)](#)

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**World Bank** [to 5 December 2015]  
<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/all>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"The Africa Climate Business Plan spells out a clear path to invest in the continent's urgent climate needs and to fast-track the required climate finance to ensure millions of people are protected from sliding into extreme poverty," explains Makhtar Diop, World Bank Group Vice

President for Africa. "While adapting to climate change and mobilizing the necessary resources remain an enormous challenge, the plan represents a critical opportunity to support a priority set of climate-resilient initiatives in Africa."

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

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

### **[World Bank Statement of Support for 'State of City Climate Finance' report launched at COP21](#)**

PARIS, December 4, 2015 — The World Bank supports the 'The State of City Climate Finance' report launched today by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and international partners at the Climate Summit...

Date: December 4, 2015 Type: Press Release

### **[Joint Statement by the Multilateral Development Banks on Sustainable Transport and Climate Change](#)**

MDBs Join Forces to Ramp up Climate Action in Transport

...We recognize the importance of improving the climate resilience of transport systems. We commit to building awareness of the need to protect transport services so that they can continue to deliver social and economic benefits under current and future climate change scenarios. We will work towards building a more systematic approach to mainstreaming climate resilience in transport policies, plans and investments through developing improved tools and methodologies, capacity building and project financing. To this end, we have been working with other international financial institutions to screen potential climate risks in our project pipelines...

Date: December 2, 2015 Type: Press Release

*[1] African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, CAF–Development Bank of Latin America, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, and the World Bank.*

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### **African Development Bank Group**

### **[AfDB to support electricity access for all by 2030 with African Renewable Energy Initiative](#)**

02/12/2015 - African Development Bank Group

Africa has launched an ambitious African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) as the continent's a major contribution to Conference of Parties (COP21) taking place in Paris, France.

The launch of the initiative which aims to produce 300 gigawatts (GW) of electricity for the continent by 2030 is a demonstration of Africa's leadership in the UN climate negotiations.

The initiative's goals are to help achieve sustainable development, enhance well-being and sound economic development by ensuring universal access to sufficient amounts of clean, appropriate and affordable energy.

The project also aims to help African countries leapfrog towards renewable energy systems that support their low-carbon development strategies while enhancing economic and energy security.

The initiative is expected to deliver 10 GW of new and additional renewable energy generation capacity by 2020 and mobilize the African potential to generate at least 300 GW by 2030.

AREI is an outcome of African leadership in Workstream II of the Durban Platform including their May 2014 proposal for a global renewable energy support programme.

The initiative has been endorsed by African Heads of State (AU Assembly and Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change) and Ministers of Environment (AMCEN) the G7 (Elmau Summit) the G20 (Energy Summit)...

Speaking during the launch of the project at the Africa Pavillion in Paris, Akinwumi Adesina, the President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), one of the major sponsors of the initiative, said the institution will triple its financing to climate change initiatives by 2020 dedicating 40 percent of the Bank's resources to such efforts.

He regretted that Africa is often referred to as a dark continent because majority of the residents have no access to electricity. "Africa has 640 million of its people who don't have access to electricity. A total of 7 million Africans have no access to clean energy and majority use charcoal and kerosene. This always leads to deaths. We must stop this," Adesina said.

He added, "The initiative is a game-changer as Africa loses 4 per cent of its GDP due to lack of clean energy. Sunshine should do more than just nourish our crops. It must light our homes. Our massive water resources should do more than water our farms, it should power our industries. Potential is important, but homes and industries cannot be powered by potential. Africa must unlock its renewable energy potentials."...

...The African Development Bank is working to put in place all necessary arrangements to host AREI Delivery Unit as well as serve as the Trustee as requested by the AREI Partners and ensure the immediate implementation of the initiative. It fits well with the Bank's New Deal on Energy for Africa that has an ambitious target of universal access by 2025 (which entails 100% urban access and 95% rural access).

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**[Child-centred adaptation: Realising children's rights in a changing climate](#)**

Children in a Changing Climate Coalition - ChildFund Alliance, Plan International, Save the Children, UNICEF, World Vision International

December 2015 :: 28 pages

Pdf: <https://plan-international.org/realising-childrens-rights-changing-climate#download-options>

### *Overview*

This Children in a Changing Climate coalition report argues that children should be a focus of efforts to address climate change and play an active part in the decisions that shape their present and future.

In developing countries, climate change is projected to exacerbate the top 5 causes of death for children under 5. Children are the least responsible for creating climate change but will bear the brunt of its impacts.

The report calls on governments to commit to 6 priority actions in the implementation of their climate change commitments and highlights child-centred case studies on tackling climate change from across the world.

### *Our recommendations [Excerpt from report]*

The analysis that follows shows that children should be a focus of efforts to address climate change, and play an active part in the decisions that shape their present and future. Members of the Children in a Changing Climate coalition call on governments to commit to six priority actions in the implementation of their climate change commitments.

#### *1 Recognise the unique needs and capacities of children*

Child-centred approaches to adaptation are effective and should be included prominently in local and national climate change and development planning processes. Existing adaptation policies, guidelines and strategies should be reviewed to ensure that children are visible, that their rights are being respected, and that the root causes of girls' and boys' vulnerability are addressed. Newly developed plans, including national adaptation Plans, should include child-centred approaches and ensure that children's rights are integrated into policy implementation.

#### *2 Engage children in adaptation decision-making, implementation and monitoring*

Children are capable of developing and implementing innovative solutions to complex problems. Local and national decision makers should provide the space and resources for children to contribute to adaptation actions as well as to develop their own solutions to the specific local climate change impacts that affect them. Children's views and ideas, and their right to participate in decisions that affect them, must be respected.

#### *3. Provide children access to the global stage - and listen to them*

As countries implement commitments under the UNFCCC, children should be closely engaged in the design, implementation and monitoring of actions. Children's monitoring role should include a facility through which they are able to report back to future conferences of the Parties to help the UNFCCC track progress and promote cross-learning between nations.

#### *4 Build a climate change and adaptation literate generation*

Under article 6 of the UNFCCC, governments have agreed that educating, empowering and engaging all stakeholders, including children and young people, is an essential part of the response to climate change. Climate change and risk reduction education helps increase the adaptive capacity of children and their communities, fosters environmental stewardship and

contributes to effective adaptation actions. increasing children's understanding of the risks of climate change empowers them to influence decisions that affect their safety and wellbeing. governments should work to integrate climate change and adaptation into school curricula and ensure teacher training programmes include up-to-date and locally-relevant climate change information..

#### *5 Focus on the most vulnerable*

Adaptation efforts should focus on the most vulnerable groups, including children. actions should be based on meaningful, gender-sensitive and inclusive consultations and participatory design processes that result in programmes that fully address the needs of the most vulnerable. adaptation funding allocations should be based on need, with more funding flowing to local level actions in particularly vulnerable communities and high-risk areas.

#### *6 Prioritise community-based adaptation*

Governments should prioritise local-level adaptation actions when framing and implementing national adaptation Plans. Adaptation needs are greatest at the local level, where vulnerable people will be most affected. to date, the majority of adaptation funding has flowed to national-level projects. it is critical that funding for community-based adaptation is significantly scaled up to address priority needs and start closing the adaptation deficit. the specific needs, rights and

#### *About Children in a Changing Climate Coalition*

The Children in a Changing Climate (CCC) coalition is a partnership of five leading child-centred development and humanitarian organisations: ChildFund Alliance, Plan International, Save the Children, UNICEF and World Vision International. We have a commitment to share knowledge, coordinate and work with children as agents of change, in full recognition of their capacity to prepare for and respond to shocks and stressors. The mandate of the CCC coalition is to advocate for and promote the rights of children in global agreements.

As child-centred organisations, CCC coalition members believe that addressing climate change is fundamental to safeguarding children's rights. Strong and urgent action is required if we are to ensure our children inherit a world with greater opportunities for prosperity and wellbeing. And, with serious impacts now unavoidable, we believe that child-centred adaptation should be a key component of the global response to climate change.

While many governments and development partners, including the United Nations, have worked to address climate change, children have been under-represented in multilateral and national discussions to date. This must change if we are to enact the words contained in the post-2015 agreements and empower children to create a better world. Members of the CCC coalition will continue to work with and for children to ensure their voices are heard, their needs met and their rights and capacities to act strengthened as the world strives to address the threat of climate change.

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### **Migration-Refugee Crises**

[Refugee Crisis: Greece activates EU Civil protection mechanism, agrees Frontex operation at border with former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and triggers RABIT mechanism](#)

Date: 03/12/2015

*Greece has today taken three actions to address the refugee crisis, activating EU mechanisms designed to assist in crisis situations.*

Greece has today activated the EU Civil Protection Mechanism to benefit from material support to help cope with the influx of refugees and asylum seekers in the country. Greece has requested items such as tents, generators, beds, sanitary equipment and emergency first aid kits. This voluntary delivery of aid is coordinated by the European Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) which is working closely with the Greek authorities and the other participating states in the Mechanism for a swift response to the request.

Greece has also today agreed an operational plan with Frontex for a new operation at the Greek border with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, where the agency will assist with the registration of migrants. The deployment of additional officers will begin next week.

Greece has also today put in a formal request for the deployment a Rapid Border Intervention Team operation to provide immediate border guard support at its external border in the Aegean islands. Frontex will now process the request as a matter of priority.

Over 50,000 people have arrived in Greece since 1 November. The scale is immense and the Commission is working very closely with the Greek authorities to assist them in this challenge...

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### **[Syrian refugee crisis: EU Trust Fund launches single biggest EU response package ever for €350 million, helping up to 1.5 million refugees and their host communities in Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and Iraq](#)**

Brussels, 1 December 2015

*Today's € 350 million aid package under the EU Trust Fund is the single biggest EU measure in response to the Syrian refugee crisis to date.*

Today, the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian crisis adopted a package of programmes totalling €350 million, the single biggest EU measure in response to the Syrian refugee crisis to date. The programmes will in the coming months help up to 1.5 million Syrian refugees and overstretched host communities in Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and Iraq through the provision of basic education and child protection, better access to healthcare, improved water and waste-water infrastructure, as well as support to resilience, economic opportunities and social inclusion

Federica Mogherini, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission stated that: "Today's decision is concrete evidence of EU solidarity with Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, those countries hosting the largest number of Syrian refugees who flee violence and persecutions. The war in Syria is the biggest humanitarian crisis we have been facing for decades, we have a duty to provide support to refugees and the communities that are hosting them.

"The Trust Fund will enable more than 1.5 million Syrians to receive access to education, water, food and health care. In addition, it will help us be ready to ensure that if a ceasefire is in place, we can rapidly deliver on the ground inside Syria. A lasting solution to the refugee crisis will only be achieved through a political process leading to a transition, led by Syrian themselves, to put the country back to stability and peace. The EU will spare no effort to

contribute to launch the political process, in parallel to the fight against Daesh and terrorist organisations."

**Background:**

The €350 million aid package consists of four different programmes:

**€140 million education programme** will finance a massive scale-up of support to the Ministries of Education in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan to enable them to enrol an additional 172,000 refugee children in school, while also providing for accelerated learning programmes, non-formal and early childhood education and child protection activities. It comprises 3 levels of action: (i) a multi-country programme with UNICEF focusing on Lebanon and Turkey, (ii) several multi-country actions by European NGO groupings focusing on retention support, non-formal and early childhood education, and (iii) additional direct support to the Jordanian Ministry of Education. Together, these actions will target up to 587,000 school-age children and adolescents that are currently out-of-school. As a result the EU Trust Fund financing will close the remaining gap to achieve the long pursued goal of bringing 1 million Syrian refugee children into education this school year.

**€130 million resilience & local development programme** responds to the urgent need of improving economic opportunities for refugees and vulnerable host communities beyond dependency on humanitarian relief. It will be implemented through a mix of single-country and multi-country activities by European NGOs, EU Member States development agencies, and the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement. The programme will target more than 200 communities and 400,000 people across the region and notably in Turkey, addressing basic financial needs of vulnerable families, engaging unemployed and disillusioned youth through work, skills development and community engagement in preparation of a future return to Syria, while also mitigating tensions between host and refugee communities.

**€55 million health programme** aims to widen and enhance access of refugees across the region to primary, secondary and tertiary health care, psycho-social support, and protection from sexual and gender-based violence. It will reach and benefit at least 700,000 refugees with a focus on Turkey and Lebanon. In addition, specific healthcare support is foreseen in northern Iraq.

**€25 million will be used to set-up a water, sanitation and hygiene programme** for Syrian refugees and host communities in Jordan and Lebanon, where the needs for supporting municipal water and wastewater services are biggest. It is expected to benefit up to 1 million people...

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**[The State of World Population 2015 :: SHELTER FROM THE STORM - A transformative agenda for women and girls in a crisis-prone world](#)**

UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund, 2015 :: 140 pages

ISBN 978-0-89714-987-7

Pdf: <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/hjwiCccQzeCTrGfbCidafWBVtjqM>

*Foreword*

*More than 100 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance—more than at any time since the end of the Second World War. Among those displaced by conflict or uprooted by disaster are tens of millions of women and adolescent girls. This report is a call to action to meet their needs and ensure their rights.*

While remarkable progress has been achieved during the past decade protecting the health and rights of women and adolescent girls in humanitarian settings, the growth in need has outstripped the growth in funding and services. Yet, these services are of critical importance, especially for very young adolescent girls, who are the most vulnerable and least able to confront the many challenges they face, even in stable times...

...Today about three fifths of all maternal deaths take place in humanitarian and fragile contexts. Every day 507 women and adolescent girls die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth in emergency situations and in fragile States. And gender-based violence continues to take a brutal toll, shattering lives and prospects for peace and recovery.

Together we must transform humanitarian action by placing the health and rights of women and young people at the centre of our priorities. At the same time, we must invest heavily in institutions and actions that build girls' and women's human capital and agency and in the resilience of communities and nations over the long run so that when a new crisis strikes, disruption and dislocation may be minimized and recovery may be accelerated.

For its part, UNFPA remains committed to the full realization of the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all women and girls, wherever they live, and under all conditions, crisis or otherwise, at all times. The surfeit of conflicts and disasters all around us today means that UNFPA is delivering a larger share of its services in crisis settings.

When women and girls can obtain sexual and reproductive health services, along with a variety of humanitarian programmes that deliberately tackle inequalities, the benefits of interventions grow exponentially and carry over from the acute phase of a crisis well into the future as countries and communities rebuild and people reclaim their lives.

Together we must strive for a world where women and girls are no longer disadvantaged in multiple ways but are equally empowered to realize their full potential, and contribute to the development and stability of their communities and nations—before, during or after a crisis.

*Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin  
United Nations Under-Secretary-General and  
Executive Director  
UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund*



## **Heat, Light and Power for Refugees :: Saving Lives, Reducing Costs**

*Chatham House Report for the Moving Energy Initiative*

Glada Lahn and Owen Grafham

The Royal Institute of International Affairs, November 2015 :: 69 pages

Pdf: <http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/hjwiCccQzeCTrGfICidafWBVLwrN>

## Foreward by Kofi Annan

There are now 60 million forcibly displaced people on our planet – more than the population of Australia and Canada combined. They include refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

This numbing figure is likely to increase further unless concerted action is taken to address the root causes of violent conflict. At a time when the humanitarian system is overstretched and underfunded, nothing could be more urgent.

In the meantime, the imperative is to find humane, creative and cost-effective ways to respond to the needs of so many individuals, most of whom are women and children.

Improving access to clean, safe and sustainable energy offers a promising way forward.

Everybody needs energy services for light, heat, cooling, communication and mobility. However, as the MEI highlights, the costs of energy access and provision are unnecessarily high, whether measured in terms of finance, the environment, health or security.

Entrepreneurship and amazing advances in technology are not being used systematically to respond to the needs of uprooted people or the communities that host them.

Getting this right could yield significant benefits for humanitarian organizations, host authorities and governments and above all for the livelihoods and ignity of the forcibly displaced.

## Executive Summary [initial text]

Displacement of people as a result of conflict is not a new phenomenon – but today it represents an unprecedented global challenge. The gap between the needs of growing numbers of displaced people and the resources and political will to meet their needs is widening. For example, voluntary contributions met less than half the \$3.05 billion increase in the UNHCR's funding requirement between 2009 and 2013.

Energy is one critical area which illustrates this problem but also offers potential for practical redress. Energy services are essential for basic human protection and dignity, two of the core ethical aims of humanitarian assistance. Energy services provide cooking, lighting, heating and clean water, and underpin all but the most rudimentary income-earning activities. Yet millions of displaced people lack access to clean, safe and secure energy services, in part because funding for such services is inadequate. The lack of reliable data on energy use in the humanitarian field shows that it is a neglected area. But the evidence amassed in the course of this project reveals a huge opportunity to provide better and more sustainable energy services.

Drawing on open-source data, interviews and field surveys, this report offers the first global overview of the state of energy use among almost 60 million people forcibly displaced by conflict. It considers the mounting financial and human costs of their current methods of obtaining energy, and assesses the economic, environmental and human case for change...



## **[Google and FAO partner to make remote sensing data more efficient and accessible](#)**

*Partnership enhances ability to assess changing forest and to estimate greenhouse gas emissions*

1 December, Paris - Google Maps and FAO have agreed to work closely together to make geospatial tracking and mapping products more accessible, providing a high-technology assist to countries tackling climate change and much greater capacity to experts developing forest and land-use policies.

Digital technology tapping into satellite imagery is revolutionizing the way countries can assess, monitor and plan the use of their natural resources, including monitoring deforestation and desertification...

...The three-year partnership between Google Maps and FAO is designed to foster innovation and expertise and sharply broaden access to easy-to-use digital tools. It ushers in a major ramping up of existing collaboration between the two organizations and will boost the visibility and implementation of efforts to encourage sustainable environmental practices around the world.

"This partnership is powerful because it unites the complementary strengths of UN FAO and Google," said Rebecca Moore, Director, Google Earth, Earth Engine & Earth Outreach. "FAO has decades of hard-won experience working on the ground in hundreds of countries on thousands of projects. Meanwhile, Google technology is at the cutting edge of big data, cloud computing, and transformatively-simple mapping tools. The FAO Collect Earth application brilliantly builds on top of Google Earth and Earth Engine to provide a simple but powerful global and national forest carbon monitoring tool, empowering countries as diverse as Chile, Panama, Namibia, Papua New Guinea, Tunisia and Bhutan. We look forward to further strengthening this partnership in support of global climate action and sustainable development."

Concretely, Google Maps will provide 1,200 trusted tester credentials on Google Earth Engine to FAO staff and partners, while also providing training and receiving feedback on users' needs and experiences.

FAO will train its own staff and technical experts in member countries, upon their requests,, to use free and open source software tools developed within its *Open Foris Initiative* and using Google technology, for example *Earth Engine*.

The partnership foresees sharing knowledge and identifying needs that will broaden the kind of satellite data collected, broadening the focus to monitoring drylands and agricultural crop productivity...

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### **Commitment to Development Index 2015**

Center for Global Development  
Petra Krylová and Owen Barder  
12/4/15

The Commitment to Development Index ranks 27 of the world's richest countries on policies that affect the more than five billion people living in poorer nations. Those policies extend well beyond giving foreign aid, which is just one of seven components on the CDI: Aid; Finance; Technology; Environment; Trade; Security; Migration

The Index gives credit for generous and high-quality aid, financial transparency and incentives for foreign direct investment, robust support for technological research and development, policies that protect the environment, open and fair trade policies, contributions to global security, and open immigration policies. Scores are reduced for barriers to imports from developing countries, selling arms to poor and undemocratic nations, barriers to sharing technology, and policies that harm shared environmental resources.

Visit [cgdev.org/cdi](http://cgdev.org/cdi) to explore the Commitment to Development Index, view additional publications and background papers, and dive deeper into the CDI methodology, data, and code.

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

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### **:: Agency/Government/IGO Watch**

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

#### **United Nations – Secretary General, Security Council, General Assembly**

[to 5 December 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases/Meetings Coverage*

4 December 2015

SG/SM/17387-HR/5279-OBV/1564

[Secretary-General, in Message for Human Rights Day, Urges Concerted Global Action to Protect, Promote Fundamental Freedoms, Birthright of All Peoples](#)

4 December 2015

SG/SM/17388-ENV/DEV/1609

[Secretary-General Calls New Report of Climate Finance Leadership Alliance 'Launch Pad' for Future Cities' 'True Transformation'](#)

Following are UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's opening remarks, as prepared for delivery, at the launch of the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance report on "State of City Climate Finance", in Paris.

3 December 2015

SG/SM/17385-HR/5278-OBV/1563

[Secretary-General Stresses Need to Account for 'Unconsidered and Unheard' Needs of Persons with 'Invisible' Disabilities, at International Day Observance](#)

Following are UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's remarks at the opening ceremony of the observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, in New York.

3 December 2015

SG/A/1616\*-BIO/4794\*-ENV/DEV/1607

[Secretary-General Appoints David Nabarro of United Kingdom Special Adviser on 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today announced the appointment of David Nabarro of the United Kingdom as Special Adviser on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Special Adviser will work with Member States and other relevant stakeholders to galvanize action on implementation of the Agenda, while also overseeing the Secretary-General's special initiatives, for example, "Every Woman Every Child".

3 December 2015

GA/11734

[General Assembly Adopts without Vote Two Resolutions Calling for Concerted Global Efforts to Advance Culture of Peace, Non-Violence, Tolerance](#)

Confronting an increasingly polarized world where religious intolerance, discrimination, xenophobia, conflict and the emergence of new extremist ideologies abounded, the General Assembly today adopted, without a vote, two resolutions that stressed the advancement of a culture of peace and non-violence based on education, tolerance, dialogue and cooperation.

1 December 2015

SG/A/1614\*-BIO/4792\*-HR/5277

[Secretary-General Appoints Kate Gilmore of Australia As Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights](#)

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today announced the appointment of Kate Gilmore of Australia as Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights. She will succeed Flavia Pansieri of Italy, to whom the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights are grateful for her dedicated service to the United Nations human rights programme during the past three years, following a long and distinguished career in the United Nations system around the world.

1 December 2015

SG/SM/17379-HR/5276-OBV/1560

[Use 2030 Agenda as Road Map to Free World's Enslaved People, Secretary-General Says, in Message Marking International Day for Abolition of Slavery](#)

**UN OHCHR** Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Committee on the Rights of the Child** [to 5 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 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**SRS/CAAC** Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict [to 5 December 2015]

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

02 Dec 2015

[Iraq: Report Describes Conflict with Dramatic Consequences for Children](#)

New York – Iraq has been engulfed in a wave of violence with dramatic consequences for children, states the second report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Iraq, covering the period from 1 January 2011 to 30 June 2015.

Killing and maiming, acts of extreme violence, the abduction of close to 1,400 boys and girls, recurrent attacks on schools and hospitals, the recruitment and use of children and sexual violence used as a tactic of war by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), are a few examples of the grim reality faced by the children of Iraq.

“The lives of boys and girls have been deeply affected by the deteriorating security situation in Iraq. The Government of Iraq faces tremendous challenges to protect the country’s children, who urgently need to be shielded from this brutal conflict,” said Leila Zerrougui, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

*High number of child casualties*

Despite limited access for monitoring and reporting due to the volatile security situation, the United Nations documented more than 3,000 child casualties, making killing and maiming the violation that affected children the most.

Attacks using tactics of extreme violence, allegedly perpetrated by Al-Qaeda in Iraq, Islamic State in Iraq, ISIL, account for more than half of all documented child casualties. From 2011 to 2013, most child casualties were the result of improvised explosive devices...

**SRS/SVC** Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**UN OCHA** [to 5 December 2015]

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

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

04 Dec 2015

[Central African Republic: Statement by the Humanitarian Coordinator in the Central African Republic, Mr. Aurélien A. Agbénonci, 4 December 2015](#)

Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Country: Central African Republic (Bangui, 4 December 2015): The Humanitarian Coordinator in the Central African Republic, Mr. Aurélien A. Agbénonci strongly condemns attack on internally displaced site in Ngakobo, which resulted in the death of 8 civilians. One of the U.N. peacekeepers defending the site was wounded. Armed men attacked the IDP site, 60 km south of Bambari on 3 December...

30 Nov 2015

[Iraq: Deputy UN Relief Chief Kyung-Wha Kang Says Iraqi Humanitarian Crisis Deserves Much More Attention \[EN/AR/KU\]](#)

Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Country: Iraq (Baghdad/Erbil, 30 November 2015): Kyung-wha Kang, the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs visited Baghdad and Erbil to discuss the humanitarian crisis. "The human cost of the crisis is devastating. We are extremely worried that all indicators point to a dramatically worsening situation in the months ahead," Ms. Kang said. "I spoke with women who had lost virtually everything..."

**UNICEF** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*Selected press releases*

[Closing the gaps in Bulgaria: UNICEF urges greater investment in the youngest and most vulnerable children](#)

SOFIA, Bulgaria, 4 December 2015 –At the conclusion of a three-day visit to Bulgaria, UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake commended the government's commitment to children. He also discussed with the government the importance of prioritizing investments in early childhood development and in reaching the most disadvantaged and marginalized children.

[Statement by UNICEF Iraq Representative, Peter Hawkins and UN Special Representative of the Secretary General for Iraq, Ján Kubiš](#)

BAGHDAD, Iraq, 3 December 2015 - The ongoing conflict in Iraq is taking a heavy toll on the country's most vulnerable citizens – its children.

[Germany's €250 million contribution will reach children in the world's most volatile conflicts - UNICEF](#)

NEW YORK, 1 December, 2015 – The German Government's contribution of €250 million this year will reach millions of children caught in conflict, UNICEF said today.

[Harsh weather, border restrictions – New blow to children on the move, says UNICEF](#)

GENEVA, 1 December 2015 – Unpredictable border restrictions and harsh weather are compounding the hardships and challenges for refugee and migrant children and women who now account for more than half of all arrivals by sea.

[Asia-Pacific region facing a 'hidden epidemic' of HIV among adolescents, new report finds](#)

BANGKOK, 30 November – The Asia-Pacific region is facing a 'hidden epidemic' of HIV among adolescents. There were an estimated 50,000 new HIV infections among adolescents aged 15-19 in 2014, accounting for 15 per cent of new infections.

[Nepal: Serious shortage of essential supplies threatens millions of children this winter - UNICEF](#)

KATHMANDU, Nepal, 30 November 2015 – More than 3 million children under the age of 5 in Nepal are at risk of death or disease during the harsh winter months due to a severe shortage of fuel, food, medicines and vaccines – warns UNICEF

**UNHCR** Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [to 5 December 2015]

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

[UNHCR: Bay of Bengal boat movements manageable with regional cooperation](#)

4 December 2015

[UNHCR welcomes the Conclusions of the EU Justice and Home Affairs Council on Statelessness](#)

4 December 2015

The UNHCR Director of the Bureau for Europe, Vincent Cochetel, welcomed the adoption of the first EU Council Conclusions on statelessness, on 4 December 2015, which acknowledge the importance of identifying stateless persons and strengthening their protection.

"By adopting the Conclusions, the Council took a significant step forward towards a comprehensive approach to statelessness in the European Union" said Cochetel "Adopting new statelessness determination procedures and improving the existing ones is instrumental to identify and reduce the number of stateless people, strengthen their protection and eliminate the risk of discrimination against them."

Among other provisions, the Conclusions invite the European Commission to launch exchanges of good practises among Member States and encourage the active coordination of national contact points, through the European Migration Network. In addition, the Council welcomes the UNHCR 10-year #IBELONG campaign to end statelessness by 2024.

UNHCR estimates that there are more than 600,000 stateless people living in Europe, over 400,000 in the European Union. "In particular, conflict and displacement are placing children at greater risk of statelessness." added Cochetel "This is due to a combination of factors, including difficulties in acquiring birth certificates, increased family separation, gaps and gender discrimination in nationality laws and inadequate civil registration in countries of birth, including in Europe."

UNHCR calls on Member States to actively identify and protect stateless persons and those at risk of statelessness, and welcomes the active role of the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union in putting statelessness on the EU's agenda. UNHCR looks forward to continuing working with European institutions in this respect.

[UNHCR concerned by violence at Greek border, calls for improved security](#)

3 December 2015

**IOM / International Organization for Migration [to 5 December 2015]**

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

*Selected Press Releases*

[IOM Begins Canadian Refugee Resettlement Operations in Lebanon](#)

12/04/15

Lebanon - IOM, in collaboration with the Canadian government, UNHCR and partners, today began refugee resettlement operations in Lebanon.

[IOM Monitors Greece-FYRoM Border Amid Security Concerns](#)

12/04/15

Greece - The situation at Greece's border with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYRoM) is extremely tense.

[Better Policies Needed to Help Migrants, IOM Tells Special Meeting in Bangkok](#)

12/04/15

Thailand - "Bad policies are unintentionally subsidizing the smugglers," says IOM's Director General William Lacy Swing.

#### [IOM Highlights Needs of Deported Afghan Minors](#)

12/04/15

Afghanistan - Unaccompanied minors make up the largest group of vulnerable Afghans returning from Iran, yet the needs of the children who make this dangerous cross-border journey are often overlooked.

#### [IOM Aids Cyclone-Hit Communities in Socotra, Yemen](#)

12/04/15

Yemen - In the first two weeks of November 2015, two cyclones, Chapala and Megh, made landfall across the southern coast of Yemen. As part of ongoing support to the affected population, IOM provided humanitarian assistance to over 2,000 vulnerable internal displaced families on the island of Socotra.

#### [IOM Helps Stranded Malian Migrants to Leave Libya, Return Home](#)

12/04/15

Mali - On Tuesday (1/12) IOM, in collaboration with the Libyan and Malian authorities, helped 170 stranded Malian migrants, including 20 women and 150 men, to return home from the Libyan capital, Tripoli.

#### [IOM Tanzania Targets Health, Mobility and HIV Prevention on World Aids Day](#)

12/04/15

Tanzania - HIV / AIDS remains a major public health issue around the world and has been responsible for over 35 million deaths to date. Migrants and mobile populations are recognised as being at a high risk of HIV infection as they frequently face marginalisation, exclusion and various barriers to accessing health promotion and care.

#### [IOM Cote d'Ivoire Assesses Counter Trafficking Project on Liberian Border](#)

12/04/15

Côte d'Ivoire - IOM Cote d'Ivoire has led a two-day evaluation mission to the town of San Pedro on the Liberian border as a part of its Akoma counter trafficking project.

#### [IOM, Canada Open Processing Center in Amman, Jordan for Canada-bound Refugees](#)

12/01/15

Jordan – IOM, together with its partners, began the process of registering Syrian refugees slated for resettlement in Canada from Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

#### [Children Account for 20% of Maritime Arrivals to Europe in 2015: IOM and UNICEF](#)

12/01/15

Germany - IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre and UNICEF shows that children make up at least one in five of the 870,000 arrivals to Europe in 2015.

#### [Migrants Should Not be Left Behind in Fight to Eradicate AIDS](#)

12/01/15

Switzerland – With 15 million people already accessing life-saving HIV treatment, UNAIDS estimates that the world is on the fast track to end AIDS.

#### [UK Backs Lifesaving IOM Operations in South Sudan](#)

12/01/15

South Sudan - The United Kingdom has increased its support of IOM's lifesaving operations for vulnerable populations across South Sudan. Needs remain immense two years into the crisis, with an estimated 1.7 million people internally displaced and millions more in urgent need of assistance.

#### [Cameroon Internal Displacement Tops 158,000](#)

12/01/15

Cameroon - According to the first round of IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), 158,316 people or 27,919 households are now internally displaced in the Far North region of Cameroon.

#### [IOM Senegal, Spain Launch Youth Centre for Entrepreneurship Training](#)

12/01/15

Senegal – A Centre for Training and Assistance to Entrepreneurship was officially launched on Friday 27th November in Guédiawaye, on the outskirts of Dakar, by Senegal's Director of the National Agency for the Promotion of Youth Employment (ANPEJ).

#### [IOM, Partners Host Workshop to Address Irregular Migration in Southern Africa](#)

12/01/15

South Africa – Following the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) Conference held in Zimbabwe in July 2015, IOM, UNHCR, UNODC, UNICEF and Save the Children International yesterday (30/11) jointly launched a regional stakeholder workshop to facilitate technical discussions for the implementation of priority actions identified at the 2015 Ministerial MIDSA.

#### [Singaporean Students Pilot Interactive Counter Trafficking App](#)

12/01/15

Thailand - IOM's IOM X Campaign, along with its partners USAID, the U.S. Embassy Singapore and Microsoft, yesterday presented the findings from IOM X Connect Singapore – its pilot outreach project aimed at raising public awareness for the issue of human trafficking in Singapore.

#### **UN Women** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

#### ["Women and girls are essential climate actors" —Lakshmi Puri in Paris](#)

Date: 04 December 2015

Remarks by UN Women Deputy Executive Director Lakshmi Puri at GLOBE International's annual legislators' summit dubbed "Towards Coherence and Impact" at the Assemblée Nationale of Paris, 4 December 2015.

#### [Empowering and including women and girls with disabilities](#)

Date: 02 December 2015

Women and girls with disabilities remain at the margins of decision-making and work on gender equality. For too long, the specific needs of women with disabilities have been invisible, both to the advocates of women's rights and those of disability rights

#### [Statement by UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka for World AIDS Day](#)

Date: 01 December 2015

In her statement for World AIDS day, UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka highlights the importance of breaking down barriers that stop women and girls demanding health care services and realizing their rights

#### [UN launches regional programme to eradicate child marriage](#)

Date: 30 November 2015

In Panama City on 24 November, on occasion of the beginning of the 16 days of activism and the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the regional offices of UN Women, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNICEF and the Pan American Health Organization, presented a new joint programme for the eradication of child marriage.

#### **WHO & Regionals** [to 5 December 2015]

##### [Improving the quality of care at birth](#)

4 December 2015 -- Worldwide, the majority of maternal and newborn deaths occur around the time of birth, typically within the first 24 hours after childbirth. Most of these deaths are preventable. WHO's new "Safe Childbirth Checklist and Implementation Guide" targets the major causes of maternal and newborn complications and deaths, including post-partum haemorrhage, infection, obstructed labour, preeclampsia and birth asphyxia.

[Press release on the safe child birth checklist](#)

##### [First ever global estimates of foodborne diseases](#)

3 December 2015 — Almost one third (30%) of all deaths from foodborne diseases are in children under the age of 5 years, despite the fact that they make up only 9% of the global population. This is among the findings of WHO's "Estimates of the global burden of foodborne diseases" – the most comprehensive report to date on the impact of contaminated food on health and wellbeing. The report estimates the burden of foodborne diseases caused by 31 agents – bacteria, viruses, parasites, toxins and chemicals.

[Read the press release](#)

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

:: [4 December 2015](#) Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia

:: [3 December 2015](#) Zika virus infection – Venezuela

:: [3 December 2015](#) Zika virus infection – Mexico

:: [3 December 2015](#) Zika virus infection – Paraguay

:: [WHO Regional Offices](#)

[WHO African Region AFRO](#)

*No new digest content identified.*

[WHO Region of the Americas PAHO](#)

:: [The health challenges posed by urbanization must be addressed through cross-sector policies, experts say](#) (12/03/2015)  
:: [PAHO/WHO and Foreign Medical Teams Examine How to Strengthen Emergency Response to Outbreaks and Disasters](#) (12/01/2015)  
:: [Data from 17 countries and territories in the Americas point to elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis](#) (11/30/2015)

WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO  
*No new digest content identified.*

WHO European Region EURO  
:: [More than 23 million people in the WHO European Region fall ill from unsafe food every year](#) 03-12-2015  
:: [Papers invited for Public Health Panorama](#) 30-11-2015

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO  
*No new digest content identified.*

WHO Western Pacific Region  
*No new digest content identified.*

**UNAIDS** [to 5 December 2015]

<http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/>  
[The Executive Director of UNAIDS commends the President of South Africa for his bold leadership on HIV](#)  
02 December 2015 |

[UNAIDS Executive Director appoints Tobeka Madiba Zuma, First Lady of South Africa, as UNAIDS Special Advocate](#)  
02 December 2015 |

[On World AIDS Day 2015, Executive Director of UNAIDS calls on countries to quicken the pace of action](#)  
01 December 2015 |

[Three new agreements announced with the potential to expand access to innovative HIV treatment in low- and middle-income countries](#)

HARARE/GENEVA, 30 November 2015—The Clinton Health Access Initiative, Inc. (CHAI), UNAIDS, and UNITAID announce today three new agreements that could increase access to more sustainable HIV drug regimens at reduced prices, pending stringent regulatory approval and/or World Health Organization (WHO) pre-qualification.

These agreements have the potential to increase access to state-of-the-art HIV treatment regimens for people living with HIV in low- and middle- income countries. The regimens are expected to be more durable and produce fewer side effects than existing drugs and are included in the revised 2015 WHO consolidated guidelines on the use of antiretroviral drugs for treating and preventing HIV infection...

[UNAIDS welcomes release of new guidelines from the World Health Organization on the use of antiretroviral medicines](#)

30 November 2015 |

[UNAIDS urges countries across Africa to Fast-Track their response to HIV](#)

30 November 2015 |

**UNFPA** United Nations Population Fund [to 5 December 2015]

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

December 2015

*Press Release*

[Essential Health Needs of Women Often Neglected in Assistance after Natural Disasters, Conflicts](#)

UNITED NATIONS, New York, 3 December 2015 --The health needs of women and adolescents are too often neglected in humanitarian response to natural disasters and conflicts around the world...

**UNDP** United Nations Development Programme [to 5 December 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

[Nations Unite for Oceans: New GEF Publication Captures 20 Years of Ocean Sustainability Impacts](#)

Dec 4, 2015

This publication highlights how GEF grant funding has been very effective in helping to transform key ocean sectors such as shipping, fisheries and coastal wastewater management, at global, regional and national scales, on a path towards sustainability.

[World AIDS Day: record drop in cost of HIV treatment](#)

Nov 30, 2015

Through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-Global Fund partnership, the cost of the HIV medicines has dropped to an unprecedented US\$100 per person per year in Equatorial Guinea, Haiti, Mali, South Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

[UNDP Administrator Helen Clark: Development gains need to be spread more evenly to leave no one behind in Lao PDR](#)

Nov 29, 2015

The occasion of UNDP Administrator Helen Clark's official visit to Lao PDR was the 12th High Level Round Table Meeting. Helen Clark made a keynote speech to the plenary session, emphasising Lao PDR's commitment to the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in its 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan.

**UN Division for Sustainable Development** [to 5 December 2015]

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

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

[Join the SDGs natural language processing and data visualization challenge!](#)

4 Dec 2015 - An open challenge to identify and visualize the relations among the recently adopted sustainable development goals (SDGs) has been launched by the Division for Sustainable Development and Unite Ideas. The challenge consists of building an automated tool that extracts from a set of UN publications all the messages that relate to the relationships between urban development (SDG 11) and all the other SDG areas, and then visualizes the results.

The winning solution will be announced on 15 February 2016. The best solution or solutions will be showcased on the UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform and on the Unite Ideas website, and may be featured in the Global Sustainable Development Report. [More information](#)

**UN Statistical Commission :: UN Statistics Division** [to 5 December 2015]

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

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

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

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

An open consultation will take place on the [proposed SDG Indicators](#) that currently coded as 'grey', indicating that further discussion on them is still needed. The consultation will be open from Wednesday, 9 December to Tuesday, 15 December to both observers (non-IAEG Member States and representatives of regional commissions and regional and international agencies) and other stakeholders (civil society, academia and private sector) for technical comments.

**UNEP** United Nations Environment Programme [to 5 December 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

[Commitments Made to Reduce Black Carbon, Methane and Hydrofluorocarbons](#)

Cutting Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Critical to Success of Global Climate Response  
05/12/2015

[Significant Efforts to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Across UN - New Report](#)

The report details the emissions from 65 United Nations organizations, covering over 250,000 personnel around the world.  
04/12/2015

[UNEP Releases Full Version of Emissions Gap Report](#)

The full Emissions Gap Report can be downloaded from [UNEP Live](#).  
04/12/2015

['Whole System' Approach Needed to Cut Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Experts Say at Climate Meeting](#)

Appropriate Management of Natural Resources at Centre of Solutions to Climate Change, Says International Resource Panel  
30/11/2015

[RSPO Commits to Orangutan Crisis via GRASP](#)

An estimated 70,000 orangutans remain in the wild, but the majority are found on Borneo. The fires shattered already fragmented populations and left orangutan rehabilitation centers overwhelmed by rescued apes.

30/11/2015

**UNISDR** UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 5 December 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

[Lawmakers link global development agenda](#)

4 Dec 2015

Hundreds of legislators from around the world have gathered on the sidelines of the COP21 climate summit to focus on harnessing low carbon development to eradicate poverty and better protect people against disasters.

[Central Java acts on forest fires](#)

3 Dec 2015

Thirty-five cities and districts in one of the world's most disaster-exposed countries, Indonesia, have come together to declare their commitment to reduce disaster risk following months of devastating forest fires which have released huge quantities of greenhouse gases into the

[Vulnerable States call for zero emissions](#)

1 Dec 2015

Leaders of the world's most climate fragile states have issued a call for full decarbonisation of the world economy, 100% renewable energy by 2050, and zero emissions by 2050 to keep the world on track for below 1.5°C warming and to reduce disaster risk.

**UN DESA** United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 5 December 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

*No new digest content identified.*

**UNESCO** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

[International Expert Meeting on the Responsibility to Protect as applied to the Protection of Cultural Heritage](#)

04 December 2015

[UNESCO and The Nippon Foundation join forces to promote the human rights of persons with disabilities through ICTs](#)

03 December 2015

UNESCO organized an International Expert Meeting on the Responsibility to Protect as applied to the Protection of Cultural Heritage from 26 to 27 November 2015. The primary purpose of

the meeting was to discuss the concept of Responsibility to Protect and its possible application to the protection of cultural heritage.

Participants included 22 distinguished specialists and practitioners representing various international governmental and non-governmental organizations in this field, including Mr Adama Dieng, UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide as well as the Secretariat of the 1954, 1970 and 1972 Conventions.

The meeting was opened by Francesco Bandarin, Assistant Director-General for Culture a.i. and continued with an exchange of views on relevant aspects of the topic with a focus to operationalize this concept on a bilateral and multilateral level. Mechtild [Rössler](#), Director of the Division for Heritage, closed the meeting, by highlighting the need for broad cooperation and complementarities among organizations.

### [President of UN General Assembly welcomes UNESCO's leadership in 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda](#)

02 December 2015

### [Participants of UNESCO symposium call to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions in Iraq](#)

01 December 2015

**UNODC** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 5 December 2015]

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

### [Statement on the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery](#)

Vienna 2 December 2015 - Today is the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, an important day to reflect on the suffering of human trafficking victims who may be enslaved by this pitiless crime.

Human trafficking directly effects fragile societies and communities and has the reach to undermine attempts at promoting sustainable development. The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), adopted by the UN General Assembly this year, specifically recognises the challenge of human trafficking.

Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals on gender equality seeks the elimination of trafficking and sexual and other forms of exploitation, while Goal 8 stresses the need to take measures to eradicate human trafficking.

Our efforts must protect vulnerable young people, especially women and girls, from human trafficking and assist the victims, so they can become survivors.

The platform for our resistance is the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocol on human trafficking, as well as the UN Convention against Corruption.

Using the convention and the protocol, information can be shared, joint operations undertaken, and victims protected and supported.

Sufficient funding is a priority particularly through the UN Trust Fund for trafficking victims. Data is essential for action and we must chase down criminals' profits wherever they flow.

Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals underscores the importance of ending trafficking and all forms of violence and torture of children.

We must work collectively to ensure this outcome. Otherwise, we risk a lost generation of girls and boys whose lives have been utterly destroyed by human trafficking.

A generation separated from their loved ones and cruelly exploited by criminals. Children traumatised and living without education, without healthcare and often without hope.

On this day, I call on every country and person to do their utmost to rid the world of human trafficking.

### [Statement on World AIDS Day](#)

01/12/2015

**UN-HABITAT** United Nations Human Settlements Programme [to 5 December 2015]

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

*[Selected Announcements]*

### [Guiding Principles for Climate City Planning Action](#)

Posted December 4, 2015

### [Africities 2015 kicks off with urbanisation taking centre stage](#)

Johannesburg 01 December 2015—The Africities 2015 kicked off in Johannesburg on Sunday with urbanisation taking the centre stage. In his official opening speech, South Africa's Minister in the Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation gave UN-Habitat a vote...

Posted December 1, 2015

### [UN-Habitat and UNAIDS present new report at Africities](#)

Johannesburg, 30 November 2015—Cities have a primary role to play to Fast-Track the end of the AIDS epidemic by 2030 says report by UN-Habitat and UNAIDS.

Posted November 30, 2015

**FAO** Food & Agriculture Organization [to 5 December 2015]

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

*[Selected Announcements]*

### [New knowledge-sharing initiative to measure and reduce food loss and waste](#)

FAO, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the CGIAR research program on Policies, Institutions and Markets (PIM) today launched a new initiative to enhance global cooperation on measuring and reducing food loss and waste.

4-12-2015

### [Soils are endangered, but the degradation can be rolled back](#)

The Status of the World's Soil Resources produced by FAO's Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils brings together the work of some 200 soil scientists from 60 countries. Its publication coincides with World Soil Day which is celebrated on 4 December and also the end

of the UN International Year of Soils 2015 an initiative which has served to raise global awareness on what has been described as "humanity's silent ally".

4-12-2015

#### [Council highlights climate change and SDGs for FAO's work in 2016-17](#)

FAO's executive council today closed its 151st session today, welcoming the Organization's budgetary focus and renewed emphases on themes such as climate change and nutrition that cut across traditional disciplines and technical divisions. The Council, the equivalent of FAO's board of directors, also welcomed FAO's work with the Sustainable Development Goals approved at the United Nations this autumn.

4-12-2015

#### [Food prices fall in November amid robust global inventories](#)

Major food commodity prices fell in November, reversing about half of their rise in the previous month, as the cost of internationally-traded staples fell across the board except for sugar. The FAO Food Price Index averaged 156.7 points in November, down 1.6 percent from its revised October average and 18 percent below its value a year earlier.

3-12-2015

#### [Google and FAO partner to make remote sensing data more efficient and accessible](#)

Google and FAO have agreed to work closely together to make geospatial tracking and mapping products more accessible for countries. The three-year partnership between Google and FAO is designed to foster technological innovation and expertise and enhance capacity building efforts by working to make applications of digital tools easier to use and apply.

1-12-2015

**IFAD** International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 5 December 2015]

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

#### [Top media fail to connect climate change, migration and food security, says new report](#)

Paris, 4 December 2015 – Top news media are failing to identify climate change as a contributor to some of the world's biggest crises, including migration, food insecurity and conflict, says a new research report funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and presented at the 21st UNCCD Conference of Parties (COP21) in Paris today.

"The media, whether local or global, are among the world's most influential institutions and how they shape the climate change narrative remains vitally important," said IFAD President, Kanayo F. Nwanze, about why his organization sponsored the research. "If the world becomes aware of how climate change threatens our food security or why it is a catalyst for migration and conflict, then we can expect better support for policies and investments that can pre-empt future crises."

The report, "[Food, Migration and Climate Change: The Untold Story](#)," was prepared by Sam Dubberley, a journalist and Director of Kishnish Media Ltd. The research was conducted in September and includes an analysis of eight popular and highly influential news outlets in the United Kingdom and France, including the BBC, Channel 4, TF1, The Guardian, Daily Mail, Le Monde, Libération and France 2...

**ILO** International Labour Organization [to 5 December 2015]

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

[The ILO and the United Nations Climate Change Conference - COP21](#)

**ICAO** International Civil Aviation Organization [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**IMO** International Maritime Organization [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**WMO** World Meteorological Organization [to 5 December 2015]

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

[Climate Risk Early Warning Systems initiative launched at COP21](#)

[2 December 2015](#)

The governments of Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Luxembourg and The Netherlands have agreed to give more than US\$80 million to equip up to 80 countries with better climate risk early warning systems.

Countries from Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and, more broadly, nations in Africa will be the first to be supported from the so-called Climate Risk Early Warning Systems (CREWS). They are on the frontline of the most dramatic consequences of climate change and the least equipped with efficient early warning systems.

**UNIDO** United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 5 December 2015]

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

[Technology can deliver inclusive and sustainable industrial development: Industrial Development Report 2016](#)

VIENNA, 2 December 2015 - The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) today launched its flagship publication, the Industrial Development Report (IDR) 2016...

[New open data platform adds further transparency to UNIDO's inclusive and sustainable industrialization work](#)

VIENNA, 2 December 2015 – A new platform launched this week by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as part of its transparency initiative provides details on all ongoing programmes and projects.

[UNIDO forum focuses on partnerships as a way to move Sustainable Development Goal 9 into action](#)

VIENNA, 1 December 2015 – The fourth Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development Forum that ended today in Vienna focused on ways the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) can contribute to advancing...

### [UNIDO and the EU launch new report on joint cooperation](#)

VIENNA, 30 November 2015 – A new report on the cooperation between the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the European Union (EU) from 2005 to 2015 was today launched in Vienna.

### [Inclusive and sustainable industrialization key driver of Agenda 2030, say participants at UNIDO General Conference](#)

VIENNA, 30 November 2015 – Inclusive and sustainable industrial development lies at the core of UNIDO's mandate, it is one of the main drivers for sustainable development and will be crucial for achieving the 2030 Agenda...

### **UNWTO** World Tourism Organization [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

### **ITU** International Telecommunications Union [to 5 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 statistics symposium underlines enormous untapped potential of ICTs to improve socio-economic development](#)

*Global statistics experts focus on power of big data, ICT innovation and the emerging 'Internet of Things'*

Hiroshima, 3 December 2015 – More than 600 participants from 88 countries, including Deputy Prime Ministers, government ministers, vice-ministers, Directors-General and leaders from business, academia and United Nations agencies met in Hiroshima, Japan, from 30 November to 2 December to attend ITU's World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS-15).

The event opened with a special ceremony commemorating ITU's 150th anniversary, followed by a Ministerial Roundtable focusing on ICT as a driver of sustainable development, and a Leaders Dialogue on the topic of future ICT trends, policies and measurement challenges. Participants addressed a wide range of topical issues including big data, progress in measuring the socio-economic impact of ICTs, ICT statistics and the Sustainable Development Goals' monitoring framework, strategies to measure ICT innovation, and the use of data generated by the Internet of Things to drive ICT development...

### [ITU supports Zimbabwe to deliver health care services through ICTs](#)

Geneva, 1 December 2015 – The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Postal and Telecommunication Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ) signed a cooperation agreement on 25 November for the extension of telemedicine services to rural and remote clinics and hospitals in Zimbabwe.

Through this new project, the Ministry of ICTs Postal and Courier Services of Zimbabwe will receive assistance from ITU in the development of e-health sector policies and regulations. The overall objective of the project is to use ICTs to improve delivery and provision of quality, cost effective, affordable and accessible health services, particularly to remote and disadvantaged areas...

### [ITU releases annual global ICT data and ICT Development Index country rankings](#)

*Korea ranks in first place in [global ICT Development Index \(IDI\)](#)*

Geneva, 30 November 2015 – ITU’s flagship annual Measuring the Information Society Report, released today, reveals that 3.2 billion people are now online, representing 43.4% of the global population, while mobile-cellular subscriptions have reached almost 7.1 billion worldwide, with over 95% of the global population now covered by a mobile-cellular signal. The report also notes that all 167 economies included in the ITU’s ICT Development Index (IDI) improved their IDI values between 2010 and 2015 – meaning that levels of information and communication technology (ICT) access, use and skills continue to improve all around the world.

The Measuring the Information Society Report is widely recognized as the repository of the world’s most reliable and impartial global data and analysis on the state of global ICT development, and is extensively relied upon by governments, international organizations, development banks and private sector analysts worldwide.

“ICTs will be essential in meeting each and every one of the 17 newly-agreed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),” said ITU Secretary-General Houlin Zhao, “and this report plays an important role in the SDG process. Without measurement and reporting, we cannot track the progress being made, and this is why ITU gathers data and publishes this important report each year.”...

[ICT Development Index](#) [interactive site]

Pdf Full Report <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/publications/mis2015.aspx>

**WIPO** World Intellectual Property Organization [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**CBD** Convention on Biological Diversity [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

.....

**US Department of State** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*Selected Announcements*

-12/04/15 [U.S. Pledges Additional Humanitarian Assistance for Refugees and Migrants in Europe](#); Office of the Spokesperson; Washington, DC

The United States today announced a contribution of nearly \$24 million in new humanitarian assistance from the United States to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that will help the UN organization to assist refugees and migrants throughout Europe who now face the onset of winter, especially those in Greece, the Balkans, and other parts of Europe. UNHCR’s critical assistance includes providing food, water, and temporary shelter, as well as establishing areas to screen and process arriving refugees and migrants who may need assistance or legal protection.

12/01/15 [Cultural Heritage Risk Reduction Program for Libya](#); Office of the Spokesperson; Washington, DC

As part of its ongoing efforts to help Libya preserve its cultural heritage, the U.S. Department of State sponsored a workshop for Libyan museum professionals, November 29–December 1, in support of Libya’s national inventory of museum objects. The workshop was held in Tunis and was organized by Oberlin College with the participation of the Tunisian Institut National du Patrimoine (National Heritage Institute).

This workshop was the first of five sessions being organized to address critical cultural preservation and protection needs in Libya. Future sessions will cover the looting and illicit trafficking of cultural objects, advanced archaeological site documentation methods, and community engagement in the protection of Libyan cultural heritage...

11/30/15 [Joint Statement on Donors' Pledge of \\$248M USD to Least Developed Countries Fund to Support Climate Change Adaptation](#); Office of the Spokesperson; Washington, DC

**USAID** [to 5 December 2015]

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

[Statement by Acting Administrator Lenhardt on the Confirmation of USAID Administrator Gayle E. Smith](#)

November 30, 2015

Today, the United States Senate confirmed Gayle E. Smith to be the seventeenth Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Gayle's confirmation comes at a unique time when we have the tools, technologies and approaches to end extreme poverty and its most devastating corollaries, widespread hunger and preventable child and maternal deaths.

**DFID** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*Selected Announcements*

[Iraq crisis: UK humanitarian response factsheet](#)

Updated 4 December 2015 Promotional material DFID

[International Day of Persons with Disabilities: New Disability Framework](#)

Published 3 December 2015 Speech DFID

[DFID Disability Framework 2015](#)

Published 3 December 2015 Policy paper DFID

[Three more countries pledge to join Africa’s solar revolution](#)

Published 2 December 2015 Press release DFID

**ECHO** [to 5 December 2015]

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

[EU supports earthquake affected population in Kyrgyzstan](#)

04/12/2015

The EU is providing €75 810 in humanitarian funding to the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan to assist families, who have been affected by the earthquake of 17 November in Osh province, Kyrgyzstan.

[EU mobilises €125 million for countries affected by 'El Niño'](#)

02/12/2015

The EU is today announcing a contribution of €125 million to finance emergency actions in countries affected by the extreme weather phenomenon 'El Niño' in Africa, Caribbean, Central and South America.

[Mapping disaster risk: INFORM releases 2016 results](#)

02/12/2015

Understanding why and where humanitarian crises and disasters are likely to occur is a fundamental step in saving lives. The European Commission supports and utilises INFORM, a global open-source risk assessment tool.

[€200 million humanitarian package for Syria crisis and Iraq delivered by European Commission](#)

01/12/2015

The European Commission has successfully delivered the €200 million humanitarian package for the Syria crisis and Iraq, which was announced in September this year by the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker."

.....

**African Union** [to 5 December 2015]

<http://www.au.int/en/>

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

Dec.04.2015

[Africa and China Leaders meet to Advance their Strategic Partnership](#)

Dec.04.2015 to Dec.05.2015

[Second Forum on China-Africa Cooperation \(FOCAC\) Summit, The Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa](#)

Dec.03.2015

[Member States review catalytic framework to end AIDS, TB and malaria by 2030](#)

Dec.02.2015 | Press Releases

[Global Heads of State and Government Summit on the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative \(GGSSI\) and Lake Chad Basin](#)

Dec.01.2015 | Press Releases

[The Chairperson of the African Union Commission congratulates Burkina Faso for the holding of peaceful presidential and general elections](#)

Nov.30.2015 to Dec.01.2015

[Meeting of the Task Force for the Establishment of the African Volunteer Health Corps \(AVoHC\)](#)

**The African Development Bank Group** [to 5 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]*

[ADF12 & 13: Is the AfDB delivering on its commitments?](#)

04/12/2015 - The African Development Bank (AfDB) delivers on its commitments; produces important documents, tools, and structures; and launches initiatives, but attention needs to focus also on full implementation according to three new evaluations from Independent Development Evaluation (IDEV).

[New adaptation support for Global Environment Facility a welcome infusion for Africa, says AfDB](#)

03/12/2015 - The African Development Bank (AfDB) welcomes the new infusion of US \$248 million for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which was announced Monday at the global climate summit in Paris. The new money, pledged by 11 donor countries (Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States of America) in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting, opens the door for new critical support for adaptation in the world's most vulnerable countries, including a majority of African countries.

[Multilateral Development Banks Join Forces to Ramp up Climate Action in Transport](#)

03/12/2015 - Eight multilateral development banks today issued a joint statement, committing to accelerate their efforts to mitigate transport emissions and recognizing the need for more action on the resilience of transport to climate change. The sector accounts for about 60% of global oil consumption, 27% of all energy use, and 23% of world energy-related CO2 emissions.

[AfDB to support electricity access for all by 2030 with African Renewable Energy Initiative](#)

02/12/2015 - Africa has launched an ambitious Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) as the continent's major contribution to Conference of Parties (COP21) taking place in Paris, France.

[Development banks vow to mobilize collective resources to confront climate change](#)

01/12/2015 - The heads of the world's largest development banks have pledged to work together to substantially increase climate investments and ensure that development programs going forward consider climate risks and opportunities.

[Multilateral Development Banks pledge increased funding to tackle climate change](#)

01/12/2015 - Multilateral development banks (MDBs) identified climate financing for development action as a crucial step in putting the world on the pathway for sustainable development at the 21st Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) in Paris on Monday.

**Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** [to 5 December 2015]

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

[Mr. Nhlanhla Nene, Minister of Finance of South Africa signed the Articles of Agreement of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank](#)

AIIB News 2015-12-04

Mr. Nhlanhla Nene signed the Articles of Agreement of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) on December 3, 2015 in Johannesburg. South Africa is the 55th signatory of the Articles.

**ASEAN** Association of Southeast Asian Nations [to 5 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 5 December 2015]

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

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

[Refugee Crisis: Greece activates EU Civil protection mechanism, agrees Frontex operation at border with former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and triggers RABIT mechanism](#)

Date: 03/12/2015

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 3 December 2015 Greece has today taken three actions to address the refugee crisis, activating EU mechanisms designed to assist in crisis situations. Greece has today activated the EU Civil Protection Mechanism to benefit from material support to help cope with the influx of...

[EU Internet Forum: Bringing together governments, Europol and technology companies to counter terrorist content and hate speech online](#)

Date: 03/12/2015

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 3 December 2015 EU Internet Forum: Bringing together governments, Europol and technology companies to counter terrorist content and hate speech online

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

Date: 03/12/2015

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 3 December 2015 State of Play: Measures to Address the Refugee Crisis Updated on 3 December The European Agenda on Migration adopted by the Commission in May 2015 set out the need for a comprehensive approach to migration management.

[European Agenda on Security: Commission takes action to combat terrorism and illegal trafficking of firearms and explosives](#)

Date: 02/12/2015

Commission - Press release European Brussels, 2 December 2015 European Agenda on Security: Commission takes action to combat terrorism and illegal trafficking of firearms and explosives The European Commission adopted today a package of measures to step up the fight against terrorism and the illegal trafficking of firearms and explosives.

[Syrian refugee crisis: EU Trust Fund launches single biggest EU response package ever for €350 million, helping up to 1.5 million refugees and their host communities in Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and Iraq](#)

Date: 01/12/2015

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 1 December 2015 Today's € 350 million aid package under the EU Trust Fund is the single biggest EU measure in response to the Syrian refugee crisis to date.

**OECD** [to 5 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]*

[Statement by OECD-IEA-ITF-NEA for COP21](#)

The world looks to the Paris Conference of the Parties to deliver a new climate agreement that transforms our development pathway. Success at COP21 can drive and accelerate the transition to a cleaner, healthier and more secure future, locking-in sustainable economic growth and development.

2-December-2015

[Further reforms needed to tackle growing risk of pensioner poverty](#)

Recent reforms have made pension systems more financially sustainable and pensioners have higher living standards than ever before. But future generations are likely to find their pension entitlements much less generous than today's and many may face a serious risk of pensioner poverty, according to a new OECD report.

1-December-2015

[Expanding business start-up support for disadvantaged groups can tackle unemployment and social exclusion](#)

Encouraging entrepreneurship among disadvantaged groups can help boost jobs and tackle social exclusion, according to a new joint report by the OECD and European Commission.

30-November-2015

**Organization of American States (OAS)** [to 5 December 2015]

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

[Message from the OAS Secretary General on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#)

December 3, 2015

Persons with disabilities represent 15 percent of the world's population, but they face various kinds of discrimination on a daily basis in the spheres of work, health, education, political participation, access to justice, and physical and communicational accessibility, among other areas. This prevents their full and effective development on equal footing with the rest of society.

In the case of the 21 countries of the Americas that signed the Inter-American Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CIADDIS), the moral obligation is added to their commitment to adopt the legislative, social, educational and work-related measures necessary to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities and promote their full integration into society.

At the OAS we work to ensure that all people have the same opportunities and the resources necessary to participate fully in the economic, social, political and cultural life of their community, and that is why the fight against exclusion is a priority within our hemispheric agenda...

**Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

[First Expert Meeting of the OIC Network on Population and Reproductive, Maternal, New-born and Child Health](#)

The First Expert Meeting of the OIC Network on Population and Reproductive, Maternal, New-born and Child Health (OIC MHNNet) was held in Ankara, Turkey, on 2-4 December 2015...

...The meeting is participated by a group of interdisciplinary experts in this area from OIC region who engage in collective efforts to share information and knowledge in an endeavor to improve OIC MHNNet...

The meeting is the first step in the establishment of the OIC Network, which will serve as a deposit of innovative ideas, problem solving and best practices as well as a platform for disseminating knowledge to OIC countries. Members of the Network engaged in joint activities and discussions, and disseminate and exchange innovative ideas, best practices and viable means of addressing challenges to improve the health of mothers and children in OIC member countries.

04/12/2015

[International coalition on vaccines approved as member of OIC health committee](#)

An international coalition of partners committed to saving children's lives and protecting people's health by increasing access to immunization [Gavi] has been officially approved as a member of the OIC's Steering Committee on Health...

01/12/2015

**Group of 77** [to 5 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 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**World Trade Organisation** [to 5 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]*

*No new digest content identified.*

**IMF** [to 5 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]*

[Press Release: IMF's Executive Board Completes Review of SDR Basket, Includes Chinese Renminbi](#)

November 30, 2015

**World Bank** [to 5 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]*

[World Bank Statement of Support for 'State of City Climate Finance' report launched at COP21](#)

PARIS, December 4, 2015 — The World Bank supports the 'The State of City Climate Finance' report launched today by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and international partners at the Climate Summit...

Date: December 4, 2015 Type: Press Release

[Multilateral Development Banks Join Forces to Ramp up Climate Action in Transport](#)

Paris, France, December 3, 2015 – Eight multilateral development banks today issued a joint statement, committing to accelerate their efforts to mitigate transport emissions and recognizing the need for...

Date: December 3, 2015 Type: Press Release

[Joint Statement by the Multilateral Development Banks on Sustainable Transport and Climate Change](#)

MDBs Join Forces to Ramp up Climate Action in Transport We, the group of eight multilateral development banks (MDBs),<sup>[1]</sup> commit to supporting countries implementing sustainable transport solutions. We...

Date: December 2, 2015 Type: Press Release

[Remarks by World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim at the Announcement of the Transformative Carbon Asset Facility](#)

I am delighted to join Prime Minister Solberg of Norway and other partners from Sweden, Germany and Switzerland today to announce the Transformative Carbon Asset Facility. Date: November 30, 2015 Type: Speeches and Transcripts

[Remarks by World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim at the launch of the Africa Climate Business Plan](#)

It is a pleasure for me to be part of this event with Prime Minister Neves of Cape Verde, Prime Minister Trovoada of Sao Tome and Principe, President Ali Bongo of Gabon, President Macky Sall of Senegal,...

Date: November 30, 2015 Type: Speeches and Transcript

[New \\$500 million initiative to boost large scale climate action in developing countries](#)

PARIS, Nov. 30, 2015 – Four European countries - Germany, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland - today announced a new \$500 million initiative that will find new ways to create incentives aimed at large scale...

Date: November 30, 2015 Type: Press Release

### [Leaders and CEOs Declare Support for Carbon Pricing to Transform Global Economy](#)

PARIS, November 30, 2015– Six heads of state and government and the leaders of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund today called on companies and countries to follow up on their ambitions...

Date: November 30, 2015 Type: Press Release

### **IPU Inter-Parliamentary Union** [to 5 December 2015]

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

#### [Angola becomes IPU donor](#)

3 DECEMBER 2015

IPU has welcomed a donation of 200,000 Swiss francs from the Angolan Parliament to support the Organization in its key areas of work as a sign of closer engagement between the two and of Angola's growing participation on the international stage. Although one of the world's least developed countries, Angola has seen significant economic growth since the end of nearly three decades of civil war. The funding, to cover one year in a two-year agreement, will primarily be used to work together on promoting gender equality and youth participation in parliament but also on maternal, newborn and child health and HIV/AIDS...

#### [MPs agree on plan to tackle statelessness](#)

1 DECEMBER 2015

MPs from 40 national parliaments have agreed to push for more concerted efforts to address statelessness at the end of a global conference in South Africa. A problem which has a devastating impact on the lives of more than 10 million people globally, statelessness is an often under-reported and growing issue with one child born every 10 minutes without a nationality. MPs at the conference organized by IPU, the South African Parliament and the UN refugee agency [UNHCR](#) in Cape Town, agreed to work to resolve statelessness in their own countries through a wide range of measures. These included reviewing national legislation to ensure international standards on preventing and resolving statelessness were met, advocating reform of laws that discriminated on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion or gender, and the strengthening of parliamentary oversight of government policies on the issue. The MPs also agreed to work towards accession to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions and called for more regional initiatives to end the phenomenon...

#### [Hungary marks 120th anniversary of engagement with IPU in style](#)

30 NOVEMBER 2015

### **International Criminal Court (ICC)** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

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

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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 5 December 2015]

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

#### **End HIV/AIDS among Adolescents and Young People**

Published: 02 December 2015

Nairobi, December 1, 2015- Amref Health Africa, organised an Adolescent HIV Symposium on 25th November 2015 at our Headquarter offices in Nairobi to fast-track plans to end HIV/Aids among adolescents and young people.

#### **Aravind Eye Care System** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

#### **BRAC** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*[Website not loading at inquiry]*

#### **CARE International** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

#### **Casa Alianza** [to 5 December 2015]

#### **Covenant House** [to 5 December 2015]

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

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

#### **Joint Press Release - Casa Alianza UK & Surfers not Street Children join forces.**

30th Nov 2015

Both Casa Alianza UK and Tom Hewitt MBE have a long-standing commitment and shared vision, empowering and campaigning on behalf of street children in Latin America and Africa.

Effective as of 1st December 2015 Casa Alianza UK and Tom Hewitt (founder of Surfers Not Street Children in Durban, South Africa) will be partnering in order to develop and strengthen their direct project work and advocacy by campaigning together.

On the 1st December 2015 Tom will be hosting His Royal Highness Prince Harry at Surfers Not Street Children in Durban, South Africa to share and demonstrate how sport is being used for social development and to talk about the global phenomenon of street children.

### [A Bill of Rights for Foster Children](#)

Kevin M. Ryan Originally

posted on *Huffington Post* 12/01/2015 8:11 am EST

When you've donated, volunteered, mentored, coached, fundraised and still the world remains full of homeless kids, you have one move: Do more. To that end, I often think about what it would take to turn off the faucets upstream, to work toward reducing the flow of young people to the doors of Covenant House and other youth shelters around the world. And the fastest faucet sending kids our way? Foster care.

Last year, 415,129 children entered foster care, a number that has increased 4.5 percent from 2012.

That's a disturbing trend. In studying the recent report of kids leaving care, I was pleased to see a decline in the number of kids leaving foster care without a forever family, down almost 25 percent since 2008. But 22,392 kids graduated from foster care in 2014 without a place to call home, or people to live with. Think of how many faces that is!

When states find it necessary to pull children from their homes to protect them from abuse or (far more often) neglect, we owe those children a safe and secure family before they are adults. Languishing in government custody is a dead-end for kids, in large part because government can never love children the way healthy families do. If we neglect that most basic need, people to belong to, people to care about them, aren't we just neglecting them further?

We know that young people who age out of foster care without being adopted or taken in by relatives who act as their guardians face daunting challenges: 60 percent of the young men who age out of foster care are convicted of a crime by their mid-twenties, and three-quarters of the young women are on public assistance. Forty percent of young people who age out of foster care at eighteen become homeless before their mid-twenties. They fill up the waiting rooms and waiting lists at homeless shelters, because we as a society have failed them.

I am heartened by two legislative efforts that aim to address that neglect, as it plays out in our schools. Young people who move frequently from one foster home to another lose an average of six months of progress per move. As I wrote in *Almost Home: Helping Kids Move from Homelessness to Hope*, one young man, whom we call Benjamin, arrived at our Houston shelter shortly after his 18th birthday, reading at a second or third grade level, in part because he had endured dozens of foster care placements.

But thanks to a bill passed this fall in California, kids like Benjamin will be given a way to protest if their educational rights are being violated. They have the right to stay in their home school, to transfer credits, and to enroll in a new school immediately if necessary. It's a travesty

that we haven't been providing these basic services to wards of the state all along. But it's a step forward.

Likewise, the Every Student Succeeds Act, a bipartisan House-Senate bill, includes similar provisions. Please join me in asking the House and the Senate to pass this bill. It's what we'd want for our own children. And foster children, in a very clear way, are the children of us all.

**Clubhouse International**

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Danish Refugee Council** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**ECPAT** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Fountain House** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Handicap International** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Heifer International** [to 5 December 2015]

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

[Heifer International Weekly](#)

Tuesday, Dec. 01, 2015

**HelpAge International** [to 5 December 2015]

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

[World AIDS Day: The ageing of HIV](#)

A fast track approach is needed to address the rapid ageing of the AIDS epidemic and the needs of people living with HIV in older age, says HelpAge International.

Posted: 01 December 2015

**IRC International Rescue Committee** [to 5 December 2015]

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

04 Dec 2015

[Statement: International Rescue Committee files brief in opposition to State of Texas' request for an injunction](#)

04 Dec 2015 -

We have earlier today filed our opposition to the State's request for an injunction to prevent the IRC from resettling Syrians in Texas. We are confident that the IRC has always acted in accordance with the law when it comes to our work to assist refugees who have been given sanctuary in Texas.

We have had a strong and collaborative relationship with the State for the past 40 years to the benefit of refugees and local communities. We have made clear our commitment to continued dialogue with the state authorities.

We look forward to a swift resolution of this case.

*The Syrian Refugee Crisis and the IRC*

The Syrian crisis has been raging for almost five years, and the IRC is involved in every aspect of the response: in the Syrian region, in Greece, and in the United States where we assist refugees who have been given sanctuary in the country. We have assisted with the resettlement of more than 300 Syrians, including families, of the approximately 2,000 Syrian refugees who've resettled to the United States.

More than four million people have been forced to flee violence, terrorism and persecution in Syria and now live in limbo in neighboring countries. Over 500,000 have made the decision to take the treacherous journey across the Aegean Sea in search of safety and a better life. Refugees are the most security-vetted population who enter the United States. Multiple U.S. Government agencies conduct rigorous security checks, a process that typically takes between 18-24 months. Put simply, entering the United States as a refugee is the most difficult way to gain access to the country.

30 Nov 2015

[Aid failing to respond to family planning realities and needs in crises](#)

**ICRC** [to 5 December 2015]

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

[Syria: Humanitarian situation deteriorating as winter approaches](#)

Geneva (ICRC) - The Director for the Near and Middle East at the International Committee of the Red Cross has warned of a deteriorating humanitarian situation in Syria as winter approaches. Hundreds of thousands of people are trying to survive with

03-12-2015 | News release

[Democratic Republic of the Congo: The ICRC condemns attack at the Eringeti clinic in North Kivu](#)

02 December 2015

Geneva/Kinshasa (ICRC) – Staff of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have treated three women injured in the deadly attacks of 29 November in the North Kivu town of Eringeti. The women were treated at Ndoshho Hospital in Goma.

[Philippines: Improved living conditions for inmates affected by Leyte prison fire](#)

Manila (ICRC) – Access to clean water, sanitation and overall health and living conditions have improved for 1,800 inmates affected by the fire that struck Leyte Regional Prison two months ago. On October 8, the prison's Maximum Security Compound was  
02-12-2015 | News release

**IRCT** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*News*

[Philippines: IRCT holds workshop on civil society engagement with UN Committee against Torture](#)

03 December 2015

*News*

[UN General Assembly calls on States to make right to rehabilitation a reality](#)

01 December 2015

**Islamic Relief** [to 5 December 2015]

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

[A Quick & Easy Guide to COP 21 – UN Climate Talks in Paris](#)

December 4, 2015

The media has been talking about leaders from countries around the world who have gathered this week in Paris to discuss climate change and their commitments to helping stabilise the climate by cutting their greenhouse gases.

Climate change is not the easiest topic to understand so we have put together this quick and easy to read guide to explain what COP 21 is all about...

[Hope for peace as Pope Francis visits Central African Republic](#)

November 30, 2015

*Islamic Relief and other faith-based organisations have welcomed Pope Francis to the Central African Republic.*

Islamic Relief has been responding to the crisis in Central African Republic since early 2014, and, as the country approaches two years of conflict, eight humanitarian organisations have written a letter to Pope Francis to express their gratitude for making such an important visit for peace.

The statement was written by Aegis, Catholic Relief Services, Cordaid, Jesuit Refugee Service, Finn Church Aid, the Lutheran World Federation, World Vision, and Islamic Relief.

**MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*Press release*

[MSF and Greenpeace Launch Rescue Operations in the Aegean Sea](#)

December 03, 2015

Joint @MSF Sea @Greenpeace operations have begun in Aegean—Gripping footage of newborn rescued from capsizing boat [pic.twitter.com/SUnvhQp7hV](http://pic.twitter.com/SUnvhQp7hV)

— Doctors w/o Borders (@MSF\_USA) [December 3, 2015](#)

*Press release*

[Yemen: Nine Wounded in Saudi-Led Coalition Airstrike on MSF Clinic in Taiz](#)

December 03, 2015

AMSTERDAM/TAIZ, YEMEN—Airstrikes carried out yesterday by the Saudi-led coalition hit a clinic in southern Yemen run by the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and wounded nine people, including two MSF staff members.

*Press release*

[Outdated Policies and Practices Contributing to Rise of Drug-Resistant TB Must End](#)

December 02, 2015

GENEVA/CAPE TOWN—Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and the Stop TB Partnership today released the second edition of the Out of Step report, a 24-country survey of policies and practices used today to guide the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis (TB).

*Press release*

[Syria: Series of Deadly Bombings Partially Destroys MSF-Supported Hospital in Homs Region](#)

December 01, 2015

BRUSSELS — Seven people were killed and a hospital supported by the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) was partially destroyed in a series of barrel bomb attacks in [Syria's](#) Homs region on November 28, the organization said today.

*Press release*

[Antiretroviral Drugs Fail to Consistently Reach Patients in Countries Most Affected by HIV/AIDS](#)

November 30, 2015

JOHANNESBURG/HARARE—The international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) today warned that lifesaving antiretroviral medicines (ARVs) are routinely not making their way to patients in sub-Saharan Africa, most often despite sufficient stocks already being present in countries, and called for urgent improvements in ARV supply chains in the region.

*Field News*

[Yemen: Aiding People Affected by Cyclones in Hadhramaut Province](#)

December 01, 2015

Two cyclones hit the southeast coast of Yemen in early November and did major damage, destroying houses, bridges and other infrastructure in the city of Mukalla, Hadhramaut province, and leaving hundreds of families homeless in the region.

To provide access to health care, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) set up a mobile clinic in Mukalla city, where a doctor and nurse have provided more than 300 medical consultations.

Field news

[CAR: "The Humanitarian Situation is Still Critical"](#)

December 01, 2015

Thierry Dumont, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) head of mission in Central African Republic (CAR), describes the current humanitarian crises in the country.

**Mercy Corps** [to 5 December 2015]

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

[Post-Quake Nepal: Mercy Corps Research Identifies Keys to Recovery](#)

Nepal, December 2, 2015

*Access to financial services impacts disaster preparedness*

Portland, Ore. — Nepal must build a more inclusive society, increase government accountability and build stronger financial support mechanisms in order to improve recovery efforts for future natural disasters, according to research conducted by the global organization Mercy Corps. Drawing upon lessons learned from this year's deadly earthquake, the organization illuminates key areas in which change will be needed to make Nepal more resilient to future natural disasters.

"Nepal is very vulnerable to all types of natural disasters, including landslides and earthquakes. Mercy Corps sought to understand which factors hold the greatest promise for people to be resilient to similar events in the future, and what we could do to speed recovery," says Olga Petryniak, Director of Regional Resilience Initiatives for Mercy Corps' South and East Asia programs. "Each crisis may require a unique solution, but we can identify more specifically what people can do to help nations like Nepal bounce back."

In its new report What Next For Nepal? Evidence of What Matters for Building Resilience After the Gorkha Earthquake, Mercy Corps recommends changes in several areas that are crucial contributors to resilience:

1. Disaster preparedness and response: Build greater preparedness on a community- and household-level, which will result in better accountability and faster response.
2. Social identity and networks: Because caste and gender strongly influence post-quake welfare, actively contribute to the strengthening of supportive and inclusive networks.
3. Financial services: Seek ways to establish relationships between financial service providers and households that will result in appropriate savings and credit resources.
4. Economic opportunities: Provide cash to those affected by a disaster to quickly restore markets and support livelihoods.

Mercy Corps surveyed nearly 1,200 households in Nepal 10 weeks after April's 7.8 magnitude earthquake. The quake killed more than 9,000 people, destroyed a half-million homes and displaced some 2.8 million residents.

A nation in transition, Nepal remains one of the poorest countries in the world. [Read or download the full report.](#)

**Operation Smile** [to 5 December 2015]

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

:: [Program Schedule](#)

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

**OXFAM** [to 5 December 2015]

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

### [Yemen: Oxfam scales up relief programs in war-torn Taiz](#)

3 December 2015

Oxfam is scaling up its operations in Taiz governorate, Yemen, to meet the increasing humanitarian needs in communities affected by the escalating fighting in and around Taiz city. The UN's Emergency Response Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien, has described Taiz city as a 'city under virtual siege', with food, medical supplies, and fuel blocked from entering and humanitarian agencies denied access to the besieged population.

### [World's richest 10% produce half of carbon emissions while poorest 3.5 billion account for just a tenth](#)

2 December 2015

The poorest half of the world's population - 3.5 billion people - is responsible for just 10 percent of carbon emissions, despite being the most threatened by the catastrophic storms, droughts, and other severe weather shocks linked to climate change.

### **Norwegian Refugee Council** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*DR Congo*

#### [Fighting blocks civilians' access to aid](#)

Tiril Skarstein (03.12.2015)

Heavy fighting in eastern parts of DR Congo blocks people from accessing emergency relief. "The repeated rounds of fighting have severe consequences for the civilians", said Mickael Amar, Country Director for the Norwegian Refugee Council.

*Climate Change - COP21*

#### [Looking for a halt to global warming](#)

Ane Høyem (30.11.2015)

At the Climate Change Conference in Paris almost 150 heads of state will gather under one roof. "Our goal is a strong legally binding agreement on climate change that also includes displacement and human mobility," says Nina M. Birkeland, NRC's Senior Adviser on Disasters and Climate Change.

### **Pact** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases, Blog Posts*

December 1, 2015

#### [On World AIDS Day and every day, Pact is keeping its promise to end HIV](#)

This year's theme for World AIDS Day is Think Positive: Rethink HIV. At Pact, we see lots of reasons to be positive. In Nigeria's Bayelsa state, more pregnant women are being tested for HIV and taking steps to protect their babies. In Ethiopia, children are learning the basics of good health and HIV prevention just as they are reading and math...

### **Partners In Health** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**PATH** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*Announcement* | December 02, 2015

[Ensuring access to oxygen therapy for children in low-resource settings](#)

Consultation brings together manufacturers, distributors, and international partners focused on improving access to medical devices needed to prevent deaths among young children with pneumonia.

**Plan International** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*Publications & Research*

[Realising children's rights in a changing climate](#)

*Child-centred adaptation: Realising children's rights in a changing climate*

This Children in a Changing Climate Coalition report argues that children should be a focus of efforts to address climate change and play an active part in the decisions that shape their present and future.

In developing countries, climate change is projected to exacerbate the top 5 causes of death for children under 5. Children are the least responsible for creating climate change but will bear the brunt of its impacts.

The report calls on governments to commit to 6 priority actions in the implementation of their climate change commitments and highlights child-centred case studies on tackling climate change from across the world.

Pdf: <https://plan-international.org/realising-childrens-rights-changing-climate#download-options>

**Save The Children** [to 5 December 2015]

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

[Pope's Visit to the Central Africa Republic: World leaders must take inspiration from the Pope and not abandon the war-torn country](#)

November 29, 2015

**SOS-Kinderdorf International** [to 5 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 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Women for Women International** [to 5 December 2015]

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

[In Afghanistan, Investing in Women Inspires Change](#)

November 30, 2015 | Huffington Post

Fatima, a leader of a women's association in Kabul, Afghanistan, is helping women in her under-served community connect with opportunities to earn money to support her families. WFWI CEO Jennifer L. Windsor explains how investing in women like Fatima enables them to rebuild their families and communities after decades of war and instability...

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**ChildFund Alliance** [to 5 December 2015]

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

[ChildFund supports Terre des Hommes's work for child refugees in Europe](#)

[undated]

Author Child Fund Alliance

As winter approaches and the European refugee crisis continues, ChildFund Alliance is supporting a Swiss children's aid organization, Terre des Hommes-Lausanne, to provide respite to families on the run. Many people escaping violence in Syria and other countries come through the Serbia-Croatia border, TDH has set up tents where families can rest.

...Now on the ground in Serbia and Macedonia, TDH offers families support and protection at all hours of the day or night, greeting them with warm clothes and blankets, personal hygiene supplies, maps, reliable information and help in connecting with families and friends. For mothers, there's a private place to feed their children; for children, a safe place to play and, perhaps, feel like children again. Distressed families can also receive psychological support as well as health assessments and referrals...

**CONCORD** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*European NGO confederation for relief and development*

*No new digest content identified.*

**Disasters Emergency Committee** [to 5 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 5 December 2015]

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

*News Andrew Whitley 3 December 2015*

[Palestinian rights are human rights](#)

The Elders' Policy and Advocacy Director Andrew Whitley considers the link between International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November and the Human Rights Day on 10 December and explains why the need to uphold Palestinian rights should matter to us all.

*News* 2 December 2015

[COP21: hopes are high that Paris will be a turning point for climate change](#)

As the COP21 climate summit approaches its final week, Mary Robinson and Gro Harlem Brundtland spoke to the BBC World Service about their hopes and fears for Paris.

**END Fund** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Gavi** [to 5 December 2015]

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

[New support for measles vaccine to help save more than one million lives](#)

03 December 2015

Gavi Board approves ambitious package to tackle highly-infectious disease

[Gavi Board thanks Dagfinn Høybråten for inspirational leadership](#)

03 December 2015

Gavi Board Chair steps down after five years of unparalleled achievement.

**Global Fund** [to 5 December 2015]

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

[New Toolkit for Differentiated Care in HIV and TB Programs](#)

04 December 2015

HARARE, Zimbabwe - The Global Fund presented a toolkit to help partners implement differentiated care approaches in HIV and TB investments with the aim of maximizing cost efficiency and better serving the different needs of various communities most affected by diseases.

Unveiled at the International Conference on AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases in Africa (ICASA), the toolkit is intended to support country program managers and managers of health facilities by gathering examples of good practices at health facilities that seek to increase the quality and efficiency of service delivery.

The toolkit includes a section on how to best use data to emphasize the importance of supporting differentiated care with accurate data collection and analysis for planning and modifying approaches. It also provides information and practical steps on how health centres can develop differentiated approaches from testing and counselling to treatment and care to drug delivery.

The tool kit was based on innovative work from health facilities in Senegal, Uganda, Kenya and elsewhere, and also based on models of care pioneered by Médecins Sans Frontières and The AIDS Support Organisation in Uganda. It was developed in collaboration with a wide range of in-country and global partners, including Ministry of Health officials, the Bill & Melinda Gates

Foundation, World Health Organization, the President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief, UNAIDS, the StopTB Partnership, and the International AIDS Society...

### [Global Fund Embraces Fast-Track Approach on AIDS](#)

30 November 2015

GENEVA - To mark World AIDS Day on 1 December, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria declared its strong support for Fast-Track, the smart approach by UNAIDS to end the epidemic by 2030.

In a new [report](#), "On the Fast-Track to end AIDS by 2030: Focus on location and population," UNAIDS identifies all the most critical factors: the need to front-load investments; to focus on the locations, populations and programs that deliver the greatest impact; to catalyze innovation; engage local leadership; to create new partnerships, to stand firm on human rights, and to deliver results that leave no one behind.

UNAIDS and the Global Fund work together closely, and are achieving impressive results in partnership. Antiretroviral therapy has grown from 4 percent coverage in 2005 in countries where the Global Fund invests to 21 percent in 2010 and 40 percent in 2014...

### **Hilton Prize Coalition** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*An Alliance of Hilton Prize Recipients*

*No new digest content identified.*

### **InterAction** [to 5 December 2015]

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

[InterAction Joins IATI](#)

Nov 30, 2015

After many years of advocating for greater transparency, InterAction has become a member of the [International Aid Transparency Initiative \(IATI\)](#).

Along with UK NGO alliance [Bond](#), InterAction serves as one of the co-chairs of the [IATI CSO Working Group](#) and currently [publishes data to IATI](#), as do several of its members...

### [InterAction Vice President Laura Frigenti Appointed to lead new Italian Agency for Development Cooperation](#)

Nov 30, 2015

WASHINGTON – On Nov. 23, Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi announced the selection of Laura Frigenti, InterAction's vice president for global development and evaluation, as the director of the new Italian Agency for Development Cooperation. The [new agency](#) was created by legislation passed by the Italian parliament in [August 2014](#). Frigenti was selected after a global, public search by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### **Start Network** [to 5 December 2015]

[http://www.start-network.org/news-blog/#.U9U\\_07FR98E](http://www.start-network.org/news-blog/#.U9U_07FR98E)

*[Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies]*

*No new digest content identified.*

**Muslim Charities Forum** [to 5 December 2015]

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

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

*No new digest content identified.*

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**Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP)** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**CHS International Alliance** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**EHLRA/R2HC** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA)** [to 5 December 2015]

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

[Trends in Humanitarian Financing: Middle East and North Africa region](#)

November 2015

*Report Synopsis*

With a third of the world's refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) now living in the MENA region, the question of financing the response is critical. Contributions from donor governments in the region, particularly from Gulf donors, are rising significantly. However, whilst the volume of international humanitarian assistance flowing to region has risen over recent years, the shortfall of funding to the appeals has also grown.

This briefing paper expands on data presented in the [Global Humanitarian Assistance \(GHA\) Report 2015](#). It has been produced as background information for a presentation and panel discussion on humanitarian financing at the [6th Annual Conference for effective partnership and information sharing for better humanitarian action](#) in Kuwait.

:: [Briefing paper in English](#)

**The Sphere Project** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP)** [to 5 December 2015]

<https://phap.org/>

*No new digest content identified.*

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**Center for Global Development** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*Selected Press Releases, Blog Posts*

[Two World Bank Surveys Provide \(Imperfect\) Evidence that De-risking Might Be Hurting Developing Countries](#)

12/2/15

Matt Collin

The World Bank recently released the results of two separate surveys aimed at gauging the extent to which de-risking is a problem. The headline result is that banks around the world are closing accounts of money transfer organizations (MTOs) and are severing links with banks in other countries. These careful, timely reports provide crucial evidence that de-risking is a very real phenomenon and that we should be worried about it.

[A Social Impact Bond without the Impact? Critics Question Success of Early Childhood Development Program](#)

12/2/15

William Savedoff and Janeen Madan

The most essential feature of a social impact bond (SIB) is measuring impact. But what happens if the impact metric is questioned or unclear? A recent dispute over measuring the impact of a SIB for early childhood development in Utah yields two important practical lessons for this innovative financing tool. First, SIB implementers should be careful not to exaggerate the precision of their success indicators. Second, they need to be clear to everyone about which objectives they are pursuing.

[UNAIDS and African AIDS Programs Agree That Effective HIV Prevention Depends on Location, Location, Location](#)

12/1/15

Mead Over

As it does every year at this time, UNAIDS has released its World AIDS Day report. With five out of seven HIV infected people living in Africa, it is appropriate that the report is released here at the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) in Harare, Zimbabwe.

[World AIDS Day DREAMS Made Real: How Cash Transfers for Girls Can Work](#)

12/1/15

Amanda Glassman

**ODI** [to 5 December 2015]

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

[The triple dividend of resilience](#)

Research reports and studies | December 2015 |

Thomas Tanner, Swenja Surminski, Emily Wilkinson, Robert Reid, Jun Rentschler, Sumati Rajput  
Realising development goals through the multiple benefits of disaster risk management.

#### [Climate information and services in BRACED countries](#)

Research reports and studies | December 2015 |

Emily Wilkinson, Mirianna Budimir, Atiq Kainan Ahmed and Gilbert Ouma

Access to sound climate information is vital for anticipating climate-related risks and adapting to climate change. As such, it is recognised as an essential input to BRACED projects to guide programming.

#### [Climate finance: how are dedicated climate funds progressing towards impact?](#)

Research reports and studies | December 2015 |

Marigold Norman, Smita Nakhooda, Nella Canales Trujillo and Sam Barnard

A summary of results reported in 2015 by 14 funds which have collectively approved more than \$8.7 billion for climate change projects in developing countries.

#### [Grants, incubators and innovation: a snapshot of social enterprise activity in Pakistan](#)

Research reports and studies | December 2015 |

Emily Darko, Bushra Ali

This paper identifies some key issues and opportunities for the development of social enterprises in Pakistan.

#### [Climate extremes and resilient poverty reduction](#)

Research reports and studies | December 2015 |

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

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

#### [Multilateral development banks: a short guide](#)

Working and discussion papers | December 2015 |

Raphaëlle Faure, Annalisa Prizzon and Andrew Rogerson

A short guide comparing some of the most pertinent global, regional and sub-regional multilateral development banks.

#### [Food and livelihoods in a changing climate](#)

Working and discussion papers | December 2015 |

Marigold Norman

This paper explores the role of multilateral climate funds in supporting mitigation, adaptation and promoting climate resilient development in the agriculture sector.

#### [A development agenda for China's G20 presidency](#)

Briefing papers | December 2015 |

Romilly Greenhill, Mark Miller, Phyllis Papadavid, David Watson, Andrew Scott, Elizabeth Stuart

This briefing proposes a potential development agenda for China's G20 Presidency.

### [10 things to know about climate finance in 2015](#)

Research reports and studies | December 2015 |

Smita Nakhooda, Charlene Watson, Sam Barnard and Liane Schalatek

These infographics break down the numbers on climate finance, analysing data from the world's only comprehensive public climate finance commitment tracker – Climate Funds Update.

### [Multilateral development banks in the 21st century: three perspectives on China and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank](#)

Working and discussion papers | December 2015 |

Chris Humphrey, Stephany Griffith-Jones, Jiajun Xu, Richard Carey and Annalisa Prizzon

This paper discusses whether China's Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank is a game changer in the development finance architecture.

### [Mainstreaming climate compatible development](#)

Books or book chapters | December 2015 |

Simon Maxwell, Ari Huhtala, Mairi Dupar

This book brings together lessons Climate and Development Knowledge Network's (CDKN) first five years of work and invites you to share your experience.

### [Evaluation of the NIMD programme, 2011 - 2014: inception study](#)

Research reports and studies | November 2015 |

Alina Rocha Menocal, Clare Cummings and Leni Wild

Assessing the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy's achievements across three areas of study: multiparty dialogue, legitimate political parties & political-civil society interaction.

### [Recommendations to bridge the funding gap for climate financing in Ethiopia](#)

Research reports and studies | November 2015 |

Zewdu Eshetu and Neil Bird

Key recommendations to improve the effectiveness of climate finance delivery in Ethiopia.

### [Topic Guide: anticipating and responding to shocks](#)

Research reports and studies | November 2015 |

Simon Levine and Kay Sharp

This Topic Guide offers perspectives on how livelihoods experts can think, position themselves and act in fast-changing high-stakes humanitarian environments.

### [Assessing human vulnerability to climate-related extreme events: from theory to practice](#)

Books or book chapters | November 2015 |

James Ryan Hogarth, Campbell, D., Wandel, J

Chapter four presents behavioural and structural perspectives on vulnerability, arguing that an evolutionary perspective can offer important insights, particularly in regard to human systems' adaptive capacity.

**World Economic Forum** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

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

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**:: Foundation/Major Donor Watch**

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

**BMGF - Gates Foundation** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Annie E. Casey Foundation** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Clinton Foundation** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*Statement*

[Statement by President Clinton and Chelsea Clinton on World AIDS Day 2015](#)

December 1, 2015

Today is a day for reflection and even more, for rededication. We reflect on the lives that have been lost to AIDS, the bravery of those who continue to live with HIV/AIDS and the commitment of so many worldwide to treat them...

**Ford Foundation** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**GHIT Fund** [to 5 December 2015]

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

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**William and Flora Hewlett Foundation** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Conrad N. Hilton Foundation** [to 5 December 2015]

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

[Giving Young Children Affected by HIV and AIDS a Strong Start](#)

By Lisa Bohmer, December 1, 2015

On this World AIDS Day we salute all of our grantee partners and their efforts to support young children and families living in communities impacted by HIV and AIDS. In particular, we want to appreciate all of the visionary leaders of community-based organizations that are part of this effort...

... The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation's strategic initiative to improve early childhood development (ECD) outcomes for young children affected by HIV and AIDS, places emphasis on strengthening community-based organizations (CBOs) like NACC to enable them to better deliver early childhood development services to the communities they serve. The Foundation recognizes that CBOs are critical actors, given that they understand local needs and perspectives, and are well placed to foster meaningful community engagement and ownership...

**IKEA Foundation** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**HHMI - Howard Hughes Medical Institute** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*Research* [ December 3, 2015 ]

[Mutations Before Birth Might Disrupt Heart and Nervous System Development](#)

New research examines why some children born with heart defects also have developmental disabilities.

*Research* [ December 1, 2015 ]

[New Studies Advance Understanding of CRISPR Gene Editing](#)

Researchers learn more details about how CRISPR works in cells.

**Kellogg Foundation** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**MacArthur Foundation** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*Commentary*

["Philanthropy Must Move Fast to Support Efforts to Curb Climate Change"](#)

[Julia M. Stasch](#)

Published November 30, 2015

...We need a well-designed national market-based policy that puts either a price or a limit on climate pollution and gives investors, inventors, and entrepreneurs further incentives to

accelerate clean-energy technology innovation. With the United States, China, and India all showing greater ambition, other nations will do the same. This virtuous cycle has already begun, and it needs to accelerate because we're in the race of our lives.

The MacArthur Foundation and the Robertson Foundation are committed to investing in ideas and policies that drive toward this goal. And we are supporting the organizations that recognize that we need everyone at the table to solve this existential challenge, which rises above partisan politics. No one group, party, or nation can do this alone...

**Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Open Society Foundation** [to 5 December 2015]

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

[Open Society Foundations Announce New Investments in Innovative Drug Policy](#)

December 1, 2015 News

The grants will go to seven U.S. communities working to promote alternatives to jail for drug use and addiction.

[Russia Cracks Down on Open Society](#)

November 30, 2015 News

We are dismayed by the decision of Russia's Prosecutor General's Office to classify the Open Society Foundations as an "undesirable" organization.

**David and Lucile Packard Foundation** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Pew Charitable Trusts** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*Statement*

[Pew Praises Manitoba's Pledge to Support Indigenous Land-Use Planning in Boreal](#)

*Commitment entrusts First Nations communities to develop conservation and sustainable development plans*

November 24, 2015

*Background*

The boreal forest stretches across 1.2 billion intact acres in Canada, from Yukon to Newfoundland and Labrador. The region covers 140 million acres in Manitoba alone, most of which (approximately 115 million acres) remains free from industrial development.

The boreal represents 25 percent of the world's remaining intact forest and is one of the last continental-scale ecosystems still largely undeveloped. It harbors the planet's largest expanse of wetlands, lakes, and rivers, and stores twice as much carbon per acre than tropical rain forests.

In its eight-year strategic plan for environmental stewardship and economic prosperity called *TomorrowNow*, which was initially released in 2012, the government of Manitoba pledged to develop a boreal plan that ensured the protection and sustainable development of the region...

**Rockefeller Foundation** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** [to 5 December 2015]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Wellcome Trust** [to 5 December 2015]

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

[New appointments at the UK Biobank Ethics and Governance Council](#)

Baroness Helene Hayman has been appointed as Chair of the UK Biobank Ethics and Governance Council. She will be joined by Dr Eric Meslin, who takes on the role of Vice Chair.  
4 December 2015

... UK Biobank is a long-term project to build a resource for research including samples and information from about 500,000 people living in the UK. The project aims to improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illness and the promotion of health.

The [Ethics and Governance Council](#), funded by the Wellcome Trust and the Medical Research Council, was established in 2004 as an independent body to advise [UK Biobank](#) on rigorous standards of ethical, legal and social consideration, as set out in the project's Ethics and Governance Framework.

The Council also reports publicly on the conformance of UK Biobank's activities with the Framework and with the interests of participants and the public...

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

\* \* \* \*

**:: 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>

#### **[Personal protective equipment for the Ebola virus disease: A comparison of 2 training programs](#)**

Enrique Casalino, Eugenio Astocondor, Juan Carlos Sanchez, David Enrique Díaz-Santana, Carlos del Aguila, Juan Pablo Carrillo

p1281–1287

Published online: August 12 2015

### **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**

November 2015; 93 (5)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **BMC Health Services Research**

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

(Accessed 5 December 2015)

*Research article*

#### **[Strengthening health system governance using health facility service charters: a mixed methods assessment of community experiences and perceptions in a district in Kenya](#)**

Martin Atela, Pauline Bakibinga, Remare Ettarh, Catherine Kyobutungi, Simon Cohn

BMC Health Services Research 2015, 15:539 (4 December 2015)

### **BMC Infectious Diseases**

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

(Accessed 5 December 2015)  
[No new relevant content identified]

## **BMC Medical Ethics**

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

(Accessed 5 December 2015)

*Research article*

### **[Volunteer experiences and perceptions of the informed consent process: Lessons from two HIV clinical trials in Uganda](#)**

Agnes Ssali, Fiona Poland, Janet Seeley

BMC Medical Ethics 2015, 1

*Abstract*

Background

Informed consent as stipulated in regulatory human research guidelines requires that a volunteer is well-informed about what will happen to them in a trial. However researchers are faced with a challenge of how to ensure that a volunteer agreeing to take part in a clinical trial is truly informed. We conducted a qualitative study among volunteers taking part in two HIV clinical trials in Uganda to find out how they defined informed consent and their perceptions of the trial procedures, study information and interactions with the research team.

Methods

Between January and December 2012, 23 volunteers who had been in the two trials for over 6 months, consented to be interviewed about their experience in the trial three times over a period of nine months. They also took part in focus group discussions. Themes informed by study research questions and emerging findings were used for content analysis.

Results

Volunteers defined the informed consent process in terms of their individual welfare. Only two of the volunteers reported having referred during the trial to the participant information sheets given at the start of the trial. Volunteers remembered the information they had been given at the start of the trial on procedures that involved drawing blood and urine samples but not information about study design and randomisation. Volunteers said that they had understood the purpose of the trial. They said that signing a consent form showed that they had consented to take part in the trial but they also described it as being done to protect the researcher in case a volunteer later experienced side effects.

Conclusion

Volunteers pay more attention during the consent process to procedures requiring biological tests than to study design issues. Trust built between volunteers and the research team could enhance the successful conduct of clinical trials by allowing for informal discussions to identify and review volunteers' perceptions. These results point to the need for researchers to view informed consent as a process rather than an event.

*Debate*

### **[Is it ethical to prevent secondary use of stored biological samples and data derived from consenting research participants? The case of Malawi](#)**

Randy Mungwira, Wongani Nyangulu, James Misiri, Steven Iphani, Ruby Ng'ong'ola, Chawanangwa Chirambo, Francis Masiye, Joseph Mfutso-Bengo

BMC Medical Ethics 2015, 16:83 (2 December 2015)

*Research article*

**[Readiness of ethics review systems for a changing public health landscape in the WHO African Region](#)**

Marion Motari, Martin Ota, Joses Kirigia BMC Medical Ethics 2015, 16:82 (2 December 2015)

*Abstract*

**Background**

The increasing emphasis on research, development and innovation for health in providing solutions to the high burden of diseases in the African Region has warranted a proliferation of studies including clinical trials. This changing public health landscape requires that countries develop adequate ethics review capacities to protect and minimize risks to study participants. Therefore, this study assessed the readiness of national ethics committees to respond to challenges posed by a globalized biomedical research system which is constantly challenged by new public health threats, rapid scientific and technological advancements affecting biomedical research and development, delivery and manufacture of vaccines and therapies, and health technology transfer.

**Methods**

This is a descriptive study, which used a questionnaire structured to elicit information on the existence of relevant national legal frameworks, mechanisms for ethical review; as well as capacity requirements for national ethics committees. The questionnaire was available in English and French and was sent to 41 of the then 46 Member States of the WHO African Region, excluding the five Lusophone Member States. Information was gathered from senior officials in ministries of health, who by virtue of their offices were considered to have expert knowledge of research ethics review systems in their respective countries.

**Results**

Thirty three of the 41 countries (80.5 %) responded. Thirty (90.9 %) of respondent countries had a national ethics review committee (NEC); 79 % of which were established by law. Twenty-five (83.3 %) NECs had secretarial and administrative support. Over 50 % of countries with NECs indicated a need for capacity strengthening through periodic training on international guidelines for health research (including clinical trials) ethics; and allocation of funds for administrative and secretariat support.

**Conclusions**

Despite the existing training initiatives, the Region still experiences a shortage of professionals trained in health research ethics/ethicists. Committees continue to face various capacity needs especially for evaluating clinical trials, for monitoring ongoing research, database management and for accrediting institutional ethics committees. Given the growing number of clinical trials involving human participants in the African Region, there is urgent need for supporting countries without NECs to establish them; capacity strengthening where they exist; and creation of a regional network and joint ethical review mechanisms, whose membership would be open to all NECs of the Region.

**BMC Medicine**

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

(Accessed 5 December 2015)

*Research article*

**[Benchmarking health system performance across regions in Uganda: a systematic analysis of levels and trends in key maternal and child health interventions, 1990–2011](#)**

D. Roberts, Marie Ng, Gloria Ikilezi, Anne Gasasira, Laura Dwyer-Lindgren, Nancy Fullman, Talemwa Nalugwa, Moses Kamya, Emmanuela Gakidou  
BMC Medicine 2015, 13:285 (3 December 2015)

### **BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth**

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

(Accessed 5 December 2015)

*Research article*

#### **[Towards a midwifery profession in Bangladesh – a systems approach for a complex world](#)**

Malin Bogren, Helena Wigert, Lars Edgren, Marie Berg

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth 2015, 15:325 (3 December 2015)

### **BMC Public Health**

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

(Accessed 5 December 2015)

*Research article*

#### **[The burden of hypertension in sub-Saharan Africa: a four-country cross sectional study](#)**

David Guwatudde, Joan Nankya-Mutyoba, Robert Kalyesubula, Carien Laurence, Clement Adebamowo, IkeOluwapo Ajayi, Francis Bajunirwe, Marina Njelekela, Faraja Chiwanga, Todd Reid, Jimmy Volmink, Hans-Olov Adami, Michelle Holmes, Shona Dalal

BMC Public Health 2015, 15:1211 (5 December 2015)

*Research article*

#### **[A cost-benefit analysis of a proposed overseas refugee latent tuberculosis infection screening and treatment program](#)**

La'Marcus Wingate, Margaret Coleman, Christopher de la Motte Hurst, Marie Semple, Weigong Zhou, Martin Cetron, John Painter

BMC Public Health 2015, 15:1201 (1 December 2015)

*Research article*

#### **[Charting the evolution of approaches employed by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations \(GAVI\) to address inequities in access to immunization: a systematic qualitative review of GAVI policies, strategies and resource allocation mechanisms through an equity lens \(1999–2014\)](#)**

Gian Gandhi

BMC Public Health 2015, 15:1198 (30 November 2015)

*Abstract*

Background

GAVI's focus on reducing inequities in access to vaccines, immunization, and GAVI funds, – both between and within countries - has changed over time. This paper charts that evolution.

Methods

A systematic qualitative review was conducted by searching PubMed, Google Scholar and direct review of available GAVI Board papers, policies, and program guidelines. Documents were included if they described or evaluated GAVI policies, strategies, or programs and discussed

equity of access to vaccines, utilization of immunization services, or GAVI funds in countries currently or previously eligible for GAVI support. Findings were grouped thematically, categorized into time periods covering GAVI's phases of operations, and assessed depending on whether the approaches mediated equity of opportunity or equity of outcomes between or within countries.

#### Results

Searches yielded 2816 documents for assessment. After pre-screening and removal of duplicates, 552 documents underwent detailed evaluation and pertinent information was extracted from 188 unique documents. As a global funding mechanism, GAVI responded rationally to a semi-fixed funding constraint by focusing on between-country equity in allocation of resources. GAVI's predominant focus and documented successes have been in addressing between-country inequities in access to vaccines comparing lower income (GAVI-eligible) countries with higher income (ineligible) countries. GAVI has had mixed results at addressing between-country inequities in utilization of immunization services, and has only more recently put greater emphasis and resources towards addressing within-country inequities in utilization to immunization services. Over time, GAVI has progressively added vaccines to its portfolio. This expansion should have addressed inter-country, inter-regional, inter-generational and gender inequities in disease burden, however, evidence is scant with respect to final outcomes.

#### Conclusion

In its next phase of operations, the Alliance can continue to demonstrate its strength as a highly effective multi-partner enterprise, capable of learning and innovating in a world that has changed much since its inception. By building on its successes, developing more coherent and consistent approaches to address inequities between and within countries and by monitoring progress and outcomes, GAVI is well-positioned to bring the benefits of vaccination to previously unreached and underserved communities towards provision of universal health coverage.

#### **BMC Research Notes**

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

(Accessed 5 December 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

#### **BMJ Open**

2015, Volume 5, Issue 12

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

#### **British Medical Journal**

5 December 2015 (vol 351, issue 8035)

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

#### **Brown Journal of World Affairs**

Volume XXI Issue 1 Fall–Winter 2014

<http://brown.edu/initiatives/journal-world-affairs/>  
[Reviewed earlier]

## **Bulletin of the World Health Organization**

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

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

### *EDITORIALS*

#### **[Learning from Ebola: readiness for outbreaks and emergencies](#)**

Margaret Chan

doi: 10.2471/BLT.15.165720

*[see Ebola/EVD section above]*

### *Research*

#### **[Improving outcomes for caregivers through treatment of young people affected by war: a randomized controlled trial in Sierra Leone](#)**

Ryan K McBain, Carmel Salhi, Katrina Hann, Jim Kellie, Alimamy Kamara, Joshua A Salomon, Jane J Kim & Theresa S Betancourt

##### Objective

To measure the benefits to household caregivers of a psychotherapeutic intervention for adolescents and young adults living in a war-affected area.

##### Methods

Between July 2012 and July 2013, we carried out a randomized controlled trial of the Youth Readiness Intervention – a cognitive-behavioural intervention for war-affected young people who exhibit depressive and anxiety symptoms and conduct problems – in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Overall, 436 participants aged 15–24 years were randomized to receive the intervention (n = 222) or care as usual (n = 214). Household caregivers for the participants in the intervention arm (n = 101) or control arm (n = 103) were interviewed during a baseline survey and again, if available (n = 155), 12 weeks later in a follow-up survey. We used a burden assessment scale to evaluate the burden of care placed on caregivers in terms of emotional distress and functional impairment. The caregivers' mental health – i.e. internalizing, externalizing and prosocial behaviour – was evaluated using the Oxford Measure of Psychosocial Adjustment. Difference-in-differences multiple regression analyses were used, within an intention-to-treat framework, to estimate the treatment effects.

##### Findings

Compared with the caregivers of participants of the control group, the caregivers of participants of the intervention group reported greater reductions in emotional distress (scale difference: 0.252; 95% confidence interval, CI: 0.026–0.4782) and greater improvements in prosocial behaviour (scale difference: 0.249; 95% CI: 0.012–0.486) between the two surveys.

##### Conclusion

A psychotherapeutic intervention for war-affected young people can improve the mental health of their caregivers.

### *PERSPECTIVES*

#### **[Including migrant populations in health impact assessments](#)**

Lara Miramontes, Kevin Pottie, Maria Benkhalti Jandu, Vivian Welch, Keith Miller, Megan James & Janet Hatcher Roberts

doi: 10.2471/BLT.14.142315

Bulletin of the World Health Organization 2015;93:888-889. doi:  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.14.142315>

In 2010, there were 214 million international migrants worldwide, a number that is projected to double by 2050.<sup>1</sup> Migrants' motives for leaving their countries of origin include employment and education opportunities, escape from conflict and discrimination and the desire to raise families in economically and politically stable environments.

New migrants are often healthier than the general population on arrival, but their health may deteriorate after settlement,<sup>2</sup> due to unfamiliar social conditions, infectious diseases, or restricted access to health services. Cultural and linguistic barriers may contribute to poor delivery of health services. The 61st World Health Assembly called on all Member States to "promote migrant-sensitive health policies".<sup>3</sup> Some subgroups – especially refugees – have a greater burden of infectious diseases and mental disorders than the indigenous population.<sup>4</sup> Guidelines have been developed to assist health workers in the clinical management of migrating populations.<sup>4</sup> However, there are no explicit decision-support tools for policy-makers to ensure health equity for migrants. Here we discuss how health impact assessment can account for the needs of migrant populations...

### **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 5 December 2015]  
[No new content]

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

<http://www.resource-allocation.com/>  
(Accessed 5 December 2015)  
[No new content]

### **Developing World Bioethics**

December 2015 Volume 15, Issue 3 Pages iii–iii, 115–275  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/dewb.2015.15.issue-2/issuetoc>  
[Reviewed earlier]

### **Development in Practice**

Volume 25, Issue 8, 2015  
<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cdip20/current>  
[Reviewed earlier]

**Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology**

Volume 10, Issue 6, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness**

Volume 9 - Issue 06 - December 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Disasters**

October 2015 Volume 39, Issue 4 Pages 611–810

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Emergency Medicine Journal**

November 2015, Volume 32, Issue 11

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Epidemics**

Volume 13, In Progress (December 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**End of Life Journal**

2015, Volume 5, Issue 1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Epidemiology and Infection**

Volume 143 - Issue 16 - December 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**The European Journal of Public Health**

Volume 25, Issue 5, 1 October 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Eurosurveillance**

Volume 20, Issue 47, 26 November 2015

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

[Website not responding at inquiry]

### **Food Policy**

Volume 57, In Progress (November 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Food Security**

Volume 7, Issue 5, October 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Forum for Development Studies**

Volume 42, Issue 3, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Genocide Studies International**

Volume 9 No. 1, Spring 2015

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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

September 2015 | Volume 3 | Issue 3

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Global Health Governance**

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

[Accessed 5 December 2015]

[No new content]

### **Global Public Health**

Volume 10, Issue 10, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

## **Globalization and Health**

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

[Accessed 5 December 2015]

[No new content]

## **Health Affairs**

November 2015; Volume 34, Issue 11

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

[Reviewed earlier]

## **Health and Human Rights**

Volume 17, Issue 1 June 2015

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

### ***Special Section on Bioethics and the Right to Health***

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

[Reviewed earlier]

## **Health Economics, Policy and Law**

Volume 11 - Issue 01 - January 2016

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

[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 5 December 2015]

*Research*

### **[Incorporating research evidence into decision-making processes: researcher and decision-maker perceptions from five low- and middle-income countries](#)**

Zubin Shroff, Bhupinder Aulakh, Lucy Gilson, Irene Agyepong, Fadi El-Jardali, Abdul Ghaffar  
Health Research Policy and Systems 2015, 13:70 (30 November 2015)

*Abstract*

Background

The 'Sponsoring National Processes for Evidence-Informed Policy Making in the Health Sector of Developing Countries' program was launched by the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, WHO, in July 2008. The program aimed to catalyse the use of evidence generated through health policy and systems research in policymaking processes through (1) promoting researchers and policy advocates to present their evidence in a manner that is easy for

policymakers to understand and use, (2) creating mechanisms to spur the demand for and application of research evidence in policymaking, and (3) increased interaction between researchers, policy advocates, and policymakers. Grants ran for three years and five projects were supported in Argentina, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Nigeria and Zambia. This paper seeks to understand why projects in some settings were perceived by the key stakeholders involved to have made progress towards their goals, whereas others were perceived to have not done so well. Additionally, by comparing experiences across five countries, we seek to illustrate general learnings to inform future evidence-to-policy efforts in low- and middle-income countries.

#### Methods

We adopted the theory of knowledge translation developed by Jacobson et al. (*J Health Serv Res Policy* 8(2):94–9, 2003) as a framing device to reflect on project experiences across the five cases. Using data from the projects' external evaluation reports, which included information from semi-structured interviews and quantitative evaluation surveys of those involved in projects, and supplemented by information from the projects' individual technical reports, we applied the theoretical framework with a partially grounded approach to analyse each of the cases and make comparisons.

#### Results and conclusion

There was wide variation across projects in the type of activities carried out as well as their intensity. Based on our findings, we can conclude that projects perceived as having made progress towards their goals were characterized by the coming together of a number of domains identified by the theory. The domains of Jacobson's theoretical framework, initially developed for high-income settings, are of relevance to the low- and middle-income country context, but may need modification to be fully applicable to these settings. Specifically, the relative fragility of institutions and the concomitantly more significant role of individual leaders point to the need to look at leadership as an additional domain influencing the evidence-to-policy process.

### **Human Rights Quarterly**

Volume 37, Number 3, August 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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

Volume 39, Issue 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.idpjournals.com/content>  
[Accessed 5 December 2015]  
[No new relevant content]

**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 13, *In Progress* (September 2015)  
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/22124209/13>  
[Reviewed earlier]

**International Journal of Infectious Diseases**

November 2015 Volume 40, *In Progress*  
<http://www.ijidonline.com/issue/S1201-9712%2815%29X0010-5>  
[Reviewed earlier]

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

Volume 22, Issue 6, 2015  
<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/tsdw20/current#.VSj2SpMw1hX>  
[Reviewed earlier]

**International Migration Review**

Fall 2015 Volume 49, Issue 3 Pages 555–839, e17–e32  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/imre.2015.49.issue-3/issuetoc>  
[Reviewed earlier]

**Intervention** – Journal of Mental Health and Psychological Support in Conflict Affected Areas  
November 2015 - Volume 13 - Issue 3 pp: 200-296  
<http://journals.lww.com/interventionjnl/pages/currenttoc.aspx>  
[Reviewed earlier]

**JAMA**

December 1, 2015, Vol 314, No. 21  
<http://jama.jamanetwork.com/issue.aspx>  
[New issue; No relevant content identified]

**JAMA Pediatrics**

November 2015, Vol 169, No. 11  
<http://archpedi.jamanetwork.com/issue.aspx>  
[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Asian Development**

Vol 1, No 1 (2015)  
[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Community Health**

Volume 40, Issue 6, December 2015  
<http://link.springer.com/journal/10900/40/4/page/1>  
[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Development Economics**

Volume 117, Pages 1-170 (November 2015)  
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/03043878/115>  
[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health**

November 2015, Volume 69, Issue 11  
<http://jech.bmj.com/content/current>  
[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Global Ethics**

Volume 11, Issue 2, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjge20/.U2V-Elf4L0l#.VAJEj2N4WF8>

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Journal of Global Infectious Diseases (JGID)**

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

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

#### **[The Ebola outbreak of 2014-2015: From coordinated multilateral action to effective disease containment, vaccine development, and beyond](#)**

Thomas R Wojda<sup>1</sup>, Pamela L Valenza<sup>2</sup>, Kristine Cornejo<sup>2</sup>, Thomas McGinley<sup>2</sup>, Sagar C Galwankar<sup>3</sup>, Dhanashree Kelkar<sup>3</sup>, Richard P Sharpe<sup>1</sup>, Thomas J Papadimos<sup>4</sup>, Stanislaw P Stawicki<sup>1</sup>

1 Department of Surgery, St. Luke's University Health Network, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and Phillipsburg, New Jersey, USA

2 Department of Family Medicine, St. Luke's University Health Network, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and Phillipsburg, New Jersey, USA

3 Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Florida, Jacksonville, Florida, USA

4 Department of Anesthesiology, The Ohio State University College of Medicine, Columbus, Ohio, USA

#### **Abstract**

The Ebola outbreak of 2014-2015 exacted a terrible toll on major countries of West Africa. Latest estimates from the World Health Organization indicate that over 11,000 lives were lost to the deadly virus since the first documented case was officially recorded. However, significant progress in the fight against Ebola was made thanks to a combination of globally-supported containment efforts, dissemination of key information to the public, the use of modern information technology resources to better track the spread of the outbreak, as well as more effective use of active surveillance, targeted travel restrictions, and quarantine procedures. This article will outline the progress made by the global public health community toward containing and eventually extinguishing this latest outbreak of Ebola. Economic consequences of the outbreak will be discussed. The authors will emphasize policies and procedures thought to be effective in containing the outbreak. In addition, we will outline selected episodes that threatened inter-continental spread of the disease. The emerging topic of post-Ebola syndrome will also be presented. Finally, we will touch on some of the diagnostic (e.g., point-of-care [POC] testing) and therapeutic (e.g., new vaccines and pharmaceuticals) developments in the fight against Ebola, and how these developments may help the global public health community fight future epidemics.

### **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 2 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health**

Volume 17, Issue 6, December 2015

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

***Special issue : Mental Health and Substance Use***

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies**

Volume 13, Issue 3, 2015

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Infectious Diseases**

Volume 212 Issue 12 December 15, 2015

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

**Journal of International Development**

November 2015 Volume 27, Issue 8 Pages 1351–1545

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

***Special Issue: AID, SOCIAL POLICY, AND DEVELOPMENT***

[Reviewed earlier]

**The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics**

Fall 2015 Volume 43, Issue 3 Pages 437–666

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Medical Ethics**

December 2015, Volume 41, Issue 12

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

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

Volume 4 Issue 4 December 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Journal of Public Health Policy**

Volume 36, Issue 4 (November 2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Journal of the Royal Society – Interface**

06 December 2015; volume 12, issue 113

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

### **Knowledge Management for Development Journal**

Vol 11, No 1 (2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **The Lancet**

Dec 05, 2015 Volume 386 Number 10010 p2227-2364 e46-e55

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

*Editorial*

#### **[Adolescent health: boys matter too](#)**

The Lancet

*Summary*

It has been a good year for adolescents. Many global health reports and initiatives now mention adolescents. So also does the latest UN Population Fund's State of the World Population 2015 report, released on Dec 3. Shelter from the Storm: a transformative agenda for women and girls in a crisis-prone world reminds us that there are 26 million women and adolescent girls in their childbearing years in need of humanitarian assistance worldwide. During the past 2 years or so, adolescents have been increasingly included in the women's and child health agenda, culminating in UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's updated [Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health into the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health \(2016–2030\)](#), presented on Sept 26 at the General Assembly.

*Articles*

#### **[Global, regional, and national levels and trends in under-5 mortality between 1990 and 2015, with scenario-based projections to 2030: a systematic analysis by the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation](#)**

Dr [Danzhen You](#), PhD, [Lucia Hug](#), MA, [Simon Ejdemyr](#), MA, [Priscila Idele](#), PhD, [Daniel Hogan](#), PhD, [Colin Mathers](#), PhD, [Patrick Gerland](#), PhD, [Jin Rou New](#), MA, [Leontine Alkema](#), PhD for the United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME)

*Summary*

Background

In 2000, world leaders agreed on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). MDG 4 called for a two-thirds reduction in the under-5 mortality rate between 1990 and 2015. We aimed to estimate levels and trends in under-5 mortality for 195 countries from 1990 to 2015 to assess

MDG 4 achievement and then intended to project how various post-2015 targets and observed rates of change will affect the burden of under-5 deaths from 2016 to 2030.

#### Methods

We updated the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME) database with 5700 country-year datapoints. As of July, 2015, the database contains about 17 000 country-year datapoints for mortality of children younger than 5 years for 195 countries, and includes all available nationally-representative data from vital registration systems, population censuses, household surveys, and sample registration systems. We used these data to generate estimates, with uncertainty intervals, of under-5 (age 0–4 years) mortality using a Bayesian B-spline bias-reduction model (B3 model). This model includes a data model to adjust for systematic biases associated with different types of data sources. To provide insights into the global and regional burden of under-5 deaths associated with post-2015 targets, we constructed five scenario-based projections for under-5 mortality from 2016 to 2030 and estimated national, regional, and global under-5 mortality rates up to 2030 for each scenario.

#### Results

The global under-5 mortality rate has fallen from 90·6 deaths per 1000 livebirths (90% uncertainty interval 89·3–92·2) in 1990 to 42·5 (40·9–45·6) in 2015. During the same period, the annual number of under-5 deaths worldwide dropped from 12·7 million (12·6 million–13·0 million) to 5·9 million (5·7 million–6·4 million). The global under-5 mortality rate reduced by 53% (50–55%) in the past 25 years and therefore missed the MDG 4 target. Based on point estimates, two regions—east Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean—achieved the MDG 4 target. 62 countries achieved the MDG 4 target, of which 24 were low-income and lower-middle income countries. Between 2016 and 2030, 94·4 million children are projected to die before the age of 5 years if the 2015 mortality rate remains constant in each country, and 68·8 million would die if each country continues to reduce its mortality rate at the pace estimated from 2000 to 2015. If all countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of an under-5 mortality rate of 25 or fewer deaths per 1000 livebirths by 2030, we project 56·0 million deaths by 2030. About two-thirds of all sub-Saharan African countries need to accelerate progress to achieve this target.

#### Interpretation

Despite substantial progress in reducing child mortality, concerted efforts remain necessary to avoid preventable under-5 deaths in the coming years and to accelerate progress in improving child survival further. Urgent actions are needed most in the regions and countries with high under-5 mortality rates, particularly those in sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia.

#### Funding

None.

#### Articles

[\*\*Global, regional, and national comparative risk assessment of 79 behavioural, environmental and occupational, and metabolic risks or clusters of risks in 188 countries, 1990–2013: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013\*\*](#)

GBD 2013 Risk Factors Collaborators\*

#### Summary

#### Background

The Global Burden of Disease, Injuries, and Risk Factor study 2013 (GBD 2013) is the first of a series of annual updates of the GBD. Risk factor quantification, particularly of modifiable risk factors, can help to identify emerging threats to population health and opportunities for

prevention. The GBD 2013 provides a timely opportunity to update the comparative risk assessment with new data for exposure, relative risks, and evidence on the appropriate counterfactual risk distribution.

#### Methods

Attributable deaths, years of life lost, years lived with disability, and disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs) have been estimated for 79 risks or clusters of risks using the GBD 2010 methods. Risk–outcome pairs meeting explicit evidence criteria were assessed for 188 countries for the period 1990–2013 by age and sex using three inputs: risk exposure, relative risks, and the theoretical minimum risk exposure level (TMREL). Risks are organised into a hierarchy with blocks of behavioural, environmental and occupational, and metabolic risks at the first level of the hierarchy. The next level in the hierarchy includes nine clusters of related risks and two individual risks, with more detail provided at levels 3 and 4 of the hierarchy. Compared with GBD 2010, six new risk factors have been added: handwashing practices, occupational exposure to trichloroethylene, childhood wasting, childhood stunting, unsafe sex, and low glomerular filtration rate. For most risks, data for exposure were synthesised with a Bayesian meta-regression method, DisMod-MR 2.0, or spatial-temporal Gaussian process regression. Relative risks were based on meta-regressions of published cohort and intervention studies. Attributable burden for clusters of risks and all risks combined took into account evidence on the mediation of some risks such as high body-mass index (BMI) through other risks such as high systolic blood pressure and high cholesterol.

#### Findings

All risks combined account for 57·2% (95% uncertainty interval [UI] 55·8–58·5) of deaths and 41·6% (40·1–43·0) of DALYs. Risks quantified account for 87·9% (86·5–89·3) of cardiovascular disease DALYs, ranging to a low of 0% for neonatal disorders and neglected tropical diseases and malaria. In terms of global DALYs in 2013, six risks or clusters of risks each caused more than 5% of DALYs: dietary risks accounting for 11·3 million deaths and 241·4 million DALYs, high systolic blood pressure for 10·4 million deaths and 208·1 million DALYs, child and maternal malnutrition for 1·7 million deaths and 176·9 million DALYs, tobacco smoke for 6·1 million deaths and 143·5 million DALYs, air pollution for 5·5 million deaths and 141·5 million DALYs, and high BMI for 4·4 million deaths and 134·0 million DALYs. Risk factor patterns vary across regions and countries and with time. In sub-Saharan Africa, the leading risk factors are child and maternal malnutrition, unsafe sex, and unsafe water, sanitation, and handwashing. In women, in nearly all countries in the Americas, north Africa, and the Middle East, and in many other high-income countries, high BMI is the leading risk factor, with high systolic blood pressure as the leading risk in most of Central and Eastern Europe and south and east Asia. For men, high systolic blood pressure or tobacco use are the leading risks in nearly all high-income countries, in north Africa and the Middle East, Europe, and Asia. For men and women, unsafe sex is the leading risk in a corridor from Kenya to South Africa.

#### Interpretation

Behavioural, environmental and occupational, and metabolic risks can explain half of global mortality and more than one-third of global DALYs providing many opportunities for prevention. Of the larger risks, the attributable burden of high BMI has increased in the past 23 years. In view of the prominence of behavioural risk factors, behavioural and social science research on interventions for these risks should be strengthened. Many prevention and primary care policy options are available now to act on key risks.

#### Funding

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

## **Series**

*How to eliminate tuberculosis*

### **Data for action: collection and use of local data to end tuberculosis**

Grant Theron, Helen E Jenkins, Frank Cobelens, Ibrahim Abubakar, Aamir J Khan, Ted Cohen, David W Dowdy  
2324

*How to eliminate tuberculosis*

### **Turning off the tap: stopping tuberculosis transmission through active case-finding and prompt effective treatment**

Courtney M Yuen, Farhana Amanullah, Ashwin Dharmadhikari, Edward A Nardell, James A Seddon, Irina Vasilyeva, Yanlin Zhao, Salmaan Keshavjee, Mercedes C Becerra  
2334

*How to eliminate tuberculosis*

### **Controlling the seedbeds of tuberculosis: diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis infection**

Molebogeng X Rangaka, Solange C Cavalcante, Ben J Marais, Sok Thim, Neil A Martinson, Soumya Swaminathan, Richard E Chaisson  
2344

*How to eliminate tuberculosis*

### **Stopping tuberculosis: a biosocial model for sustainable development**

Katrina F Ortblad, Joshua A Salomon, Till Bärnighausen, Rifat Atun  
2354

## **The Lancet Infectious Diseases**

Dec 2015 Volume 15 Number 12 p1361-1498

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

*Editorial*

### **Tuberculosis reaches new milestones, good and bad**

The Lancet Infectious Diseases

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099\(15\)00431-4](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(15)00431-4)

*Summary*

The 20th instalment of WHO's Global tuberculosis report was published on Oct 28, 2015, heralded by the headline that tuberculosis mortality had nearly halved over the past 25 years. This positive news was closely followed by the sobering announcement that tuberculosis now ranks alongside HIV among the leading infectious causes of death, with the deaths of 1·5 million people being attributable to the disease. Most of these deaths could have been prevented; in fact, tuberculosis has been a curable disease since the 1950s.

### **Immunogenicity of the RTS,S/AS01 malaria vaccine and implications for duration of vaccine efficacy: secondary analysis of data from a phase 3 randomised controlled trial**

Michael T White, Robert Verity, Jamie T Griffin, Kwaku Poku Asante, Seth Owusu-Agyei, Brian Greenwood, Chris Drakeley, Samwel Gesase, John Lusingu, Daniel Ansong, Samuel Adjei, Tsiri Agbenyega, Bernhards Ogutu, Lucas Otieno, Walter Otieno, Selidji T Agnandji, Bertrand Lell,

Peter Kremsner, Irving Hoffman, Francis Martinson, Portia Kamthunzu, Halidou Tinto, Innocent Valea, Hermann Sorgho, Martina Oneko, Kephass Otieno, Mary J Hamel, Nahya Salim, Ali Mtoro, Salim Abdulla, Pedro Aide, Jahit Sacarlal, John J Aponte, Patricia Njuguna, Kevin Marsh, Philip Bejon, Eleanor M Riley, Azra C Ghani

1450

Open Access

*Summary*

Background

The RTS,S/AS01 malaria vaccine targets the circumsporozoite protein, inducing antibodies associated with the prevention of *Plasmodium falciparum* infection. We assessed the association between anti-circumsporozoite antibody titres and the magnitude and duration of vaccine efficacy using data from a phase 3 trial done between 2009 and 2014.

Methods

Using data from 8922 African children aged 5–17 months and 6537 African infants aged 6–12 weeks at first vaccination, we analysed the determinants of immunogenicity after RTS,S/AS01 vaccination with or without a booster dose. We assessed the association between the incidence of clinical malaria and anti-circumsporozoite antibody titres using a model of anti-circumsporozoite antibody dynamics and the natural acquisition of protective immunity over time.

Findings

RTS,S/AS01-induced anti-circumsporozoite antibody titres were greater in children aged 5–17 months than in those aged 6–12 weeks. Pre-vaccination anti-circumsporozoite titres were associated with lower immunogenicity in children aged 6–12 weeks and higher immunogenicity in those aged 5–17 months. The immunogenicity of the booster dose was strongly associated with immunogenicity after primary vaccination. Anti-circumsporozoite titres wane according to a biphasic exponential distribution. In participants aged 5–17 months, the half-life of the short-lived component of the antibody response was 45 days (95% credible interval 42–48) and that of the long-lived component was 591 days (557–632). After primary vaccination 12% (11–13) of the response was estimated to be long-lived, rising to 30% (28–32%) after a booster dose. An anti-circumsporozoite antibody titre of 121 EU/mL (98–153) was estimated to prevent 50% of infections. Waning anti-circumsporozoite antibody titres predict the duration of efficacy against clinical malaria across different age categories and transmission intensities, and efficacy wanes more rapidly at higher transmission intensity.

Interpretation

Anti-circumsporozoite antibody titres are a surrogate of protection for the magnitude and duration of RTS,S/AS01 efficacy, with or without a booster dose, providing a valuable surrogate of effectiveness for new RTS,S formulations in the age groups considered.

Funding

UK Medical Research Council.

## **Maternal and Child Health Journal**

Volume 19, Issue 12, December 2015

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

*Original Paper*

### **[An Intervention to Enhance Obstetric and Newborn Care in India: A Cluster Randomized-Trial](#)**

Shivaprasad S. Goudar, Richard J. Derman

## *Abstract*

### Objectives

This study assessed whether community mobilization and interventions to improve emergency obstetric and newborn care reduced perinatal mortality (PMR) and neonatal mortality rates (NMR) in Belgaum, India.

### Methods

The cluster-randomised controlled trial was conducted in Belgaum District, Karnataka State, India. Twenty geographic clusters were randomized to control or the intervention. The intervention engaged and mobilized community and health authorities to leverage support; strengthened community-based stabilization, referral, and transportation; and aimed to improve quality of care at facilities.

### Results

17,754 Intervention births and 15,954 control births weighing  $\geq 1000$  g, respectively, were enrolled and analysed. Comparing the baseline period to the last 6 months period, the NMR was lower in the intervention versus control clusters (OR 0.60, 95 % CI 0.34–1.06,  $p = 0.076$ ) as was the PMR (OR 0.74, 95 % CI 0.46–1.19,  $p = 0.20$ ) although neither reached statistical significance. Rates of facility birth and caesarean section increased among both groups. There was limited influence on quality of care measures.

### Conclusions for Practice

The intervention had large but not statistically significant effects on neonatal and perinatal mortality. Community mobilization and increased facility care may ultimately improve neonatal and perinatal survival, and are important in the context of the global transition towards institutional delivery.

## **Medical Decision Making (MDM)**

November 2015; 35 (8)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

## **The Milbank Quarterly**

A Multidisciplinary Journal of Population Health and Health Policy

September 2015 Volume 93, Issue 3 Pages 447–649

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

[Reviewed earlier]

## **Nature**

Volume 528 Number 7580 pp7-158 3 December 2015

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

*World View*

### **[The world must accept that the HPV vaccine is safe](#)**

But the science alone will not be enough to build public and political confidence, says Heidi Larson.

01 December 2015

**[Supplement: Infectious disease control and elimination: Modelling the impact of improved diagnostics](#)**

Diagnostic technologies play a pivotal part in understanding and addressing the burden of infectious diseases. The Diagnostics Modelling Consortium was established in 2013 to facilitate the integration of diagnostic data into models of disease transmission dynamics. In this supplement, the Consortium and its partners report on the latest research outcomes across several major diseases. The outputs demonstrate that improved, well-considered diagnostics could support the elimination of multiple diseases in the field.

*Free full access*

*Introduction*

**[Expanding the role of diagnostic and prognostic tools for infectious diseases in resource-poor settings](#)**

Open Access

Azra C. Ghani, Deborah Hay Burgess, Alison Reynolds & Christine Rousseau  
Nature 528, S50-S52 (03 December 2015)

**Nature Medicine**

November 2015, Volume 21 No 11 pp1235-1371

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**New England Journal of Medicine**

December 3, 2015 Vol. 373 No. 23

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

**[International Health Care Systems: Individual Responsibility and Community Solidarity — The Swiss Health Care System](#)**

N. Biller-Andorno and T. Zeltner

Free Full Text

**[Ending the HIV–AIDS Pandemic — Follow the Science](#)**

A.S. Fauci and H.D. Marston

Free Full Text

**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>

*Special Article*

### **Model for Service Delivery for Developmental Disorders in Low-Income Countries**

Syed Usman Hamdani, Fareed Aslam Minhas, Zafar Iqbal, Atif Rahman

*Abstract*

As in many low-income countries, the treatment gap for developmental disorders in rural Pakistan is near 100%. We integrated social, technological, and business innovations to develop and pilot a potentially sustainable service for children with developmental disorders in 1 rural area. Families with developmental disorders were identified through a mobile phone-based interactive voice response system, and organized into "Family Networks." "Champion" family volunteers were trained in evidence-based interventions. An Avatar-assisted Cascade Training and information system was developed to assist with training, implementation, monitoring, and supervision. In a population of ~30 000, we successfully established 1 self-sustaining Family Network consisting of 10 trained champion family volunteers working under supervision of specialists, providing intervention to 70 families of children with developmental disorders. Each champion was responsible for training and providing ongoing support to 5 to 7 families from his or her village, and the families supported each other in management of their children. A pre-post evaluation of the program indicated that there was significant improvement in disability and socioemotional difficulties in the child, reduction in stigmatizing experiences, and greater family empowerment to seek services and community resources for the child. There was no change in caregivers' well-being. To replicate this service more widely, a social franchise model has been developed whereby the integrated intervention will be "boxed" up and passed on to others to replicate with appropriate support. Such integrated social, technological, and business innovations have the potential to be applied to other areas of health in low-income countries.

## **PharmacoEconomics**

Volume 33, Issue 12, December 2015

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

### **Dealing with Time in Health Economic Evaluation: Methodological Issues and Recommendations for Practice**

James F. O'Mahony, Anthony T. Newall, Joost van Rosmalen

*Abstract*

Time is an important aspect of health economic evaluation, as the timing and duration of clinical events, healthcare interventions and their consequences all affect estimated costs and effects. These issues should be reflected in the design of health economic models. This article considers three important aspects of time in modelling: (1) which cohorts to simulate and how far into the future to extend the analysis; (2) the simulation of time, including the difference between discrete-time and continuous-time models, cycle lengths, and converting rates and probabilities; and (3) discounting future costs and effects to their present values. We provide a methodological overview of these issues and make recommendations to help inform both the conduct of cost-effectiveness analyses and the interpretation of their results. For choosing which cohorts to simulate and how many, we suggest analysts carefully assess potential reasons for variation in cost effectiveness between cohorts and the feasibility of subgroup-specific recommendations. For the simulation of time, we recommend using short cycles or continuous-time models to avoid biases and the need for half-cycle corrections, and provide

advice on the correct conversion of transition probabilities in state transition models. Finally, for discounting, analysts should not only follow current guidance and report how discounting was conducted, especially in the case of differential discounting, but also seek to develop an understanding of its rationale. Our overall recommendations are that analysts explicitly state and justify their modelling choices regarding time and consider how alternative choices may impact on results.

### **PLOS Currents: Disasters**

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

[Accessed 5 December 2015]

[No new content]

### **PLoS Currents: Outbreaks**

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

(Accessed 5 December 2015)

[No new content]

### **PLoS Medicine**

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

(Accessed 5 December 2015)

#### **[The Ebola Vaccine, Iatrogenic Injuries, and Legal Liability](#)**

Amir Attaran, Kumanan Wilson

Policy Forum | published 01 Dec 2015 | PLOS Medicine

10.1371/journal.pmed.1001911

#### *Summary Points*

:: The development and eventual deployment of an Ebola vaccine was delayed for various technical and financial reasons, but with the apparent success of a vaccine candidate in a recently reported clinical trial, an urgent problem is the lack of any system to protect vaccine firms from the risks of legal liability caused by vaccine-related injuries.

:: Without indemnity or security against the legal risks, vaccine firms are less likely to engage in research and development of vaccines, particularly for rare diseases of poor countries such as Ebola.

:: WHO's traditional method of mitigating the legal risks through indemnification agreements with countries appears too slow to implement in urgent pandemic situations. Also, the enforceability of any WHO-backed legal agreement is placed in doubt because the United Nations has the option to claim immunity from lawsuits.

:: Creating a compensation system for vaccine injuries, based on no-fault principles and, most likely, overseen by the World Bank, could address the liability concerns and facilitate getting novel vaccines into clinical trials and to the market. This system would also ensure that recipients of these vaccines are fairly compensated in the rare instances that they are harmed.

### **PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases**

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

(Accessed 5 December 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

### **PLoS One**

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

[Accessed 5 December 2015]

#### **[Cost-Effectiveness of Peer Counselling for the Promotion of Exclusive Breastfeeding in Uganda](#)**

Lumbwe Chola, Lars T. Fadnes, Ingunn M. S. Engebretsen, Lungiswa Nkonki, Victoria Nankabirwa, Halvor Sommerfelt, James K. Tumwine, Thorkild Tylleskar, Bjarne Robberstad, PROMISE-EBF Study Group

Research Article | published 30 Nov 2015 | PLOS ONE

10.1371/journal.pone.0142718

### **PLoS Pathogens**

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

(Accessed 5 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 5 December 2015)

[No new relevant content identified]

### **Prehospital & Disaster Medicine**

Volume 30 - Issue 06 - December 2015

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

#### **[Frameworks for Disaster Research and Evaluation](#)**

Samuel J. Stratton

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S1049023X15005397> (About DOI), Published online: 11 November 2015

### ***Special Reports***

#### **[Research and Evaluations of the Health Aspects of Disasters, Part III: Framework for the Temporal Phases of Disasters](#)**

Marvin L. Birnbaum, Elaine K. Daily and Ann P. O'Rourke

#### **[Research and Evaluations of the Health Aspects of Disasters, Part IV: Framework for Societal Structures: the Societal Systems](#)**

Marvin L. Birnbaum, Elaine K. Daily and Ann P. O'Rourke

#### **[Research and Evaluations of the Health Aspects of Disasters, Part V: Epidemiological Disaster Research](#)**

Marvin L. Birnbaum, Elaine K. Daily and Ann P. O'Rourke

### **Preventive Medicine**

Volume 80, Pages 1-106 (November 2015)

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

***Special Issue: Behavior change, health, and health disparities***

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Public Health Ethics**

Volume 8 Issue 3 November 2015

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

***Special Symposium: Antimicrobial Resistance***

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Qualitative Health Research**

November 2015; 25 (11)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Refugee Survey Quarterly**

Volume 34 Issue 4 December 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Reproductive Health**

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

[Accessed 5 December 2015]

*Research*

**[Perceptions and experiences of adolescents, parents and school administrators regarding adolescent-parent communication on sexual and reproductive health issues in urban and rural Uganda](#)**

Wilson Muhwezi, Anne Katahoire, Cecily Banura, Herbert Mugooda, Doris Kwesiga, Sheri Bastien, Knut-Inge Klepp *Reproductive Health* 2015, 12:110 (30 November 2015)

### **Resilience: International Policies, Practices and Discourses**

Volume 3, Issue 3, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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

September 2015 Vol. 38, No. 3

<http://www.paho.org/journal/>  
[Reviewed earlier]

### **Risk Analysis**

November 2015 Volume 35, Issue 11 Pages 1957–2119

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Science**

4 December 2015 vol 350, issue 6265, pages 1125-1288

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

#### ***Introduction to Special Issue - Toward Healthy Aging Putting Off the Inevitable***

Stella Hurtley, Leslie Roberts, L. Bryan Ray, Beverly A. Purnell, Caroline Ash

The dream of cheating death has evolved into a scientific quest to extend healthy life span. Scientists and doctors are looking for ways to maximize the number of years that we live free of chronic diseases, cancer, and cognitive decline. But before we can intervene, we have to understand the cellular and molecular mechanisms that drive aging and senescence. Some clues reside in our telomeres, the tips of our chromosomes that shrink with age. Others lie in our stem cells, which can only go on for so long repairing our tissues. Our mitochondria, too, the so-called powerhouses of the cell, may hold some answers to prolonging youthfulness. Other research points to changes in the gut microbiota associated with frailty in the aged. At a mechanistic level, the modulation of coenzyme NAD<sup>+</sup> usage or production can prolong both health span and life span. Current geroscience initiatives aim to harness basic insights in aging research to promote general advances in healthy aging.

Questions remain throughout the aging field. By tweaking everything from genes to diets to environmental temperature and mating, scientists have created Methuselah flies and other remarkably long-lived animals while garnering fundamental insights into the biology of aging. Still, researchers puzzle over the most basic questions, such as what determines the life spans of animals. Meanwhile, a handful of molecular biologists are searching for ways to measure a person's biological, as opposed to chronological, age, but that quest, too, has proved elusive.

An ever-growing literature addresses both theoretical and pragmatic approaches to the challenge of aging. In this special issue, we have focused mainly on the cellular aspects of mammalian aging, with the goal of spurring future developments in promoting health span, if not life span.

*Policy Forum*

*Climate Policy*

#### **Can Paris pledges avert severe climate change?**

Allen A. Fawcett, Gokul C. Iyer, Leon E. Clarke, James A. Edmonds, Nathan E. Hultman, Haewon C. McJeon, Joeri Rogelj, Reed Schuler, Jameel Alsalam, Ghassem R. Asrar, Jared Creason, Minji Jeong, James McFarland, Anupriya Mundra, and Wenjing Shi

Science 4 December 2015: 1168-1169.

Published online 26 November 2015 [DOI:10.1126/science.aad5761]

*Reducing risks of severe outcomes and improving chances of limiting warming to 2°C*

Current international climate negotiations seek to catalyze global emissions reductions through a system of nationally determined country-level emissions reduction targets that would be regularly updated. These “Intended Nationally Determined Contributions” (INDCs) would constitute the core of mitigation commitments under any agreement struck at the upcoming Paris Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (1). With INDCs now reported from more than 150 countries and covering around 90% of global emissions, we can begin to assess the role of this round of INDCs in facilitating or frustrating achievement of longer-term climate goals. In this context, it is important to understand what these INDCs collectively deliver in terms of two objectives. First, how much do they reduce the probability of the highest levels of global mean surface temperature change? Second, how much do they improve the odds of achieving the international goal of limiting temperature change to under 2°C relative to preindustrial levels (2)? Although much discussion has focused on the latter objective (3–5), the former is equally important when viewing climate mitigation from a risk-management perspective.

### **Social Science & Medicine**

Volume 145, Pages 1-248 (November 2015)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/02779536/145>

***Special issue section Health Systems in Asia 2013; Edited by Kai Hong Phua, Shenglan Tang and Kabir Sheikh***

**[Editorial – Health Systems of Asia: Equity, Governance and Social Impact](#)**

Pages 141-144

Kai Hong Phua, Kabir Sheikh, Sheng-Lan Tang, Vivian Lin

### **[District-level variations in childhood immunizations in India: The role of socio-economic factors and health infrastructure](#)**

Original Research Article

Pages 163-172

Anu Rammohan, Niyi Awofeso

#### ***Abstract***

Routine childhood immunizations against measles and DPT are part of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) set up in 1974, with the aim of reducing childhood morbidity and mortality. Despite this, immunization rates are sub-optimal in developing countries such as India, with wide heterogeneity observed across districts and socio-economic characteristics. The aim of this paper is to examine district-level variations in the propensity to vaccinate a child in India for measles and DPT3, and analyse the extent to which these immunizations are given age-inappropriately, either prematurely or delayed. The present study uses data from the Indian District Level Household Survey (DLHS-3) collected in 2008, and the final sample contains detailed information on 42157 children aged between 12 and 60 months, across 549 Indian districts for whom we have complete information on immunization history. Our empirical study analyses: (i) the district-level average immunization rates for measles and DPT3, and (ii) the extent to which these immunizations have been given age-appropriately. A key contribution of this paper is that we link the household-level data at the district level to data on availability and proximity to health infrastructure and district-level socio-economic factors. Our results show that after controlling for an array of socio-economic characteristics, across all our models, the district's income per capita is a strong predictor of

better immunization outcomes for children. Mother's education level at the district-level has a statistically significant and positive influence on immunization outcomes across all our models.

### **Emerging challenges in implementing universal health coverage in Asia**

Original Research Article

Pages 243-248

Caryn Bredenkamp, Timothy Evans, Leizel Lagrada, John Langenbrunner, Stefan Nachuk, Toomas Palu

#### *Abstract*

As countries in Asia converge on the goal of universal health coverage (UHC), some common challenges are emerging. One is how to ensure coverage of the informal sector so as to make UHC truly universal; a second is how to design a benefit package that is responsive and appropriate to current health challenges, yet fiscally sustainable; and a third is how to ensure "supply-side readiness", i.e. the availability and quality of services, which is a necessary condition for translating coverage into improvements in health outcomes. Using examples from the Asia region, this paper discusses these three challenges and how they are being addressed. On the first challenge, two promising approaches emerge: using general revenues to fully cover the informal sector, or employing a combination of tax subsidies, non-financial incentives and contributory requirements. The former can produce fast results, but places pressure on government budgets and may induce informality, while the latter will require a strong administrative mandate and systems to track the ability-to-pay. With respect to benefit packages, we find considerable variation in the nature and rigor of processes underlying the selection and updating of the services included. Also, in general, packages do not yet focus sufficiently on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and related preventive outpatient care. Finally, there are large variations and inequities in the supply-side readiness, in terms of availability of infrastructure, equipment, essential drugs and staffing, to deliver on the promises of UHC. Health worker competencies are also a constraint. While the UHC challenges are common, experience in overcoming these challenges is varied and many of the successes appear to be highly context-specific. This implies that researchers and policymakers need to rigorously, and regularly, assess different approaches, and share these findings across countries in Asia – and across the world.

### **Stability: International Journal of Security & Development**

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

[accessed 5 December 2015]

[No new relevant content identified]

### **Stanford Social Innovation Review**

<http://ssir.org/>

*Measurement & Evaluation*

#### **Imagine a World of Good Data**

By Peter L. Levin & Hallie Schneir [1](#)

Unless we prioritize government collection, analysis, and distribution of data, public officials will continue to make decisions with limited facts, and citizens will get poorer services from the government than from the private sector.

## **Sustainability**

Volume 7, Issue 11 (November 2015), Pages 14427-15784

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

### **Editorial: Planning, Development and Management of Sustainable Cities: A Commentary from the Guest Editors**

by Tan Yigitcanlar and Md. Kamruzzaman

*Sustainability* **2015**, *7*(11), 14677-14688; doi:10.3390/su71114677

Received: 27 October 2015 / Revised: 27 October 2015 / Accepted: 27 October 2015 /

Published: 3 November 2015

#### *Abstract:*

Cities are the most dramatic manifestations of human activities on the surface of the earth. These human-dominated organisms—*i.e.*, cities—degrade natural habitats, simplify species composition, disrupt hydrological systems, and modify energy flow and nutrient cycling. Today, these consequential impacts of human activities, originated from population increase, rapid urbanization, high private motor vehicle dependency, deregulated industrialization and mass livestock production, are increasing exponentially and causing great deal of environmental, social, and economic challenges both at global and local scales. In such a situation, establishment of sustainable cities, through sustainable urban development practices, is seen as a potential panacea to combat these challenges responsibly, effectively, and efficiently. This paper offers a critical review of the key literature on the issues relating to planning, development and management of sustainable cities, introduces the contributions from the Special Issue, and speculates on the prospective research directions to place necessary mechanisms to secure a sustainable urban future for all.

## **TORTURE Journal**

Volume 25, Nr. 2, 2015

<http://www.irct.org/torture-journal>

### **Effect of counseling by paraprofessionals on depression, anxiety, somatization, and functioning in Indonesian torture survivors**

Deborah Larson-Stoa, Gerard A. Jacobs, Abraham Jonathan, Bhava Poudyal

### **Geographical distribution of torture: An epidemiological study of torture reported by asylum applicants examined at the Department of Forensic Medicine, University of Copenhagen**

J. Busch, S.H. Hansen, H.P. Hougen

### **Testimonial Therapy: Impact on social participation and emotional wellbeing among Indian survivors of torture and organized violence**

Mia Myhre Jørgensen, Jens Modvig, Inger Agger, Lenin Raghuvanshi, Shirin Shabana Khan, Peter Polatin

### **Descriptive, inferential, functional outcome data on 9,025 torture survivors in the United States**

Member Centers of the National Consortium of Torture Treatment Programs (NCTTP)

**[Elusive retributive justice in post-Khmer Rouge Cambodia: Challenges of using ECCC Victim Information Forms as a victim participatory rights mechanism](#)**

Leakhena Nou

**Tropical Medicine and Health**

Vol. 43(2015) No. 3 Sep

[https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/tmh/43/0/\\_contents](https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/tmh/43/0/_contents)

[Reviewed earlier]

**Tropical Medicine & International Health**

December 2015 Volume 20, Issue 12 Pages 1591–1854

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/tmi.2015.20.issue-12/issuetoc>

*Systematic Reviews*

**[Acute respiratory infection case definitions for young children: a systematic review of community-based epidemiologic studies in South Asia \(pages 1607–1620\)](#)**

Daniel E. Roth, Michelle F. Gaffey, Evelyn Smith-Romero, Tiffany Fitzpatrick and Shaun K. Morris

Article first published online: 20 SEP 2015 | DOI: 10.1111/tmi.12592

*Systematic Reviews*

**[Who, What, Where: an analysis of private sector family planning provision in 57 low- and middle-income countries \(pages 1639–1656\)](#)**

Oona M. R. Campbell, Lenka Benova, David Macleod, Catherine Goodman, Katharine Footman, Audrey L. Pereira and Caroline A. Lynch

Article first published online: 28 SEP 2015 | DOI: 10.1111/tmi.12597

**[Role of the private sector in childbirth care: cross-sectional survey evidence from 57 low- and middle-income countries using Demographic and Health Surveys \(pages 1657–1673\)](#)**

Lenka Benova, David Macleod, Katharine Footman, Francesca Cavallaro, Caroline A. Lynch and Oona M. R. Campbell

Article first published online: 28 SEP 2015 | DOI: 10.1111/tmi.12598

**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>

**[Mind the gap: a review of mental health service delivery for transition age youth](#)**

Javeed Sukhera, Sandra Fisman & Simon Davidson

pages 271-280

DOI:10.1080/17450128.2015.1080393

*Abstract*

This narrative review examines evidence on mental health services and transitions for mentally ill patients moving from adolescence to adulthood. Authors found that current mental health systems in several jurisdictions lack the capacity to effectively transition youth between the ages of 16 and 25 to adult systems of care. A review of the literature reveals that key elements of effective transition can be divided into systemic, organizational and program-based categories. Systems of care must be coordinated with optimal communication; organizations should align institutional and developmental transitions while emphasizing flexibility in services and across organizations. Programs should incorporate authentic youth and caregiver engagement, include skills training and emphasize a community-based approach. There is evidence of positive outcome data for effective transitions, notably in educational advancement and employment. Existing models vary from clearly organized interventions targeted toward youth with severe emotional and behavioural disturbance to specific individual components that can be integrated in existing organizations or built into novel systems of care. The authors suggest that meeting the mental health needs of transition age youth requires optimization at systemic, organizational and programmatic levels and an ideal model of care should incorporate evidence-based approaches that are adapted to unique youth and community needs.

**World Heritage Review**

n°77 - October 2015

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

**Climate Change**

The network of World Heritage properties was inter alia intended to ensure the proper preservation of the natural and cultural values of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List. Today, as the planet finds itself confronted with the impact of climate change, the existence of this network is proving to be of the highest importance in monitoring changing conditions and advancing solutions on the ground....

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