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center for governance, evidence, ethics, policy, practice

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

The Sentinel

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

Two week ending 16 January 2016

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

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

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

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

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:: Key Agency/IGO/Governments Watch - Selected Updates from 30+ entities

:: INGO/Consortia/Joint Initiatives Watch - Media Releases, Major Initiatives, Research

:: Foundation/Major Donor Watch -Selected Updates

:: Journal Watch - Key articles and abstracts from 100+ peer-reviewed journals

:: Week in Review

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



15 January 2016

SG/SM/17463-GA/11754

Forging Global Partnerships Vital towards Preventing Violent Extremism, Says Secretary-General, Presenting Plan to General Assembly

[Excerpt; Editor's text bolding]

...Violent extremism is a direct assault on the United Nations Charter and a grave threat to international peace and security. We are all appalled by the barbaric crimes that terrorist groups such as Da'esh, Boko Haram and others are committing against humanity. They have brazenly kidnapped young girls, systematically denied women's rights, destroyed cultural institutions, warped the peaceful values of religions and brutally murdered thousands of innocents around the world. These groups have become a magnet for foreign terrorist fighters, who are easy prey to simplistic appeals and siren songs.

The threat of violent extremism is not limited to any one religion, nationality or ethnic group. Let us also recognize that today, the vast majority of victims worldwide are Muslims. Addressing this challenge goes to the heart of the United Nations. And it compels us to act in a way that solves — rather than multiplies — the problem.

Many years of experience have proven that short-sighted policies, failed leadership, heavy-handed approaches, a single-minded focus only on security measures and an utter disregard for human rights have often made things worse. Let us never forget: Terrorist groups are not just seeking to unleash violent action, but to provoke a harsh reaction.

We all lose by responding to ruthless terror with mindless policy — policies that turn people against each another, alienate already marginalized groups, and play into the hands of the enemy. We need cool heads and common sense. We must never be ruled by fear — or provoked by those who strive to exploit it. Countering violent extremism should not be counterproductive.

My plan of action takes a practical and comprehensive approach to address the drivers of violent extremism. It focuses on violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism. It puts forward more than 70 recommendations for concerted action at the global, regional and national levels, based on five inter-related points.

Number one, we must put prevention first. The international community has every right to defend against this threat using lawful means, but we must pay particular attention to addressing the causes of violent extremism if this problem is to be resolved in the long run. There is no single pathway to violent extremism. But, we know that extremism flourishes when human rights are violated, political space is shrunk, aspirations for inclusion are ignored, and too many people — especially young people — lack prospects and meaning in their lives. As we see in Syria and Libya and elsewhere, violent extremists make unresolved and prolonged conflicts even more intractable. We also know the critical elements for success: good

governance; the rule of law; political participation; quality education and decent jobs; full respect for human rights.

The recent report of the High-Level Panel on Peace Operations, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the reviews of the Peacebuilding Architecture and the Women, Peace and Security agenda, as well as Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace and Security, have all stressed that we need to make prevention work.

We need to make a special effort to reach out to young people and recognize their potential as peacebuilders. Through a global partnership, we need to build on the positive vision of the future that many young people are themselves constructing. The protection and empowerment of women must also be central to our response.

Second, principled leadership and effective institutions. Poisonous ideologies do not emerge from thin air. Oppression, corruption and injustice are greenhouses for resentment. Extremists are adept at cultivating alienation. That is why I have been urging leaders to work harder to build inclusive institutions that are truly accountable to people. I will continue to call on leaders to listen carefully to the grievances of their people and then act to address them.

Third, preventing extremism and promoting human rights go hand in hand. All too often, national counter-terrorism strategies have lacked basic elements of due process and respect for the rule of law. Sweeping definitions of terrorism or violent extremism are often used to criminalize the legitimate actions of opposition groups, civil society organizations and human rights defenders. Governments should not use these types of sweeping definitions as a pretext to attack or silence one's critics. Once again, violent extremists deliberately seek to incite such over-reactions. We must not fall into the trap.

Fourth, an all-out approach. The plan proposes an "all of Government" approach. We must break down the silos between the peace and security, sustainable development, human rights and humanitarian actors at the national, regional and global levels — including at the United Nations.

The plan also recognizes that there are no "one-size-fits-all" solutions. That is why the plan calls for national ownership, recommending that each Member State adopt a national plan of action that sets priorities, such as promoting access to justice, strengthening institutions and investing in education programmes that foster pluralism. We must also engage all of society — religious leaders, women leaders, youth groups leaders in the arts, music and sports, as well as the media and private sector.

Fifth, UN engagement. I intend to strengthen a UN system-wide approach to supporting Member States' efforts to address the drivers of violent extremism. Acting within their mandates, UN missions and country teams will support Member States when developing National Plans of Action and will review their own activities. I am also creating a UN system-wide high-level PVE [prevent violent extremism] action group, to spearhead the implementation of this plan at both the Headquarters and field levels.

The plan before you builds on your own efforts and initiatives, including General Assembly resolutions on the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and a "world against violence and violent

extremism”, as well as Security Council measures, including resolutions 2178 (2014) on foreign terrorist fighters and 2253 (2015) on Da’esh.

Some Member States have already pledged to help transform the plan from ideas to reality. I look forward to the international conference on the plan of action that the Swiss Government has offered to co-organize with the United Nations in Geneva in April.

Above all, the plan is an urgent call to unity and action. The General Assembly is the only forum with the legitimacy and universality to address this problem in all its complexity. Together, let us pledge to forge a new global partnership to prevent violent extremism.

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Syria ::: Haiti

Editor’s Note:

While the “Week in Review” section is not intended to be a “news” summary, developments regarding Syria and the sixth anniversary of the Haiti earthquake suggested the special focus summaries below.

15 January 2016
SC/12203

Starvation by Siege Now ‘Systematic’ in Syria, Assistant Secretary-General Tells Security Council, amid Warnings that Tactic Could Be War Crime

Siege and starvation had become systematic in Syria, the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs told the Security Council today during a meeting that heard calls for immediate, unhindered access for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to besieged and hard-to-reach areas of the country, as well as warnings that using starvation as a weapon amounted to a war crime.

Providing the Council with an update in a meeting called by France and the United Kingdom, Assistant Secretary-General Kyung-wha Kang, who is also the United Nations Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, described the “nightmarish” reality of civilian life, emphasizing that no rationale could justify the prevention of aid reaching those in need. The fault lay with the parties maintaining siege situations, which meant all sides, including the Government of Syria, which bore the primary responsibility for protecting its people.

Some 400,000 people were trapped in besieged areas, including towns and villages controlled by Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da’esh), Government or allied forces and non-State armed groups, she said. Some 4.5 million lived in hard-to-reach areas and were subjected to various restrictions, including the deliberate obstruction of aid delivery. In Madaya, the world had seen harrowing images of malnutrition and hunger.

Against that backdrop, she said, interagency convoys had reached Madaya and surrounding areas on 11 and 14 January, while four convoys had reached Kefraya with food, medicine and non-food items. The third part of the series of convoys had carried humanitarian assistance to 37,000 people in Homs governorate. “Food, water and

medicine are not bargaining chips or favours that parties to conflict can grant or deny at will,” she stressed. They were the very essence of the right to survival, which the Council had a responsibility to protect. “You cannot let more people die under your watch,” she declared. The Council — and those supporting the warring parties — must place Syria on a firm path to peace, end the practice of siege and starvation and adhere to international humanitarian law... *[Briefing Notes and Member State Debate included at link above.]*

Syrian Arab Republic: UN Agencies warn humanitarian needs growing in Syria and region: Nearly US\$8 billion urgently needed in 2016 [EN/AR]

UN OCHA Press Release

NEW YORK (12 January 2016) - With Syria’s war heading towards a sixth year and with no end to the conflict in sight, UN humanitarian and development agencies today appealed to Member States for US\$7.73 billion in vital new funding for 2016 to help 22.5 million people in Syria and across the region.

The appeal comprises two main elements: help for an anticipated 4.7 million refugees in neighbouring countries by the end of 2016 as well as 4 million people in communities hosting them, and support for 13.5 million displaced and conflict-affected people inside Syria itself. The Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) 2016 covers the activities of some 200 partners including UN agencies, inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. Amounting to \$4.55 billion, the appeal aims to support people forced to flee Syria into the surrounding region and the communities in which they are being hosted.

“While the influx to Europe has finally focused the attention of the world on the Syria crisis and the epic levels of human suffering it produces, the biggest burden by far is shouldered by communities and governments in the region,” said UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi. “We must stop Syrian refugees sliding deeper into abject poverty, boost their hope in their own future and that of their country, and do more to help those hosting them,” Grandi added.

Key strategic directions in the 3RP this year include greater investment in education and increased opportunities for vocational training and livelihoods for refugees and host communities. The partners behind the programme are also calling for more support to the most vulnerable refugees to meet their food and other basic needs, alongside increased support to national capacities and systems for the delivery of health, education, water and other services...

Syria Donors Conference 2016: Joint Announcement

14 January 2016

Joint announcement from the United Kingdom, Germany, Norway, Kuwait and the United Nations on the Syria Donors Conference 2016

We - the leaders of the United Kingdom, Germany, Norway, Kuwait and the United Nations - are increasingly concerned about the plight of the Syrian people.

We have been at the forefront of global efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to those displaced by the conflict.

The international community has a responsibility to help the 13.5 million vulnerable and displaced people inside Syria, and the 4.2 million Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries and we must step up our efforts.

Current funding to the 2015 UN appeals has not even reached last year's levels - \$3.3 billion against an appeal of \$8.4 billion. As an international community, we must do more.

Now is the time to act. So we will together host a conference on the Syria humanitarian crisis in London in early February 2016, building on previous conferences in Kuwait.

We will invite leaders from countries around the world, NGOs and civil society to come together to:

- :: raise significant new funding to meet the needs of all those affected by the Syria crisis within the country itself and by supporting neighbouring countries who have shown enormous generosity in hosting refugees to cope with the impact of the crisis.

- :: identify long term funding solutions, covering 2016 and subsequent years.

- :: address the longer term needs of those affected by the crisis by identifying ways to create jobs and provide education, offering all those that have been forced to flee their homes greater hope for the future.

The Syria Donors Conference will also pave the way for a broader discussion about how the international community responds to protracted crises, in advance of the UK, UN and World Bank High-Level Forum on Forced Displacement in Protracted Crises later in 2016 and the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in May.

We continue to believe that a political solution is necessary to bring the Syrian conflict to an end and we commit to working with each other and international partners to achieve that and to support the development of an inclusive, peaceful and prosperous Syria.

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Haiti

[6 years after the earthquake, OCHA highlights progress but alerts the plight of thousands of displaced still living in camps](#)

Report from UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Published on 14 Jan 2016 — Ref. : PIO/PR/1/2016

Report: [Download PDF \(34.18 KB\)](#)

Port-au-Prince, January 14 2016 - Six years after the devastating earthquake of 2010 that killed more than 200,000 people and left at least 1.5 million homeless, the humanitarian action has achieved significant results. For example, about 96% of the 1.5 million displaced people have left the camps thanks to relocation programs. "Despite the progress achieved to date, there are still nearly 60,000 people living in IDP camps in vulnerable situation and in need of humanitarian assistance and durable solutions", said Enzo di Taranto, Head of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Haiti.

Over the past six years, other humanitarian challenges have been tackled, including the fight against food insecurity and cholera. Until late 2014, the severe food insecurity decreased considerably. Also, the number of suspected cholera cases reduced, from 352,033 cases in 2011 to 27,800 in 2014. In addition, national capacities for emergency preparedness and response have been strengthened.

However, since June 2015, OCHA has noticed a deterioration of the humanitarian situation. The cholera epidemic has seen a resurgence in the number of cases (over 33 000 in 2015), challenging certain gains obtained in 2014. Also, due to the drought and the effects of El Niño, the Food insecurity has increased, affecting about 3 million of Haitians. The vulnerability to disasters and migration issues between Haiti and the Dominican Republic has also contributed to degradate the humanitarian context. More than 55,000 people, identified by IOM (International Organisation for Migration) and the border network partners, were deported or have entered in different ways in Haiti. This number constitutes only a part of the populations deported or returned from the Dominican Republic to Haiti since June 2015.

Unfortunately, these humanitarian dynamics come at a time when funding for humanitarian action has decreased significantly, endangering the important progress made to date and leading to a gradual withdrawal of humanitarian actors. "Haiti cannot afford to become a forgotten crisis. Therefore, we call for a sustained commitment to ensure that urgent humanitarian needs are addressed while sustainable actions continue. In 2015, OCHA has mobilized about \$13 million as part of the Central Emergency Responses Funds (CERF) and Emergency Relief and Response Funds (ERRF). However, this is not enough to address the urgent needs of the Haitian population in 2016," added Mr. di Taranto.

Due to the deterioration of the living conditions of IDPs, OCHA encourages the humanitarian community, civil society and the private sector to support the efforts to improve access to safe water, sanitation and medical treatment to displaced families, waiting for the definitive closure of the camps...

Organization of American States (OAS) [to 16 January 2016]

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

January 12, 2016 E-361

Electoral Observation Mission welcomes adoption of recommendations ahead of presidential run-off in Haiti

The Electoral Observation Mission of the Organization of American States (EOM/OAS) in Haiti welcomes that the Electoral Provisional Council (CEP) is working to adopt most recommendations issued by the Independent Electoral Evaluation Commission and by national and international observers to provide all parties better guarantees ahead of the presidential run-off, announced for January 24.

The Mission takes note that, amongst other measures, the number of party representatives (mandataires) will be reduced from the 900,000 accredited for the October 25 election to 38,000 and these will only be able to vote at the polling station where they are registered. In addition, some polling station members will be replaced and presidential candidates will be allowed to appoint two representatives to supervise the work at the tabulation center. The training of electoral staff will be improved and lists and accreditation criteria for observation groups will be published before Election Day.

The EOM/OAS reiterates the importance of addressing these and other matters to prevent the repetition of the irregularities presented in the August 9 and October 25 elections, urging the CEP to take all necessary measures to timely put them in place...

Statement by President Clinton on the Sixth Anniversary of the 2010 Earthquake in Haiti

Clinton Foundation

Statement

January 12, 2016

Six years ago, over 200,000 Haitians were killed in the devastating earthquake, and countless more were displaced from their homes, loved ones, and support systems. I am deeply grateful to the many partners within Haiti and around the world—including through the Clinton Foundation and Clinton Global Initiative—who have remained steadfast in their dedication to the rebuilding effort, often in the face of considerable challenges. Together, Haitians and their partners are working today to create jobs, grow small businesses, revitalize Haiti's once-vibrant agricultural sector, and protect the environment. Much remains to be done, but I continue to believe that Haiti has a bright future, and will continue to do what I can to support the resilient Haitian people as they build the country they envision.

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EBOLA/EVD [to 16 January 2016]

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC); "Threat to international peace and security" (UN Security Council)

Latest Ebola outbreak over in Liberia; West Africa is at zero, but new flare-ups are likely to occur

WHO News release

14 January 2016 | Liberia - Today, WHO declares the end of the most recent outbreak of Ebola virus disease in Liberia and says all known chains of transmission have been stopped in West Africa. But the Organization says the job is not over, more flare-ups are expected and that strong surveillance and response systems will be critical in the months to come....

New Ebola case in Sierra Leone. WHO continues to stress risk of more flare-ups

WHO statement

15 January 2016

A new case of Ebola has been confirmed in Sierra Leone, reflecting the ongoing risk of new flare-ups of the virus in the Ebola-affected countries.

The Sierra Leone government acted rapidly to respond to this new case. Through the country's new emergency operations centre, a joint team of local authorities, WHO and partners are investigating the origin of the case, identifying contacts and initiating control measures to prevent further transmission.

WHO stressed in a statement yesterday (14 January), that Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone remain at high risk of additional small outbreaks of Ebola in the coming months due to the virus persisting in survivors after recovery.

"We are now at a critical period in the Ebola epidemic as we move from managing cases and patients to managing the residual risk of new infections," said Dr Bruce Aylward, WHO's Special Representative for the Ebola Response, yesterday. "We still anticipate more flare-ups and must be prepared for them."

Sierra Leone is still in a 90-day period of enhanced surveillance following the declaration on 7 November 2015 of the end of Ebola transmission in the country. This period is designed to ensure no hidden chains of transmission have been missed and to detect any new flare-ups of the disease.

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£3bn a year needed to prepare the world for future pandemics

13 January 2016

An investment of less than 50p per year for every person on the planet (£3bn/\$4.5bn total) would make the world significantly more resilient to the threat of infectious disease, according to a group of international experts convened in the wake of the Ebola crisis.

The report of the Commission on Creating a Global Health Risk Framework for the Future, published today, highlights infectious diseases as one of the biggest risks facing humankind. It estimates that pandemics cost the world more than £40bn (\$60bn) each year, and match wars and natural disasters in their capacity to endanger human life and health and disrupt societies.

Yet compared with other high-profile threats to human and economic security – such as war, terrorism, nuclear disasters, natural catastrophes and financial crises – preparation for pandemics has received chronic under-investment.

The Commission recommends that urgent action be taken during 2016 to increase private, philanthropic and government spending on pandemic preparedness. It lays out comprehensive recommendations for bolstering the world's ability to prevent and prepare for future disease outbreaks, including:

- :: Reinforcing national public health capabilities and infrastructure as the first line of defence against potential pandemics, especially in low-income countries.

- :: Establishing a permanent WHO Center for Health Emergency Preparedness and Response, with sustainable funding and operational independence, which would lead and co-ordinate defences and action against pandemic threats.

- :: Accelerating research and development in the infectious disease arena, through annual global investment of at least £686m (\$1bn) a year in prevention and treatment of threats, and a co-ordinating body to prioritise and oversee this.

The Wellcome Trust sponsored the creation of the Commission and the report, in partnership with seven other philanthropic and government organisations including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, in response to the Ebola outbreak that began in 2014. It was coordinated by the US National Academy of Medicine.

Dr Jeremy Farrar, Director of the Wellcome Trust and a member of the Commission's International Oversight Group, said:

"Few global events match epidemics and pandemics in potential to disrupt human security and inflict loss of life and economic and social damage. Yet for many decades, the world has invested far less in preventing, preparing for and responding to these threats than in comparable risks to international and financial security.

"Today's report shows that by spending the equivalent of around 40p a year for every person on the planet, we could make our world much safer against the threat of infectious disease outbreaks.

"The cornerstones of the proposed framework must be the creation of a strong, independent WHO Center to lead outbreak preparedness and response, and an expert body to galvanise the research and development of vaccines, therapies, diagnostics and other tools.

"While the WHO has already taken welcome steps to improve co-ordination of health emergency preparedness and response, the report rightly recommends further change, with a central body that is a permanent part of the WHO system and that has considerable operational independence and a sustainable budget.

"The report is also right to recommend the creation of a WHO expert committee to inspire, support and oversee research and development into vaccines, drugs and other countermeasures. This would allow this essential field to benefit from the legitimacy and authority of the WHO, while ensuring that investment decisions are made by people with the expertise to judge health need and scientific merit. This panel could act as a convening and co-ordinating body that linked parallel efforts to finance and prioritise research and development in specialised fields such as vaccines, drug-resistant infections and personal protective equipment.

"The Commission should be congratulated on an excellent report, with recommendations that are clear, necessary and achievable. What we need to see now is action. The WHO's leadership and its member states must make 2016 the year in which we learn the lessons of past epidemics and pandemics and implement these valuable measures, to build a more resilient global health system."

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The World Development Report 2016: Digital Dividends

World Bank Group ; International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / The World Bank
2016 :: 102725 :: 359 pages

e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0672-8

DOI: 10.1596/978-1-4648-0671-1

Full Report:

<http://www->

wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSPContentServer/WDSP/IB/2016/01/13/090224b08405ea05/2_0/Rendered/PDF/World0developm0000digital0dividends.pdf

Overview

Digital technologies have spread rapidly in much of the world. Digital dividends—that is, the broader development benefits from using these technologies—have lagged behind. In many instances, digital technologies have boosted growth, expanded opportunities, and improved

service delivery. Yet their aggregate impact has fallen short and is unevenly distributed. For digital technologies to benefit everyone everywhere requires closing the remaining digital divide, especially in internet access. But greater digital adoption will not be enough. To get the most out of the digital revolution, countries also need to work on the “analog complements”—by strengthening regulations that ensure competition among businesses, by adapting workers’ skills to the demands of the new economy, and by ensuring that institutions are accountable.

[Excerpts from Foreward]

We find ourselves in the midst of the greatest information and communications revolution in human history. More than 40 percent of the world’s population has access to the internet, with new users coming online every day. Among the poorest 20 percent of households, nearly 7 out of 10 have a mobile phone. The poorest households are more likely to have access to mobile phones than to toilets or clean water.

We must take advantage of this rapid technological change to make the world more prosperous and inclusive. This Report finds that traditional development challenges are preventing the digital revolution from fulfilling its transformative potential.

For many people, today’s increase in access to digital technologies brings more choice and greater convenience. Through inclusion, efficiency, and innovation, access provides opportunities that were previously out of reach to the poor and disadvantaged.

In Kenya, for example, the cost of sending remittances dropped by up to 90 percent after the introduction of M-Pesa, a digital payment system. New technologies allow women to participate more easily in the labor market—as e-commerce entrepreneurs, in online work, or in business-process outsourcing. The world’s 1 billion persons with disabilities—80 percent of whom live in developing countries—can lead more productive lives with the help of text, voice, and video communication. And digital ID systems can provide better access to public and private services for the 2.4 billion people who lack formal identification records, such as a birth certificate.

While this is great progress, many are still left out because they do not have access to digital technologies. Those in extreme poverty have the most to gain from better communication and access to information. Nearly 6 billion people do not have high-speed internet, making them unable to fully participate in the digital economy. To deliver universal digital access, we must invest in infrastructure and pursue reforms that bring greater competition to telecommunications markets, promote public-private partnerships, and yield effective regulation.

The Report concludes that the full benefits of the information and communications transformation will not be realized unless countries continue to improve their business climate, invest in people’s education and health, and promote good governance.

In countries where these fundamentals are weak, digital technologies have not boosted productivity or reduced inequality. Countries that complement technology investments with broader economic reforms reap digital dividends in the form of faster growth, more jobs, and better services.

The World Bank Group stands ready to help countries pursue these priorities. We are already working with clients to promote competitive business environments, increase accountability, and upgrade education and skills-development systems to prepare people for the jobs of the future.

While people around the world make more than 4 billion Google searches every day, 4 billion people still lack access to the internet. The findings of this Report should be used by all who are working to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity. The greatest rise of information and communications in history will not be truly revolutionary until it benefits everyone in every part of the world.

Jim Yong Kim

President

The World Bank Group



INVESTING FOR SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL FISHERIES

Encourage Capital

Supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies' Vibrant Oceans Initiative and The Rockefeller Foundation

2016 *Executive Summary* :: [42 pages]: http://encouragecapital.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Executive_Summary_FINAL_1-11-16.pdf

[Excerpts from Introduction and Conclusion]

INTRODUCTION

The earth's oceans have been a source of sustenance and wonder to humankind since the dawn of time, supporting coastal populations for millennia and perhaps even playing a role in human evolutionary development.^{1,2} To this day, our reliance on marine resources remains profound. Seafood currently provides 17% of daily animal protein consumed globally, yet fish stocks worldwide are imperiled, threatening marine ecosystems, global food security, and the economic livelihoods of millions of fishers. In fact, only 8.5% of global landings are in fisheries certified as sustainable,³ while 40% of fisheries are considered to be overexploited or collapsed.⁴ Impact investors can play a role in saving these fisheries.

Research suggests that impact-focused investors have approximately \$5.6 billion⁵ in capital to deploy over the next five years and have the means to dramatically reshape the world's "blue economy." To better channel the flow of this capital to the need and opportunity of restoring global fisheries, Bloomberg Philanthropies' Vibrant Oceans Initiative and The Rockefeller Foundation supported Encourage Capital (Encourage) to undertake research and publish this report, *Investing for Sustainable Global Fisheries*, which includes six Investment Blueprints, each intended to serve as a roadmap for the growing number of investors, entrepreneurs, and fishery stakeholders seeking to attract and deploy private capital to scale and accelerate fisheries reform. Bloomberg Philanthropies' Vibrant Oceans Initiative simultaneously funded Oceana and Rare to implement policy and community stewardship programs, respectively, in Chile, Brazil, and the Philippines as part of a strategy to simultaneously reform industrial and small-scale fisheries and attract capital to catalyze and sustain these efforts. Encourage

Capital's Investment Blueprints are designed to create a roadmap for private capital to further accelerate and scale success in each Vibrant Oceans country...

CONCLUSION

As the world's population grows and becomes more prosperous, the demand for animal protein will continue to increase exponentially. Wild-caught seafood can — and should — continue to play an important role in meeting this demand, particularly since its production requires no land, needs minimal fresh water, and results in the lowest greenhouse gas emissions of any major animal protein.

Unfortunately, in the absence of sustainable management, commercial-scale wild seafood production could largely disappear. This outcome has the potential to meaningfully alter our relationship with the ocean, with massive ramifications for marine ecosystems, for the 30 million fishers and the 90 million people overall who rely on wild fisheries for employment and for global food security.

To date, philanthropic and government resources alone have proven insufficient to curtail overfishing on a global scale. As such, Encourage Capital's Investment Blueprints seek to engage the interest of impact investors in funding companies and projects that generate financial returns from the protection and restoration of marine fisheries. Although the Investment Blueprints examine opportunities in only a small subset of the world's fisheries, the strategies presented have the potential to be replicable across many, perhaps even most, species and geographies.

If these new approaches to seafood production prove successful in delivering durable financial and impact returns, we believe they could unlock much larger pools of private capital for marine conservation to catalyze and scale fishery improvement efforts. This outcome could fundamentally change the landscape of the seafood industry — protecting our oceans and providing an ongoing source of food and income for generations to come...

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World Economic Forum [to 16 January 2016]

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

News

46th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum to Focus on Fourth Industrial Revolution

Geneva, Switzerland, 13 January 2016 – Over 40 heads of state and government, as well as 2,500 leaders from business and society will convene at the 46th World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, from 20 to 23 January in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland, under the theme, Mastering the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Critical current challenges, such as security, climate change and “new normal” global growth and commodity prices, are among the issues on the agenda...

“The Fourth Industrial Revolution refers to the fusion of technologies across the physical, digital and biological worlds which is creating entirely new capabilities and dramatic impacts on political, social and economic systems. The speed, scale and systemic nature of this transformation has the potential to disrupt all sectors and call into question the essence of human nature and identity. The purpose of our Meeting this year is to build a shared

understanding of this change, which is essential if we are to shape our collective future in a way that reflects ultimately that the human being should be at the centre,” said Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum...

:: Open Forum programme: <http://wef.ch/openforum>

:: Live webcasts: <http://wef.ch/live>; on demand <http://wef.ch/youtube>

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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 16 January 2016]

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

Selected Press Releases/Meetings Coverage

15 January 2016

SG/SM/17463-GA/11754

[Forging Global Partnerships Vital towards Preventing Violent Extremism, Says Secretary-General, Presenting Plan to General Assembly](#)

15 January 2016

SC/12203

[Starvation by Siege Now 'Systematic' in Syria, Assistant Secretary-General Tells Security Council, amid Warnings that Tactic Could Be War Crime](#)

Siege and starvation had become systematic in Syria, the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs told the Security Council today during a meeting that heard calls for immediate, unhindered access for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to besieged and hard-to-reach areas of the country, as well as warnings that using starvation as a weapon amounted to a war crime.

15 January 2016

SG/A/1626-BIO/4806-ICEF/1887

[Secretary-General Appoints Justin Forsyth of United Kingdom Deputy Executive Director of United Nations Children's Fund](#)

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today announced the appointment of Justin Forsyth, a British national, as Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

14 January 2016

SG/SM/17460-GA/11753

[Secretary-General, in Briefing to General Assembly, States New Strategies for Preventing Violent Extremism, Addresses Large-Scale Refugee Movements](#)

14 January 2016

SC/12201

Terrorism, Organized Crime Still Plague West Africa despite Peaceful Elections throughout Region, Special Representative Tells Security Council

Briefing the Security Council today, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa painted a mixed picture of the situation in the region, noting the completion of peaceful elections in several nations, as well as the continuing threats of terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crime.

14 January 2016

SG/SM/17456-AFR/3302

Welcoming End of Ebola Flare-Up in Liberia, Secretary-General Calls upon Global Community to Continue Supporting Affected Countries

13 January 2016

DSG/SM/928-GA/11751

Helping Hardest to Reach People Must Be Top Priority in Implementing New Global Development Agenda, Deputy Secretary-General Tells Ethics Event

UN OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 16 January 2016]

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

15 January 2016

Alarming new patterns of violations emerging in Burundi - Zeid

GENEVA— UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein warned Friday that deeply worrying new trends are emerging in Burundi, including cases of sexual violence by security forces and a sharp increase in enforced disappearances and torture cases. He also called for an urgent investigation into the events that took place in Bujumbura on 11-12 December, including the reported existence of at least nine mass graves.

"The 11 December attacks against three military camps and the large-scale human rights violations that occurred in their immediate aftermath appear to have triggered new and extremely disturbing patterns of violations," the High Commissioner said...

Nigeria: UN experts to assess rehabilitation and reintegration of women and children freed from Boko Haram

1/13/2016 Press Release

Sp. Rapporteur on the sale of children; Sp. Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery; Special Rapporteur on the right to health

Committee on the Rights of the Child [to 16 January 2016]

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

CMW-CRC

Call for submissions on its Joint General Comment on the Human Rights of Children in the Context of International Migration

The Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW) and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) have decided to develop a

Joint General Comment (JGC) on the human rights of children in the context of international migration. The Committees are seeking submissions from all interested stakeholders in all regions in order to obtain a wide range of perspectives to inform the drafting process.

The submissions should relate to the situation of human rights of the following categories of children (people under the age of 18) in the context of migration:

- :: Children that migrate with their parents who are migrant workers;
- :: Children that are born to parents who are migrant workers in transit and destination countries;
- :: Migrant children that return to their country of origin, either voluntarily or by force, alone or with their parents;
- :: Children left behind by their parents (or one of them) who have migrated to another country; and
- :: Children that migrate unaccompanied and separated from their parents (for reasons such as seeking employment, family reunification or as victims of trafficking, labour exploitation and child labour).

Written contributions on the theme of the Joint General Comment should be sent electronically in Word format to the email: cmw@ohchr.org indicating "Submission for general comment on the rights of the child in the context of migration" in the subject heading.

Submissions should not exceed 10 pages and should be received by 29 February 2016, at the latest. Written contributions will not be translated and should therefore be submitted in English, French or Spanish only. More information about the Joint General Comment, including its scope, can be found [here](#).

[UN Committee to review Zimbabwe's record on children's rights](#) 15 January 2016

[Committee on the Rights of the Child considers the report of Ireland](#) 15 January 2016

[UN Committee to review Zambia's record on children's rights](#) 15 January 2016

[Committee on the Rights of the Child considers reports of Latvia](#) 14 January 2016

[UN Committee to review Maldives' record on children's rights](#) 14 January 2016

Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
[to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

SRSG/CAAC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

SRSG/SVC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

UN OCHA [to 16 January 2016]

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

15 Jan 2016

Syrian Arab Republic: Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Kyung-Wha Kang Security Council Briefing on Syria, New York, 15 January 2016

14 Jan 2016

Haiti: 6 years after the earthquake, OCHA highlights progress but alerts the plight of thousands of displaced still living in camps

12 Jan 2016

Syrian Arab Republic: UN Agencies warn humanitarian needs growing in Syria and region: Nearly US\$8 billion urgently needed in 2016 [EN/AR]

11 Jan 2016

Chad: UN Global Emergency Fund releases US\$31 million to help vulnerable people affected by Boko Haram-related violence in Lake Chad Basin region

UNICEF [to 16 January 2016]

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

15 January 2016

Statement attributable to Hanaa Singer, UNICEF Representative in Syria on the besieged area of Madaya

DAMASCUS, Syria, – “UNICEF welcomes the access granted to trapped children this week and can confirm that cases of severe malnutrition were found among children in the besieged Syrian town of Madaya following our participation in the second joint UN/Syrian Arab Red Crescent/ICRC humanitarian mission to the area on Thursday.

Over 12 million children have better educational opportunities through IKEA Foundation, Save the Children and UNICEF partnership

NEW YORK, 15 January, 2016 – More than 12 million children in over 46 countries have better schools, teachers and learning materials, thanks to a 13-year partnership between the IKEA Foundation, Save the Children and UNICEF.

UNICEF and WHO appeal for the lifting of siege on communities in Syria

AMMAN/CAIRO, 14 January 2016 – “This week’s delivery of urgently-needed humanitarian supplies* to the besieged communities of Madaya, Foua’a and Kafraya is a welcome step for a population in desperate need.

Thousands of children still need care and support in wake of Ebola epidemic

CONAKRY/MONROVIA/FREETOWN/DAKAR, 14 January 2016 – Nearly 23,000 children who lost one or both parents or their primary caregivers to Ebola in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone will continue to need care and support, UNICEF said as it welcomed the declaration that there are no more cases of the disease in West Africa.

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [to 16 January 2016]

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

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

Press Releases, 14 January 2016

10,000th Syrian refugee arrives in Canada to rebuild life

Press Releases, 14 January 2016

U.S. announcement on Central America refugees highlights seriousness of situation, UNHCR

WASHINGTON, DC, Jan 14, 2016 (UNHCR) – The recent U.S. announcement that it will expand the refugee resettlement program to help vulnerable people fleeing deadly violence in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, underscores the urgent need for coordinated regional action to address the humanitarian situation, UNHCR said today.

"The U.S. initiative to resettle Central American refugees is a welcome step to help address the growing refugee crisis," said UNHCR Regional Representative in the United States, Shelly Pitterman.

The UN refugee agency reiterated its serious concern for the welfare of large numbers of people who continue to flee deadly violence in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras – the Northern Triangle of Central America (NTCA)...

Press Releases, 12 January 2016

Joint press release from UNOCHA, UNHCR and UNDP

NEW YORK (12 January 2016) – With Syria's war heading towards a 6th year and with no end to the conflict in sight, UN humanitarian and development agencies today appealed to member states for US\$7.73 billion in vital new funding for 2016 to help 22.5 million people in Syria and across the region.

The appeal comprises two main elements: help for an anticipated 4.7 million refugees in neighbouring countries by the end of 2016 as well as 4 million people in communities hosting them, and support for 13.5 million displaced and conflict-affected people inside Syria itself. The first of these elements, the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) 2016 covers the activities of some 200 partners including UN agencies, inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. Amounting to \$4.55 billion, the appeal aims to support people forced to flee Syria into the surrounding region and the communities in which they are being hosted.

"While the influx to Europe has finally focused the attention of the world on the Syria crisis and the epic levels of human suffering it produces, the biggest burden by far is shouldered by communities and governments in the region," said UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi. "We must stop Syrian refugees sliding deeper into abject poverty, boost their hope in their own future and that of their country, and do more to help those hosting them," Grandi added.

Key strategic directions in the 3RP this year include greater investment in education and increased opportunities for vocational training and livelihoods for refugees and host communities. The partners behind the programme are also calling for more support to the most vulnerable refugees to meet their food and other basic needs, alongside increased support to national capacities and systems for the delivery of health, education, water and other services...

IOM / International Organization for Migration [to 16 January 2016]

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

01/15/16

IOM Welcomes Turkey's New Regulation to Grant Work Permits to Syrians under Temporary Protection

Ankara - The Turkish government today (15/01) announced the new Regulation on Provision of Work Permits for People under Temporary Protection which will grant work permits to Syrians registered with the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) and others under temporary protection in Turkey.

"This is excellent news for both Turkey and the Syrians living in Turkey. It provides vulnerable people with a legal avenue to be able to financially support their families – something that is a priority for most of us. There is still work to be done, but this is a welcome step towards integrating Syrians into the labour market," said Lado Gvilava, IOM Turkey Chief of Mission.

IOM: Migrant Arrivals in Europe by Sea Reached 23,664 in First 14 Days of 2016

01/15/16

Greece - Migrant arrivals in Europe by sea averaged over 1,700 per day during the first 14 days of 2016, according to IOM.

IOM Helps 10,000 Syrian Refugees to Resettle in Canada

01/15/16

Syria - IOM assisted in the safe and orderly resettlement of 10,000 Syrian refugees from Lebanon and Jordan to Canada between December 11th and January 12th.

IOM, UN Launch Arab Region Migration Trends Report

01/15/16

Lebanon - The UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) and IOM launch a report on migration trends and patterns in migration governance in the Arab region.

IOM Assists School Enrolment of Displaced Children in Central African Republic

01/15/16

Central African Republic - IOM is facilitating the primary school enrolment of displaced children as part of its site management activities at the Lutheran Church displacement site in Bangui in the Central African Republic (CAR).

Egypt Ramps Up Efforts to Combat Irregular Migration

01/15/16

Egypt - Egypt's inter-ministerial National Coordinating Committee to Combat and Prevent Illegal Migration (NCCPIM) has launched its first Annual Report.

IOM Strongly Supports UN Calls for Relocation of Medical Cases from Madaya, Syria

01/13/16

Syria - IOM has voiced its strong support for the United Nations' call to relocate 400 Syrians from the besieged Damascus suburb of Madaya.

IOM Advises Central American States on Management of Cuban Migration

01/12/16

Costa Rica - A pilot group of 180 Cuban economic migrants stranded in Costa Rica since 14 November 2015, will leave the country as regular migrants.

UN Women [to 16 January 2016]

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

Date: 13 January 2016

UN Women assesses the needs of women migrants and refugees in Serbia and fYR Macedonia

Despite gender-sensitive good practices, a UN Women assessment found that response-planning, services, protection capacity and information are not yet sufficient to meet the needs of migrant women and girls in Serbia and fYR Macedonia.

Date: 12 January 2016

New UN Women Executive Board Bureau 2016 elected

Member States of the UN Women Executive Board opened the year by electing their new Bureau for the year 2016 in elections on 11 January.

WHO & Regionals [to 16 January 2016]

Syrian Arab Republic: Crossing borders with life-saving support

12 January 2016 -- Almost 6.5 million Syrians remain displaced within the country and more than 4 million are living in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. WHO's Emergency Support Team, based in Amman, coordinates the distribution of medical supplies and equipment to Syrian Arab Republic and neighbouring countries dealing with the crisis...

Appeal for communities under siege in Syria

January 2016 -- WHO and UNICEF delivered urgently-needed humanitarian supplies to the besieged communities of Madaya, Foua'a and Kafraya in Syria. Much of the community in Madaya is severely malnourished with only 2 doctors for a town of 40,000.

Zika virus infection: Frequently asked questions

January 2016 -- Zika fever is a mosquito-borne viral disease caused by Zika virus, consisting of mild fever, rash, headaches, arthralgia, myalgia, asthenia, and non-purulent conjunctivitis, occurring about 3 to 12 days after the mosquito bite.

Weekly Epidemiological Record (WER) 15 January 2016, vol. 91, 2 (pp. 1–3–20)

Contents:

13 Human rabies transmitted by dogs: current status of global data, 2015

Disease Outbreak News (DONs)

No new reports identified.

:: WHO Regional Offices

WHO African Region AFRO

:: [New Ebola Case in Sierra Leone; WHO continues to stress risk of more flare-ups](#)

WHO statement - 15 January 2016

WHO Region of the Americas PAHO

:: [PAHO helps countries in the Americas prepare for spread of Zika](#) (01/16/2016)

WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO

:: [Five polio-free years; efforts must continue](#)

By Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia

On 13 January, WHO South-East Asia Region completes five years without any case of wild poliovirus. This is a remarkable achievement in view of the continued threat of poliovirus importation from the remaining polio-endemic countries.

Countries in the Region have been making commendable efforts, stepping up vigilance against polio and continuing to protect children against the crippling virus. WHO South-East Asia Region reported its last case of wild poliovirus in West Bengal, India, in 2011, which facilitated polio-free certification of the Region on 27 March 2014...

WHO European Region EURO

:: [What can countries expect during this year's influenza season?](#) 13-01-2016

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO

:: [WHO Regional Director's statement on urgent and immediate access into Taiz City for delivery of health supplies](#)

14 January 2016

:: [WHO's Regional Director and Minister of Health of Yemen discuss Yemen's critical health needs](#)

13 January 2016

WHO Western Pacific Region

No new digest content identified.

UNAIDS [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNDP United Nations Development Programme [to 16 January 2016]

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

Jan 15, 2016

[UNDP welcomes the launch of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank](#)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) congratulates the People's Republic of China and all other Founding Members of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) on the successful launch of the Bank in Beijing today

[Helen Clark: Speech at the Briefing to the UN General Assembly on Progress of Ebola Outbreak Response and the Road Towards Recovery](#)

Jan 13, 2016 United Nations - New York

[Helen Clark: Statement at the Briefing on the Syria Response \[Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\), Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan \(3RP\), and Neighboring Countries\]](#)

Jan 12, 2016 United Nations - New York

UN Division for Sustainable Development [to 16 January 2016]

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

6 Jan 2016

[10-Member Group to support the Technology Facilitation Mechanism](#)

2016 – 2017

Terms of reference

UN Statistical Commission :: UN Statistics Division [to 16 January 2016]

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

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

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

No new digest content identified.

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme [to 16 January 2016]

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

14/01/2016

[UK Global Hub for Green Finance, New UNEP Report Says](#)

Report Profiles UK's Efforts to Build Sustainable Financial System

12/01/2016

[World's Wildlife Trade Regulator Meets to Strengthen Measures to Prevent Extinctions and Tackle Illicit Trafficking](#)

CITES Standing Committee will review progress made in preparing and implementing National Ivory Action Plans, domestic legislation, and additional measures to protect Asian big cats, cheetahs, African grey parrots, pangolins, rhinos, sharks and timber.

UNISDR UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

UN DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 16 January 2016]
<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news.html>

12 January 2016, New York

244 million international migrants living abroad worldwide

The number of international migrants — persons living in a country other than where they were born — reached 244 million in 2015 for the world as a whole, a 41 per cent increase compared to 2000, according to new data presented by the United Nations today. This figure includes almost 20 million refugees.

UNESCO [to 16 January 2016]

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

Selected Press Releases/News

International Symposium on Education Policies 2030

15 January 2016

Governments need to maximize the use of existing policy levers for change in their efforts implement the 2030 education agenda. An International Symposium on Education Policies at UNESCO Headquarters from 18-20 January 2016 will look at three key policy levers; namely School Leadership, Education Governance, and Monitoring and Evaluation.

"The 2030 education agenda places a strong emphasis on quality, inclusiveness and equity, and the symposium is an opportunity to discuss which public policies can best help governments to reach the suggested goals," says Francesc Pedró, head of UNESCO's Section of Education Policy and organizer of the symposium.

Presentations, panels and debates will be informed by three UNESCO reports featuring the main findings of the comparative analysis of public policies in these domains carried out over the past two years...

Online platform to improve learning worldwide is now live

13 January 2016

UNESCO's International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) has launched the IIEP Learning Portal, an interactive platform designed to help decision-makers worldwide plan for quality education and improved learning outcomes. Bringing together more than 1,000 resources in a searchable database, the IIEP Learning Portal offers—at no cost to users—comprehensive, up-to-date, relevant information on learning issues, from primary through secondary education.

"There is a global learning crisis today preventing millions of children from reaching their full potential. Only by improving learning outcomes can societies truly unlock the power of education and enhance the capacities of all citizens," said IIEP director Suzanne Grant Lewis. "The new Portal is an important tool for countries working towards the Education 2030 agenda and will provide a range of education actors with the resources they need to improve learning outcomes."...

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme [to 16 January 2016]

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

15 January, 2016

Season 3 of the Global Urban Lectures launched

– The Global Urban Lecture Series is an initiative by UN-Habitat's partnership with universities worldwide – UNI – to bring the knowledge and experiences of urban experts associated with the agency's work to a...

UN-Habitat launches international urban design student competition

Kenya, 14 January 2016 – UN-Habitat is launching a competition to promote collaboration between Kenya's students and their peers elsewhere and to promote the importance of urban design. The competition is being organized in collaboration with Kenya's...

Posted January 14, 2016

Urban Policy Makers convene for the National Urban Policy Week

South Korea, 13 January, 2016 – More than 250 urban policy makers, government officials, development partners and non-governmental actors from more than 25 countries met in South Korea for a week of activities around National Urban Policies...

Posted January 13, 2016

FAO Food & Agriculture Organization [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 16 January 2016]

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

12 January 2016

UN agency scales up support for llama and alpaca farming in the Bolivian High Plateau

ILO International Labour Organization [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

IMO International Maritime Organization [to 16 January 2016]

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

15/01/2016

Criteria for entry into force of BWM Convention not yet reached – further ratifications needed

12/01/2016

EC funding gives green light to ambitious IMO energy-efficiency project

Network of regional maritime technology cooperation centres to be established through €10 million funding contribution.

WMO World Meteorological Organization [to 16 January 2016]

https://www.wmo.int/pages/index_en.html

13 January 2016

WMO hosts FERMUN Model United Nations

WMO is hosting the 2016 FERMUN Model United Nations attended by 650 students from 40 schools and 18 countries. The theme is "The Change We Need."

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 16 January 2016]

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

Tuesday, 12 January 2016

UN agencies jointly support Viet Nam rural development

HOA BINH, Viet Nam, 12 January 2016 – The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and four sister UN agencies are working with the Vietnamese government to economically develop rural areas.

UNWTO World Tourism Organization [to 16 January 2016]

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

16 January 2016

UNWTO strongly condemns attacks in Ouagadougou

UNWTO strongly condemns the attacks perpetrated in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. On the behalf of the international tourism community, UNWTO expresses its condolences to the families and friends of the victims and to the people of Burkina Faso in this difficult moment. "On the behalf of the entire international tourism community, UNWTO conveys its heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of the victims and expresses its full solidarity with the people and the Government of Burkina Faso. UNWTO stands by Burkina Faso to support the country in its continued commitment to tourism development and its strong wish to make tourism a tool for better livelihoods for the people of Burkina Faso" said UNWTO Secretary-General, Taleb Rifai.

14 January 2016

Visa Openness levels continue to progress

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has been long advocating for the need to advance travel facilitation as a means to promote tourism development and multiply its socio-economic benefits. According to UNWTO's latest Visa Openness Report, the share of tourists requiring to obtain a visa prior to travelling continues to decline and is at its lowest level ever. In 2015, 39%

of the world population could travel for tourism without obtaining a traditional visa prior to departure as compared to only 23% in 2008.

ITU International Telecommunications Union [to 16 January 2016]

http://www.itu.int/net/pressoffice/press_releases/index.aspx?lang=en#.VF8FYcl4WF8
14.01.2016

Egypt to host ITU's 2016 Global Symposium for Regulators

..."ITU's Global Symposium for Regulators has quickly grown into the world's pre-eminent gathering of the global ICT regulatory community," said ITU Secretary-General Houlin Zhao. "A transparent, best-practice regulatory framework is indispensable to the growth of new ICT markets and services. The GSR offers a unique opportunity for regulators to engage in a dialogue around priorities and concerns directly with industry leaders, to showcase their successes, and to learn from the experiences of other policy-makers tackling similar challenges. This is what makes GSR a must-attend event for the global ICT policy-making community."...

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization [to 16 January 2016]

<http://www.wipo.int/pressroom/en/>
Jan 14, 2016 PR/2016/787

WIPO Re:Search Welcomes Institut Pasteur as Consortium Surpasses 100 Members

WIPO Re:Search has now surpassed 100 members and is just shy of 100 agreements to share intellectual property in the fight against neglected tropical diseases, tuberculosis and malaria - both significant milestones for the consortium as it heads into its fifth full year of operation.

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity [to 16 January 2016]

<http://www.cbd.int/press-releases/>
2016-01-15

Nagoya Protocol expected to reach milestone 100 ratifications in 2016

Montreal, 15 January 2016 – Following accession by Slovakia on 29 December 2015, the total number of ratifications to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization now stands at 70.

.....

US Department of State [to 16 January 2016]

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2016/index.htm>
01/13/16

Refugee Resettlement in the United States

Office of the Spokesperson; Washington, DC – Fact Sheet

The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program embodies the United States' values of compassion, generosity, and leadership in serving vulnerable populations. The United States has welcomed more than three million refugees since 1975, helping them build new lives in all 50 states. These refugees have added an immeasurable amount to the richness of American culture, contributed to our economic strength and honored our core values as a nation, engraved in our Statue of Liberty.

Refugees survive terrible ordeals: torture, upheaval, perilous journeys, and tremendous loss. They are persecuted because of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or social group. Today, due to conflict and repression, there are nearly 20 million refugees in the world. For a small number of the most vulnerable of these refugees, the United States strives to provide a new start through refugee resettlement.

It is a tradition that exemplifies American leadership in humanitarian causes around the world, and makes our nation a beacon of hope. That is why Secretary Kerry was pleased to announce today that we will further expand the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program to help vulnerable families and individuals from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, offering a safe and legal alternative to the dangerous and irregular journey many are currently taking in the hands of human smugglers.

We will collaborate with UNHCR and its NGO partners to identify persons in need of refugee protection – people targeted by criminal gangs, human rights defenders who have been targeted, and others. We also continue to explore additional options, including for those who may be at imminent risk of harm. Expanding resettlement opportunities is a key part of our broader response to the situation in the Northern Triangle, and the needs of refugees around the world.

The United States has always been a leader in humanitarian assistance and refugee resettlement. On resettlement, our admissions process is rigorous and deliberate, and we prioritize the need to safeguard national security and public safety, as we seek to fulfill our moral responsibility to help those in need. Today's new commitment is yet another indication that the U.S. will continue to be a leader in helping to protect the world's most vulnerable refugees through resettlement efforts, while ensuring the security of our nation is preserved.

01/13/16

Remarks After Meeting With Refugees

Secretary of State John Kerry; Silver Spring, Maryland

Well, let me just say what a special experience it is for me to come to the refugee center. The refugees I met with come from Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Burma, Eritrea, Congo, various countries. And they have escaped great violence. They've escaped a threat to their lives and their families. And they have come here looking for the possibility of a new life. Everybody has said that – they need and want a new life.

This young fellow here and this woman and her husband have just passed their citizenship exam. They've been here for a while now, about five years. And every one of these people has been through a very detailed screening. I think one person described six hours of a particular interview just to begin to become qualified. They come to America, they go to work. It is a requirement that they have to find a job, any job. And they go to work and they begin to build their lives again.

I'm particularly grateful to the folks here in the community who are contributing so much to the ability of these folks to go to work, to be able to find an apartment, and begin to become American. Everyone here wants to be an American and they want to contribute as good citizens to our country. That is, as President Obama said last night, the tradition on which our country

has been built. It strengthens our nation, and I am impressed by the commitment of each and every person here.

And I want to express my gratitude to the International Rescue Committee, that does so much. People come here, they work all day to help other people. There is a huge network process, beginning in the country where these people went and sought refuge and became a refugee, all the way to the moment they arrive at Dulles Airport or at Baltimore and begin to try to find their new lives. This is something Americans should be very, very proud of. I know I am, and I feel very privileged to have shared the dreams and the hopes of each of the people who are here. Thank you very much. Thank you. Good to be with you.

01/13/16

Remarks on the United States Foreign Policy Agenda for 2016

Secretary of State John Kerry; National Defense University; Washington, DC

USAID [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

DFID [to 16 January 2016]

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development>

14 January 2016

UK pledges £115m as PM calls on EU to provide more aid for Syrian conflict

DFID Press release

Syria Donors Conference 2016: Joint Announcement

14 January 2016 DFID, FCO and Number 10 Press release

ECHO [to 16 January 2016]

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

14/01/2016

EU welcomes end of Ebola transmission and will continue supporting affected countries

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared that the Ebola transmissions in West Africa have come to an end for the moment, as Liberia marks today 42 days without new Ebola cases – an important landmark that neighbouring Guinea and Sierra...

EU contributing to humanitarian convoy for Madaya, Syria

13/01/2016

The European Commission has contributed with humanitarian funding to the aid convoy sent to Madaya, Syria to assist people in need. The convoy was made up of the UN, the International Committee for the Red Cross and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.A..

.....

African Union [to 16 January 2016]

<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]

January 12, 2016

African Union Heads of State and Government to Discuss Human Rights With a Particular Focus on the Rights of Women

ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations [to 16 January 2016]

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

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

ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Statement on the Terrorist Attack in Jakarta

January 15th, 2016

ASEAN Member States strongly condemn the terrorist attack in Jakarta, Indonesia on 14 January 2016, which caused the loss of innocent lives, injuries, and damage to properties. ASEAN extends its deepest sympathies and condolences to the Indonesian Government and people...

European Union [to 16 January 2016]

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

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

New measures proposed to improve stability and tackle the root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa

Date: 14/01/2016

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 14 January 2016 The European Commission today announced the introduction of 10 measures in the Sahel region, worth more than EUR 100 million in total.

The Commission announces the continuation of the Northern Ireland Task Force

Date: 14/01/2016

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 14 January 2016 Today the Commission announced the continuation of the Northern Ireland Task Force, in order to help the region participate more actively in the EU policy process.

Ten new measures adopted to improve stability and tackle the root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa

Date: 14/01/2016

European Commission - Fact Sheet Brussels, 14 January 2016 The European Commission today announced the introduction of 10 measures in the Sahel region, worth more than EUR 100 million in total. The European Commission today announced the adoption of 10 measures to assist the Sahel region under the 'Emergency Trust...

Refugee crisis: Commission reviews 2015 actions and sets 2016 priorities

Date: 13/01/2016

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 13 January 2016 Refugee crisis: Commission reviews 2015 actions and sets 2016 priorities At their weekly meeting today, the College of Commissioners discussed the refugee crisis, looking at the measures taken in 2015 and the initiatives to be presented in spring 2016.

State of Play: Measures to Address the Refugee Crisis

Date: 12/01/2016

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 12 January 2016 State of Play: Measures to Address the Refugee Crisis Updated on 12 January The European Agenda on Migration adopted by the Commission in May 2015 set out the need for a comprehensive approach to migration management.

OECD [to 16 January 2016]

<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]

15-January-2016

OECD Employment and Labour Ministerial Statement - Building more resilient and inclusive labour markets

OECD Employment and Labour Ministers meeting in Paris have underlined their commitment to boosting employment, particularly for young people and the long-term unemployed, tackling labour market inequalities and helping people with mental health issues find and stay in work. Ministers from the 34 OECD countries and counterparts from Colombia, Costa Rica, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania and Peru met under the chairmanship of Ms. Joan Burton, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Social Protection of Ireland.

During the meeting, Ministers endorsed new OECD Recommendations to promote longer working lives and to address the impact of mental health problems on health, education, employment and social outcomes.

The full Ministerial statement *[16 pages]* is available

at: <http://www.oecd.org/employment/ministerial/labour-ministerial-statement-2016.pdf>

Organization of American States (OAS) [to 16 January 2016]

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

January 14, 2016

OAS and Honduran Government Present the Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH)

The Organization of American States (OAS) and the Government of Honduras will sign on Tuesday, January 19, the agreement establishing the Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH), which objective is to dismantle corruption networks operating in the Central American country...

MACCIH will be made up of prosecutors, judges and experts of recognized integrity in the international arena and will provide active cooperation, support, technical advice, and supervision in order to improve Honduras' justice institutions. MACCIH will select, advise, assess and certify a group of Honduran prosecutors and judges who will be responsible for investigating and prosecuting corruption networks. More information on MACCIH is available [here](#).

January 12, 2016 E-361

Electoral Observation Mission welcomes adoption of recommendations ahead of presidential run-off in Haiti

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) [to 16 January 2016]

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

16/01/2016

OIC welcomes the UN Plan of Action to prevent violent Extremism⁴

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) welcomes the United Nations Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and assures its support for all such international and regional efforts aimed at combating violent extremism and achieving global peace and security...

14/01/2016

Emergency Meeting of OIC Council of Foreign Ministers to be held at the OIC headquarters in Jeddah

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) will hold an Emergency Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of its Member States, which was called for by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to discuss the repercussions of the breaking into the Saudi Embassy in Tehran and the Saudi Consulate General in Mashhad. The meeting will be held at the OIC headquarters in Jeddah on Thursday 21 January 2016...

Group of 77 [to 16 January 2016]

<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]

(New York, 12 January 2016)

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR LUWELLYN LANDERS, DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, AT THE HANDOVER CEREMONY OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE GROUP OF 77

[Concluding text]

Excellencies;

Global inequities in the international trade system continue to impact on the ability of developing countries to accelerate the social and economic development of our people. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights the importance of addressing this challenge, particularly through multilateral institutions such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Progress was made at the 10th Ministerial Conference of the WTO, held in Nairobi, Kenya, during December 2015, on Least Developed Countries' issues.

It was however regrettable from a broader developing country perspective that there was no agreement on reaffirming the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) as the framework for the continued negotiations. Developing countries were united in Nairobi in reaffirming the centrality of the DDA to the WTO and the negotiations. Moving forward, it will be crucial for developing countries to maintain this unity. It is vital for developing countries that the WTO is a global

forum that advocates for the reform of the international trading regime, in response to persisting distortions and imbalances.

Excellencies;

Other significant processes over the last year, where the members of the Group effectively pursued its principled objectives included:

- The adoption of a resolution on the basic principles on Sovereign Debt Restructuring;
- The adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030;
- The adoption of Resolution 69/292 on 19 June 2015 pertaining to the development of an international legally-binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction; and
- The adoption of the Outcome Document of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Overall Review of the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes.

Excellencies;

A strong and robust multilateral system is in the interest of developing countries, and the G77 and China shares the collective commitment to improving the efficient and effective functioning of the United Nations, in particular through the adequate resourcing of the organisation to deliver on its mandates. Member states recently adopted a regular budget for the UN and a reformed UN common system that is "fit for purpose". We also maintained the current methodology of the scales of assessment, which reflects the changes in the relative economic situations of Member States and safeguards the principle that developing countries should not be assigned to the same level of contributions as developed countries.

In this coming year, the Group will need to build on these achievements and ensure there is an adequately resourced UN system to support the achievement of the SDGs and sustainable development in general.

In closing Excellencies, all that remains is for me to have the honour and pleasure to hand-over the Chair's gavel to His Excellency Minister Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand. We wish Thailand great success in leading the Group in 2016 and assure you of South Africa's continuing support during your tenure.

UNCTAD [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

World Trade Organisation [to 16 January 2016]

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.

IPU Inter-Parliamentary Union [to 16 January 2016]

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

13 JANUARY 2016

Action on drugs to be focus of IPU-UN parliamentary event

The world drug problem and how to address it will be the focus of a major parliamentary hearing at the United Nations in New York on 8-9 February. Hundreds of MPs from around the world will attend the event, which will be opened by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, IPU President Saber Chowdhury, UN General Assembly President Mogens Lykketoft, and UN Office on Drugs and Crime Executive Director Yuri Fedotov.

The hearing, "The World Drug Problem: Taking Stock and Strengthening the Global Response", will review what progress parliaments have made on the issue since a plan of action on illegal drugs was adopted by governments in 2009. The plan set 2019 as a target date for eliminating or significantly reducing supply, demand and associated criminal activity such as money laundering...

International Criminal Court (ICC) [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

.....

World Bank [to 16 January 2016]

<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]

Statement by World Bank Group President on the Declaration of the End of Latest Ebola Outbreak in Liberia

West Africa Now Has No Known Ebola Cases

WASHINGTON, January 14, 2016—World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim issued the following statement on today's announcement declaring the end of Ebola transmission...

Date: January 14, 2016 Type: Press Release

Digital Technologies: Huge Development Potential Remains Out of Sight for the Four Billion Who Lack Internet Access

While Digital Technologies Have Spread Fast Worldwide, Their Digital Dividends Have Not

WASHINGTON, January 13, 2016 – A new World Bank report says that while the internet, mobile phones and other digital...

Date: January 13, 2016 Type: Press Release

World Bank President Appoints Global Leaders to Key Executive Posts

WASHINGTON, January 11, 2016—World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim today announced the appointments of Mr. Shaolin Yang as Chief Administrative Officer and Mr. Joaquim Levy as Chief Financial Officer for the World Bank Group. The two individuals, each of whom joins the Bank Group with vast financial and management expertise, come at a critical juncture as the organization works to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity. Date: January 12, 2016 Type: Press Release

IMF [to 16 January 2016]

<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]

January 12, 2016

Speech: The Case for a Global Policy Upgrade

By Christine Lagarde, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund

Farewell Symposium for Christian Noyer, Banque de France, Paris, January 12, 2016

...I would like to talk about a subject that has been close to your heart since your days at the Paris Club—about the prospects of emerging and developing countries, and how monetary policies in advanced economies are impacting them. I will also discuss why a stronger international monetary system is essential—a topic which you have considered quite deeply...

African Development Bank Group [to 16 January 2016]

<http://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/>

15/01/2016

Blue Economy: Cape Verde wins SEFA grant to develop revolutionary wave-powered desalination system

Cape Verde was awarded a US \$930,000 grant by the African Development Bank-hosted Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA) on December 21, 2015 to develop the world's first wave-driven desalination system. Wave20™, to be located in Praia Grande, Cape Verde, will operate completely "off-grid" and supply more than 48,000 people with clean fresh water at a competitive cost. The system is expected to have a capacity of 4,000 m³/day of water and will eliminate 5,400 metric tons of CO₂ per year.

AfDB approves US \$76.11-million loan for Four Towns Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Program in Ethiopia

14/01/2016 - The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 approved a loan of US \$76.11 million from the AfDB financing window to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for the implementation of the Four Towns Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Program.

African Development Bank adopts Integrity Due Diligence Policy on non-sovereign operations, a mitigating strategy to safeguard its investment policy

13/01/2016 - In its bid to further promote good governance and ethical business practices in its operations and investment decisions, the Board of Directors of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB), met on January 13, 2016 in Abidjan and approved the Integrity Due Diligence Policy on non-sovereign operations (IDD).

Asian Development Bank [to 16 January 2016]

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

16 Jan 2016 | *News Release*

ADB President Nakao Congratulates the Opening of AIIB

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank [to 16 January 2016]

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

AIIB's Charter Enters into Force On 25 December 2015

01/16/2016

The Articles of Agreement of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, dated June 29, 2015, entered into force on December 25, 2015...

The inaugural meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank will be held on January 16 and 17, 2016. At that meeting, the Board of Governors will announce the commencement of operations, in accordance with Article 60 of the Articles of Agreement. The Board of Governors will also formally elect the Board of Directors and the President. The Board of Directors will hold its first meeting in the days after the Board of Governors meeting.

Fifty-six prospective members have signed the Articles of Agreement since it was opened for signature on June 29, 2015. Remaining Signatories that have not yet deposited their instruments of ratification are expected to do so by December 31, 2016, and become members thereafter.

AIIB open for business. Jin Liqun elected as first President

BEIJING, January 16, 2016 - The Board of Governors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) convened its inaugural meeting today, declaring the Bank open for business and electing Mr. Jin Liqun as President for a five year term.

President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang of China addressed the AIIB's opening, which was held alongside the Board of Governors meeting. Also at the ceremonies were representatives from other multilateral development banks and financial institutions, whose support for the establishment of the Bank was warmly acknowledged...

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

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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 16 January 2016]

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

Published: 12 January 2016

Female Genital Mutilation Has No Place in Africa

By Carolynne Khamala

Amref Health Africa asks the Government of Sierra Leone to protect girls from injury and death caused by the harmful practice

On February 6, 2016, the world will be marking the International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation. This day has been set aside by the United Nations as a reminder to all that the international community has taken a stand on complete eradication of female genital mutilation (FGM).

Amref Health Africa is concerned that contrary to this international position, Sierra Leonean Social Welfare and Gender Minister Mr Moijua Kaikai recently announced that female genital mutilation was a cultural practice supported by the government and would therefore not be outlawed. Sierra Leone is one of the few remaining countries in Africa that have not made FGM illegal...

Aravind Eye Care System [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

BRAC [to 16 January 2016]

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

15 January 2016

We mourn for Dr Babar Kabir

BRAC mourns the sad demise of Dr Babar Kabir who was the former senior director of BRAC's disaster management and climate change and water, sanitation and hygiene programmes. On the morning of 15 January at around 7 am, after a severe asthma attack, he succumbed to a cardiac arrest in Dhaka. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

CARE International [to 16 January 2016]

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

SWITZERLAND

11 JANUARY 2016

One-off aid convoys won't save starving Syrians

Agencies warn that only a complete end to the six-month old siege and guarantees for sustained aid deliveries alongside humanitarian services will alleviate the crisis in these areas.

Casa Alianza [to 16 January 2016]

Covenant House [to 16 January 2016]

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

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

Friday, January 15, 2016

"She Just Loves Everybody"

Covenant House is more than a job to Gwendolyn Ross. She is a counselor, a teacher, a mother, a grandmother and a friend to thousands of formerly homeless children. As she retires, some of our kids reflect on what it means to be blessed to have "Mama Gwen" in their lives...

Clubhouse International

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

No new digest content identified.

Danish Refugee Council [to 16 January 2016]

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

05.01.16

A different sort of aid for Syria?

In Syria it is not just the brutality and the violence that are destroying lives in the country: economic ruin and crippling poverty are also– what a UN-backed report called "an equally horrendous but silent disaster." writes IRIN News.

Some aid organisations and policy experts are finding that with more than four out of five Syrians in poverty, traditional humanitarian aid, while necessary, just isn't enough. So they're advocating for, and implementing, livelihood projects – intervention to assist people's abilities to support themselves.

One of these is the Danish Refugee Council. As Peter Klanso, DRC Middle East and North Africa director, says : "You cannot have an entire population that is dependent on humanitarian aid. That doesn't make any sense."

ECPAT [to 16 January 2016]

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

[Website not responding at inquiry]

Fountain House [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Handicap International [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Heifer International [to 16 January 2016]

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

Wednesday, Jan. 13, 201

Heifer International Weekly

HelpAge International [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

IRC International Rescue Committee [to 16 January 2016]

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

News release

ICRC calls for immediate and simultaneous lifting of all sieges across Syria

13 January 2016

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) says that, as a matter of urgency, and because of overwhelming humanitarian needs, all sieges being carried out across Syria must be ended. The appeal comes after access was granted earlier this week to three towns in the country which have been under siege for months. The populations in all three areas were found to be living in appalling conditions. Joint ICRC, UN and Syrian Arab Red Crescent convoys delivered food, medicines and blankets to tens of thousands of people in Madaya, Kefraya and Foua...

ICRC [to 16 January 2016]

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

News release

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13 January 2016

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) says that, as a matter of urgency, and because of overwhelming humanitarian needs, all sieges being carried out across Syria must be ended. The appeal comes after access was granted earlier this week to three towns in the country which have been under siege for months. The populations in all three areas were found to be living in appalling conditions. Joint ICRC, UN and Syrian Arab Red Crescent convoys delivered food, medicines and blankets to tens of thousands of people in Madaya, Kefraya and Foua.

News release

Syria: Key operation begins to bring aid to people in besieged areas

11 January 2016

Damascus / Geneva – The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), working alongside the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and the United Nations (UN), has begun delivering vital aid to thousands of people living in three besieged areas in Syria.

IRCT [to 16 January 2016]

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

News

UNCAT questions Kenya on implementation of right to rehabilitation

14 January 2016

News

Mathieu Shalif, founder of IRCT member centre SAP-GL, passes away

13 January 2016

Islamic Relief [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières [to 16 January 2016]

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

Press Releases

Syria: Five More Starvation Deaths in Madaya Since Humanitarian Convoy Arrival

January 15, 2016

BRUSSELS—Five people have died from starvation in the besieged town of Madaya, [Syria](#), since the first humanitarian convoy arrived on the afternoon of January 11, medics supported by the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) confirmed Friday.

Press release

End of Ebola Outbreak in West Africa: World Must Learn Lesson for Future Outbreaks, Says MSF

January 14, 2016

Press release

Response by Jason Cone, MSF-USA Executive Director, to President Obama's State of the Union Address

January 12, 2016

The international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is gravely concerned about the impact that the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) will have on access to medicines around the world. In his comments on the TPP tonight, the President continued to promote a trade deal that will export the policies that have made medicines unaffordable in the US to close to half a billion people around the world.

Field News

France: MSF Prepares New Site for Refugees in Grande-Synthe

January 13, 2016

MSF began work today on a new site for refugees in the northern French community of Grande-Synthe.

Mercy Corps [to 16 January 2016]

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

Syria, January 11, 2016

Continued Humanitarian Access Needed in Madaya, Syria

One aid convoy will not meet all long-term humanitarian needs

Portland, Ore. — The global organization Mercy Corps urges all parties to the conflict in Syria to allow humanitarian organizations rapid, safe and unfettered access to the towns of Madaya and Bukain through the most direct routes in order to reach thousands of innocent civilians at risk of starvation.

According to the United Nations, some 42,000 people have been trapped in Madaya since July 2015 without access to food, medical supplies or fuel for heat. There are credible reports of severe cases of malnutrition and deaths due to starvation.

"Civilians cannot wait for politicians to hammer out a solution to the war in Syria, which may take years. Men, women and children in Madaya need help now," says Ashley Proud, South Central Syria Director for Mercy Corps...

Operation Smile [to 16 January 2016]

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

Program Schedule

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

OXFAM [to 16 January 2016]

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

11 January 2016

One-off aid convoys won't save starving Syrians

Only a complete end to the siege in Madaya, and in other besieged areas such as Fua'a and Kafraya, together with guarantees for sustained aid deliveries alongside humanitarian services will alleviate the crisis in these areas. Today's delivery to Madaya will provide food for up to a month, according to the UN, but Oxfam and other leading aid agencies warn that this one off permission to deliver will be insufficient given the current shocking reported levels of malnutrition.

Norwegian Refugee Council [to 16 January 2016]

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

Perspective

Afghan displaced children and youth paint their lives

(15.01.2016)

Through the delivery of a series of art therapy workshops, the project depicted provides much needed psychosocial support to over four hundred Afghan children affected by displacement. The project also provides a positive insight into the lives of Afghan refugee youth and their displacement experience.

Iraq

Civilians trapped inside Ramadi as fighting continues

(14.01.2016)

The last several weeks' military operations to retake government control of Ramadi have left hundreds of civilians caught in crossfire. "Families are trapped inside Ramadi with no opportunity to flee to safety," says NRC's Programme Adviser in Baghdad, Salah Noori.

Pact [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Partners In Health [to 16 January 2016]

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

Jan 15, 2016

'Dr. Moi' Will See You Now

Moises Mazariegos started working with PIH in Mexico as its first driver, but he does more than sit behind the wheel of a pickup truck. He's a patient advocate, an adviser, a skilled negotiator, and a good friend to everyone he meets. ▶

Jan 14, 2016

On TB's Trail in Liberia

PIH searches for tuberculosis patients in Monrovia, Liberia.

PATH [to 16 January 2016]

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

Announcement | January 15, 2016

PATH family planning and reproductive health work featured at International Conference on Family Planning

Plan International [to 16 January 2016]

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

14 January 2016

Caution urged as Liberia declared Ebola-free

Liberia has been declared Ebola free today for the third time, after 42 days without any new cases. Plan International urges caution so that no new cases re-emerge this time.

Save The Children [to 16 January 2016]

[http://www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGIpI4E/b.9357111/k.C14B/Press Releases 2016/apps/nl/newsletter2.asp](http://www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGIpI4E/b.9357111/k.C14B/Press_Releases_2016/apps/nl/newsletter2.asp)

January 15, 2016

Over 12 Million Children Have Better Educational Opportunities Through Ikea Foundation, Save the Children and Unicef Partnership

January 14, 2016

Pioneering Study Finds Poor Youth Can Save for Their Future

Fairfield, Conn— Led by an international development consortium that includes Save the Children, YouthSave has shown helping youth build savings can significantly increase their financial capability and may also improve other youth development outcomes, such as cognitive functioning, education, and health behaviors.

Through the project – the largest research experiment of its kind in the developing world – more than 130,000 young people, aged primarily 12-18 and half living under the poverty line, collectively saved more than \$1 million over three years. In addition, approximately 44,000 youth received direct financial education, 48,000 individuals were reached through community-level events, and an estimated 660,000 were reached through mass media....

:: Key Findings from the YouthSave Project in Brief

January 12, 2016

Food Crisis Update from Save the Children in Ethiopia

Former Danish prime minister to run Save the Children International

Thomson Reuters Foundation | 13 January 2016

Denmark's first female prime minister is to become the new head of Save the Children International, one of the world's leading charities that works in some 120 nations, it announced on Thursday. Helle Thorning-Schmidt, a Social Democrat who led a Danish coalition government from 2011 to 2015, succeeds Jasmine Whitbread as chief executive of the umbrella charity organization, the London-based group said.

SOS-Kinderdorf International [to 16 January 2016]

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

15.01.2016

SOS Children's Villages enters besieged town of Madaya; UN chief calls deliberate starvation of the town a "war crime"

On Thursday 14 January, a four person team from SOS Children's Villages gained access to Madaya, Syria, a town which has been under siege for months...

Tostan [to 16 January 2016]

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

January 11, 2016

Gambian Youth Caravan Advocate for Human Rights and Responsibilities

This group of over 300 young people proudly took part in the Annual Youth Caravan and Forum in the Gambia between December 25th and 31st. They trekked to six Fula villages to gather their peers and elders for an open discussion on the human rights and responsibilities of youth...

Women for Women International [to 16 January 2016]

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

Press Release

Women for Women International Calls for Women's Inclusion in Afghanistan Peace Talks

Women's voices and contributions are critical for establishing lasting peace, organization's leaders say.

Monday, January 11, 2016, Washington, DC – Afghan women negotiators must be included in all talks to negotiate a final peace agreement, Women for Women International said today, following international meetings to restart the Afghanistan peace process. During the talks between Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, and the United States, no women were present in the Afghan delegation.

"Around the world, we see women make critical contributions to peace-building – they share unique perspectives of conflict and ensure negotiations address the issues feeding instability and violence. The fact is, peace processes simply work better when women are involved," says WFWI CEO Jennifer L. Windsor. "In Afghanistan, women must have a meaningful role as active participants in the peace process to ensure their rights and the progress they have made over the past 15 years are protected."

Since 2001, women have made tremendous progress in closing gender gaps in health, education, and political participation. Maternal mortality has declined by 75 percent,¹ and nearly 3.3 million girls now attend school who would not have had the opportunity to do so

under the Taliban regime.² In April 2014, 2.4 million women voted in elections that resulted in 97 women elected to provincial councils,³ and women hold 28 percent of parliamentary seats.⁴ Yet this progress remains fragile. As the Taliban controls more territory now than at any time since 2001, women's participation in peace talks is critical to ensure a comprehensive peace process that continues to protect women's rights and equality.

"Women are more involved than ever before actively contributing to Afghanistan's economy, politics, and society. This is their country and their future at stake in these peace talks," says WFWI-Afghanistan Country Director Mandana Hendessi. "There is a real concern that marginalizing women from peace talks could have a far-reaching, negative impact for women at all socio-economic levels."...

.....

ChildFund Alliance [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

CONCORD [to 16 January 2016]

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

[European NGO confederation for relief and development]

No new digest content identified.

Disasters Emergency Committee [to 16 January 2016]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

The Elders [to 16 January 2016]

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

News 14 January 2016

[What will be on the agenda for the next Secretary-General of the United Nations](#)

Livestreamed from Sciences Po's Youth & Leaders Summit 2016 in Paris on Monday 18 January, Martti Ahtisaari and Lakhdar Brahimi speak on The Elders' call for UN reform the serious challenges facing the next Secretary-General.

END Fund [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Gavi [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Global Fund [to 16 January 2016]

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

12 January 2016

Challenges and Opportunities in 2016: Mark Dybul Looks Ahead

It is an exciting time in global health, and an extremely challenging one. Mark Dybul, Executive Director of the Global Fund spoke about current trends.

:: What are the greatest challenges and opportunities in 2016?

The road ahead calls for new thinking, for practical solutions that serve people who are being left behind. In global health, we have to think about our work beyond the disease or development paradigms, and focus on the person. How do we find innovative ways to empower individuals? Connecting education and health, especially where it enables girls to become women with opportunity, is an area that needs more work.

Building resilient and sustainable systems for health is another. Making a health clinic accessible may mean hiring more health workers, or an innovative health insurance scheme, but it also can mean lifting stigma and discrimination. Whatever helps an individual remove barriers to health, especially for key populations.

We face very serious challenges. Achieving impact in the last decade was relatively easy because the need was so great – almost anything you did had impact. However, the next stage of ending the epidemics involves confronting social and cultural issues. Our investments have to be more focused, nuanced and interwoven. And we have to put human beings at the center of our response.

Climate change and the refugee crisis are big challenges for the world to deal with. By building lasting health programs and systems that boost the capacity and resilience of a country's health system and its people, the Global Fund mission can play its part in improving humanity in a way that is connected with other challenges...

Hilton Prize Coalition [to 16 January 2016]

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

An Alliance of Hilton Prize Recipients

No new digest content identified.

InterAction [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Locus

<http://locusworld.org/>

"Locus is a movement focused on engaging those we serve, practitioners, the private sector, donors and government to drive adoption of locally owned, integrated solutions."

No new digest content identified.

Start Network [to 16 January 2016]

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

[Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies]

No new digest content identified.

Muslim Charities Forum [to 16 January 2016]

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

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

Part-time Job Opportunities at the Muslim Charities Forum

15th January 2016

There two part-time job opportunities available at the Muslim Charities Forum listed below. You can find more information by clicking on the job titles. Communications Officer (Press and Public Affairs) Communications Officer (Web and Social Media) Deadline for both posts is Monday 1st.

.....

Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

CHS International Alliance [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

EHLRA/R2HC [to 16 January 2016]

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

Academic partnerships: Imbalances of power and how to meaningfully engage crises-affected populations in research

13.01.2016

Academic partnerships: Imbalances of power and how to meaningfully engage crises-affected populations in research ELRHA is convening a panel at the International Humanitarian Studies Association Conference in Addis Ababa..

Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

The Sphere Project [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP) [to 16 January 2016]

<https://phap.org/>

No new digest content identified.

.....

Center for Global Development [to 16 January 2016]

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

Selected Press Releases, Blog Posts, Publications

No new digest content identified.

ODI [to 16 January 2016]

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

Urbanisation: consequences and opportunities for the Netherlands' Directorate-General for International Cooperation

Research reports and studies | January 2016 | Irina Mosel, Paula Lucci, Julian Doczi, Clare Cummings, Aditya Bahadur, David Walker, Lucy Scott, Hamish Nixon

This report examines the impacts of urbanisation on areas including water management, climate change and disaster risk reduction, gender, food security, emergency aid, and peace, security and conflict.

The urban-rural water interface: a preliminary study in Burkina Faso

Working and discussion papers | January 2016 | Peter Newborne; Josephine Tucker

An initial framing paper produced in partnership with WISE-UP that looks at water allocation in Ouagadougou, and how the government manages the issue of water allocation between rural and urban areas, especially in semi-arid regions.

10 things to know about progress in international development

Resource | January 2016

Around the world, amazing progress is being made in human well-being, from health to poverty to education and more. Here we showcase 10 examples from Development Progress case studies.

Resilience Scan: July-September 2015

Research reports and studies | January 2016 | Aditya Bahadur, Thomas Tanner, Emma Lovell, Florence Pichon and Hani Morsi

This resilience scan summarises writing and debates in the field of resilience during the third quarter (July to September) of 2015.

Future directions of security and justice: context-relevant, flexible and transnational programming?

Research reports and studies | January 2016 | Lisa Denney and Pilar Domingo

This report identifies some emerging trends in security and justice and examines what these trends might mean for programme implementation.

Thinking and working with political settlements

Briefing papers | January 2016 | Tim Kelsall

This briefing offers advice to development practitioners on the use of Political Settlements Analysis, while drawing links between PSA and Adaptive Development approaches.

World Economic Forum [to 16 January 2016]

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

Shaping the Fourth Industrial Revolution to Benefit All – New Book by Klaus Schwab

News 15 Jan 2016

:: Book by Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum, released today

:: Prof Schwab explores the theme of this year's Annual Meeting in Davos: Mastering the Fourth Industrial Revolution

:: To access a preview of the book, The Fourth Industrial Revolution, click [here](#)

46th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum to Focus on Fourth Industrial Revolution

News 13 Jan 2016

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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.

Aga Khan Foundation

<http://www.akdn.org/pr.asp>

Master Jury Announced for 2016 Aga Khan Award for Architecture

06 January 2016 - The members of the 2016 Master Jury of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture were announced on 6 January 2016. The Jury, which independently selects the recipients of the US\$ 1 million Award, will select a shortlist from hundreds of nominated projects and, after rigorous on-site inspection of the shortlisted projects, select the winners.

BMGF - Gates Foundation [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Annie E. Casey Foundation [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Clinton Foundation [to 16 January 2016]

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

Statement

[Statement by President Clinton on the Sixth Anniversary of the 2010 Earthquake in Haiti](#)

January 12, 2016

Ford Foundation [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

GHIT Fund [to 16 January 2016]

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

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

2015.12.17

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

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

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Grameen Foundation [to 16 January 2016]

<http://www.grameenfoundation.org/news-events/press-room>

Jan 15, 2016, 07:00 ET

[Nationwide launch of Mobile Health Program in rural India signals new era of mHealth for emerging economies](#)

Today, the Government of India launched a nationwide mobile health program designed to train community health workers and to directly reach millions of women within three years. The program is powered by MOTECH, a robust yet simple-to-use mobile health (mHealth) technology developed by Grameen...

IKEA Foundation [to 16 January 2016]

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

January 15, 2016

[How soft toys are helping 12 million dreams come true](#)

...More than 12 million children in Africa, Asia and Europe have better schools, teachers and learning materials, thanks to a successful 13-year partnership between the IKEA Foundation, Save the Children and UNICEF...

HHMI - Howard Hughes Medical Institute [to 16 January 2016]

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

Research [January 15, 2016]

[New Studies Examine Cellular Diversity in the Hippocampus](#)

New study suggests that graded changes in gene expression are an organizing principle for CA1 pyramidal cells in the hippocampus.

Kellogg Foundation [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

MacArthur Foundation [to 16 January 2016]

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

Press release

[MacArthur Awards 19 Documentary Film Grants](#)

Published January 13, 2016

MacArthur, a supporter of social-issue film and digital media projects for more than three decades, today announced 19 grants totaling nearly \$2.5 million for documentary and interactive projects.

The new grants represent MacArthur's largest single year investment in documentaries, and they bring the total number of documentary films supported by the Foundation since 1985 to more than 300...

Press release

[MacArthur Announces Performances, Discussion to Celebrate 35 Years of Iconic Fellowship Program](#)

Published January 11, 2016

MacArthur today announced a year-long series of performances, discussions, and other events to celebrate the 35th anniversary of its iconic MacArthur Fellows Program in 2016.

The Foundation will collaborate with a diverse set of partners for the programming, including Chicago's Grant Park Music Festival, Washington's Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and New York City's 92nd Street Y. Most of the events will be open to the public for free or at low cost. Video of many events will be made available online...

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation [to 16 January 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Open Society Foundation [to 16 January 2016]

<https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/issues/media-information>

Two Milestones Put Romani Cultural Discourse in the Hands of Roma Themselves

January 15, 2016 by Cayetano Fernandez

For the Roma movement in Europe, 2015 was a pivotal year. It was the year Roma intellectuals and activists moved beyond "fixes" to employment, housing, health, and access to education, and embraced a more holistic view of the Roma situation. We took a wider look at majority societies and raised the crucial question: What is wrong with European democracies that they exclude more than 12 million of their citizens at different levels? From segregating Roma students in special schools to forcibly sterilizing Roma women, how can Europe keep blaming Roma for their disadvantaged situation?

This critical approach to Roma inclusion took concrete form last year in two major milestones: the growth of a Romani studies summer session at the Central European University in Budapest, and the establishment of a European Roma Institute to honor Roma contributions to society. Both were landmark advances in letting Roma define who Roma are...

David and Lucile Packard Foundation [to 16 January 2016]

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

Packard Foundation Names Dr. Stephen H. Lockhart to its Board of Trustees

January 11, 2016

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation is pleased to announce that Dr. Stephen H. Lockhart, M.D., PhD., has joined its Board of Trustees. Dr. Lockhart is Chief Medical Officer for Sutter Health, a not for profit system of hospitals, physician organizations and research institutions in Northern California...

Pew Charitable Trusts [to 16 January 2016]

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

Press Release

Pew Analysis Shows Access to Workplace Retirement Plans Varies Widely Across States

January 13, 2016

WASHINGTON—Wide differences in access to and participation in employer-based retirement plans exist across states, with variations by employer size and industry type as well as by

workers' income, age, education, race and ethnicity, according to a report released today by The Pew Charitable Trusts...

Report link: [Who's In, Who's Out: A Look at Access to Employer-Based Retirement Plans and Participation in the States](#)

Rockefeller Foundation [to 16 January 2016]

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

Encourage Capital Releases Report on Investment Strategies for Sustainable Fisheries in Brazil, Chile and The Philippines

Supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies and The Rockefeller Foundation

January 14, 2016 NEW YORK – Each year, more than \$50 billion of economic value is lost due to poor fisheries management, depleting the oceans and affecting global seafood production. Today, Encourage Capital released the second installment of its comprehensive investment report, analyzing how investors can deploy capital in efforts to protect and restore global fisheries.

The report, "Investing for Sustainable Global Fisheries," delivers a series of six blueprints about investments in fisheries in Brazil, Chile and the Philippines, which account for 7% of the global fish supply. The strategies are based on real-life examples and are available free of charge at investinvibrantocéans.org.

"More than 1 billion people globally rely on seafood as their primary source of protein, but 40% of fisheries are considered to be overexploited or collapsed," said Jason Scott, Co-Managing Partner at Encourage Capital. "Encourage Capital's Investment Blueprints demonstrate that there are ways to earn real profits through sustainable seafood investing strategies that improve seafood yield, enhance supply chain efficiency, and reduce supply volatility."

Report [42 pages]: http://encouragecapital.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Executive_Summary_FINAL_1-11-16.pdf

Millennial Trains Project Offers Platform for Millennial Innovators to Explore New Frontiers with Support from The Rockefeller Foundation

January 11, 2016 NEW YORK—Today, the Millennial Trains Project announced that The Rockefeller Foundation is coming on board as a major supporter of its August 2016 trans-continental train journeys for young innovators, which will support the development of next-generation, entrepreneurial leaders who share the Foundation's desire to improve resilience and inclusivity in communities across America....

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [to 16 January 2016]

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

Warning Labels on Sweetened Drinks Deter Consumption

Thu Jan 14 2016

Health warning labels may increase parents' understanding that sugar-sweetened beverages increase their child's risk of weight gain, heart disease, and diabetes—and motivate them to buy fewer sugary drinks

Wellcome Trust [to 16 January 2016]

<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/News/2016/index.htm>

Tribute to award-winning scientist Professor Glyn Humphreys

The news of the sudden death yesterday of Professor Glyn Humphreys, Watts Chair of Experimental Psychology at the University of Oxford, has saddened many friends and colleagues at the Wellcome Trust.

15 January 2016.

Alternatives to antibiotics not a short-term solution to drug-resistant infections

A handful of alternatives to antibiotics – such as treatments and preventative measures based on live microorganisms or ‘probiotics’ – have the potential to combat bacterial infections in the next decade, but they are unlikely to replace traditional antibiotics.

13 January 2016

£3bn a year needed to prepare the world for future pandemics

An investment of less than 50p per year for every person on the planet (£3bn/\$4.5bn total) would make the world significantly more resilient to the threat of infectious disease, according to a group of international experts convened in the wake of the Ebola crisis.

13 January 2016

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:: Journal Watch

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

American Journal of Disaster Medicine

Summer 2015, Volume 10, Number 3

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Infection Control

January 2016 Volume 44, Issue 1, p1-124, e1-e7

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Preventive Medicine

January 2016 Volume 50, Issue 1, p1-128, e1-e32

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Public Health

Volume 106, Issue 1 (January 2016)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

January 2016; 94 (1)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

BMC Health Services Research

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

(Accessed 16 January 2016)

Research article

[Perspectives and experiences of new migrants on health screening in Sweden](#)

In Sweden, migrants from countries considered to have a high burden of certain infectious diseases are offered health screening to prevent the spread of these diseases, but also identify their health needs. Ho...

Faustine Kyungu Nkulu Kalengayi, Anna-Karin Hurtig, Annika Nordstrand, Clas Ahlm and Beth Maina Ahlberg

BMC Health Services Research 2016 16:14

Published on: 15 January 2016

BMC Infectious Diseases

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

(Accessed 16 January 2016)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Medical Ethics

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

(Accessed 16 January 2016)

Research article

["Decision-making capacity for research participation among addicted people: a cross-sectional study"](#)

Informed consent is a key element of ethical clinical research. Addicted population may be at risk for impaired consent capacity. However, very little research has focused on their comprehension of consent for...

Inés Morán-Sánchez, Aurelio Luna, Maria Sánchez-Muñoz, Beatriz Aguilera-Alcaraz and Maria D. Pérez-Cárceles

BMC Medical Ethics 2016 17:3

Published on: 13 January 2016

Debate

Developing a new justification for assent

Current guidelines do not clearly outline when assent should be attained from paediatric research participants, nor do they detail the necessary elements of the assent process. This stems from the fact that th...

Amanda Sibley, Andrew J. Pollard, Raymond Fitzpatrick and Mark Sheehan

BMC Medical Ethics 2016 17:2

Published on: 12 January 2016

Abstract

Background

Current guidelines do not clearly outline when assent should be attained from paediatric research participants, nor do they detail the necessary elements of the assent process. This stems from the fact that the fundamental justification behind the concept of assent is misunderstood. In this paper, we critically assess three widespread ethical arguments used for assent: children's rights, the best interests of the child, and respect for a child's developing autonomy. We then outline a newly-developed two-fold justification for the assent process: respect for the parent's pedagogical role in teaching their child to become an autonomous being and respect for the child's moral worth.

Discussion

We argue that the ethical grounding for the involvement of young children in medical decision-making does not stem from children's rights, the principle of best interests, or respect for developing autonomy. An alternative strategy is to examine the original motivation to engage with the child. In paediatric settings there are two obligations on the researcher: an obligation to the parents who are responsible for determining when and under what circumstances the child develops his capacity for autonomy and reasoning, and an obligation to the child himself. There is an important distinction between respecting a decision and encouraging a decision. This paper illustrates that the process of assent is an important way in which respect for the child as an individual can be demonstrated, however, the value lies not in the child's response but the fact that his views were solicited in the first place.

Summary

This paper demonstrates that the common justifications for the process of assent are incomplete. Assent should be understood as playing a pedagogical role for the child, helping to teach him how specific decisions are made and therefore helping him to become a better decision-maker. How the researcher engages with the child supports his obligation to the child's parents, yet why the researcher engages with the child stems from the child's moral worth. Treating a child as having moral worth need not mean doing what they say but it may mean listening, considering, engaging or involving them in the decision.

BMC Medicine

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

(Accessed 16 January 2016)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

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

(Accessed 16 January 2016)
[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Public Health

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

(Accessed 16 January 2016)

Research article

Sociocultural determinants of anticipated oral cholera vaccine acceptance in three African settings: a meta-analytic approach

Neisha Sundaram, Christian Schaetti, Sonja Merten, Christian Schindler, Said M. Ali, Erick O. Nyambedha, Bruno Lapika, Claire-Lise Chaignat, Raymond Hutubessy and Mitchell G. Weiss
BMC Public Health 2016 16:36

Published on: 14 January 2016

Abstract

Background

Controlling cholera remains a significant challenge in Sub-Saharan Africa. In areas where access to safe water and sanitation are limited, oral cholera vaccine (OCV) can save lives.

Establishment of a global stockpile for OCV reflects increasing priority for use of cholera vaccines in endemic settings. Community acceptance of vaccines, however, is critical and sociocultural features of acceptance require attention for effective implementation. This study identifies and compares sociocultural determinants of anticipated OCV acceptance across populations in Southeastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Western Kenya and Zanzibar.

Methods

Cross-sectional studies were conducted using similar but locally-adapted semistructured interviews among 1095 respondents in three African settings. Logistic regression models identified sociocultural determinants of OCV acceptance from these studies in endemic areas of Southeastern Democratic Republic of Congo (SE-DRC), Western Kenya (W-Kenya) and Zanzibar. Meta-analytic techniques highlighted common and distinctive determinants in the three settings.

Results

Anticipated OCV acceptance was high in all settings. More than 93 % of community respondents overall indicated interest in a no-cost vaccine. Higher anticipated acceptance was observed in areas with less access to public health facilities. In all settings awareness of cholera prevention methods (safe food consumption and garbage disposal) and relating ingestion to cholera causation were associated with greater acceptance. Higher age, larger households, lack of education, social vulnerability and knowledge of oral rehydration solution for self-treatment were negatively associated with anticipated OCV acceptance. Setting-specific determinants of acceptance included reporting a reliable income (W-Kenya and Zanzibar, not SE-DRC). In SE-DRC, intention to purchase an OCV appeared unrelated to ability to pay. Rural residents were less likely than urban counterparts to accept an OCV in W-Kenya, but more likely in Zanzibar. Prayer as a form of self-treatment was associated with vaccine acceptance in SE-DRC and W-Kenya, but not in Zanzibar.

Conclusions

These cholera-endemic African communities are especially interested in no-cost OCVs. Health education and attention to local social and cultural features of cholera and vaccines would likely increase vaccine coverage. High demand and absence of insurmountable sociocultural barriers to vaccination with OCVs indicate potential for mass vaccination in planning for comprehensive control or elimination.

BMC Research Notes

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

(Accessed 16 January 2016)

Research article

**Low-tech, high impact: care for premature neonates in a district hospital in Burundi.
A way forward to decrease neonatal mortality**

Brigitte Ndelema, Rafael Van den Bergh, Marcel Manzi, Wilma van den Boogaard, Rose J.

Kosgei, Isabel Zuniga, Manirampa Juvenal and Anthony Reid

BMC Research Notes 2016 9:28

Published on: 16 January 2016

BMJ Open

2016, Volume 6, Issue 1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

British Medical Journal

14 January 2016 (vol 352, issue 8040)

<http://www.bmj.com/content/352/8040>

[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 94, Number 1, January 2016, 1-76

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/94/1/en/>

[Reviewed earlier]

Complexity

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Conflict and Health

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

[Accessed 16 January 2016]

[No new content]

Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation

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

(Accessed 16 January 2016)

[No new content]

Current Opinion in Infectious Diseases

February 2016 - Volume 29 - Issue 1 pp: v-vi,1-98

<http://journals.lww.com/co-infectiousdiseases/pages/currenttoc.aspx>

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Sexually transmitted infections in children as a marker of child sexual abuse and direction of future research

Rogstad, Karen E.; Wilkinson, Dawn; Robinson, Angela

Abstract

Purpose of review: This review considers recent evidence on sexually transmitted infections (STIs) as a marker of child sexual abuse (CSA), when diagnosed after the neonatal period. It also aims to identify if there are specific areas where additional research is required.

Recent findings: An evidence-based systematic review using strict inclusion criteria shows that CSA is a major cause of STIs in children. In children 12 years and below, 36–83% of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and 75–94% of *Chlamydia trachomatis* infections are due to CSA; for children 14 years and younger, 31–58% of anogenital warts are due to CSA. In child genital sampling, genital human papillomavirus (HPV) types were more common in those considered abused (13.7%) than nonabused (1.3%). HPV typing of genital warts in children were all of genital type 6. Subsequent research, into *N. gonorrhoeae*, *C. trachomatis*, *Trichomonas vaginalis* and syphilis in children including ophthalmic infection, found that 13 of 15 cases were confirmed/likely due to CSA. Recent data indicate that bacterial vaginosis and *Mycoplasma genitalium* are related to sexual activity in adults but did not assess children.

Summary: STIs in children under 13–14 years may indicate CSA. Genital HPV types are associated with CSA. Research is required of sufficient standard to contribute to the evidence base.

Surveillance systems for sexually transmitted infections: a global review

Mohammed, Hamish; Hughes, Gwenda; Fenton, Kevin A.

Abstract

Purpose of review: Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) continue to exert a substantial public health burden globally but surveillance remains a challenge, especially in the developing world. We reviewed STI surveillance systems in various regions globally and used available data to provide an overview of recent trends in STI epidemiology.

Recent findings: STI surveillance systems in the developing world are often limited and restricted to ad hoc cross-sectional surveys; however, available data suggest that these areas are disproportionately affected by STIs, with a higher burden in marginalized groups such as sex workers. Developed countries typically have established surveillance systems. Recent reports suggest many of these countries are experiencing rising diagnoses of STIs in men who have sex with men (MSM) and an increasing contribution of HIV-positive MSM to STI epidemics.

Summary: There is considerable variability in the surveillance for STIs globally, ranging from active or passive, to sentinel, laboratory or clinic-based systems. Given different levels of

resources and patterns of healthcare provision, it is difficult to compare surveillance data across regions; however, available data suggest that considerable inequality in STI burden exists. In resource-limited settings, syndromic surveillance with periodic laboratory assessments is recommended to monitor trends in STIs.

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 26, Issue 1, 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Development Policy Review

January 2016 Volume 34, Issue 1 Pages i–ii, 5–174

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/dpr.2016.34.issue-1/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology

Volume 11, Issue 1, 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness

Volume 9 - Issue 06 - December 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Disasters

January 2016 Volume 40, Issue 1 Pages 1–182

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January 2016, Volume 33, Issue 1

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[Zika virus infection in a traveller returning from the Maldives, June 2015](#)

by E Korhonen, E Huhtamo, T Smura, H Kallio-Kokko, M Raassina, O Vapalahti

[Multidrug-resistant bacteria in unaccompanied refugee minors arriving in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, October to November 2015](#)

by U Heudorf, B Krackhardt, M Karathana, N Kleinkauf, C Zinn

[Multidrug-resistant organisms detected in refugee patients admitted to a University Hospital, Germany June–December 2015](#)

by C Reinheimer, V Kempf, S Götting, M Hogardt, T Wichelhaus, F O'Rourke, C Brandt

[Respiratory diphtheria in an asylum seeker from Afghanistan arriving to Finland via Sweden, December 2015](#)

by J Sane, T Sorvari, M Wideström, H Kauma, U Kaukonen, E Tarkka, T Puumalainen, M Kuusi, M Salminen, O Lyytikäinen

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December 2015 | Volume 3 | Issue 4

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

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[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 17, Issue 2 December 2015
<http://www.hhrjournal.org/>
Special Issue: Evidence of the Impact of Human Rights-Based Approaches to Health
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Volume 30 Issue 10 December 2015
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<http://www.health-policy-systems.com/content>
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Research

[The development of ORACLE: a measure of an organisation's capacity to engage in evidence-informed health policy](#)

Steve R Makkar, Tari Turner, Anna Williamson, Jordan Louviere, Sally Redman, Abby Haynes, Sally Green, Sue Brennan Health Research Policy and Systems 2016, 14:4 (14 January 2016)

Abstract

Background

Evidence-informed policymaking is more likely if organisations have cultures that promote research use and invest in resources that facilitate staff engagement with research. Measures of organisations' research use culture and capacity are needed to assess current capacity, identify opportunities for improvement, and examine the impact of capacity-building interventions. The aim of the current study was to develop a comprehensive system to measure and score organisations' capacity to engage with and use research in policymaking, which we entitled ORACLE (Organisational Research Access, Culture, and Leadership).

Method

We used a multifaceted approach to develop ORACLE. Firstly, we reviewed the available literature to identify key domains of organisational tools and systems that may facilitate research use by staff. We interviewed senior health policymakers to verify the relevance and applicability of these domains. This information was used to generate an interview schedule that focused on seven key domains of organisational capacity. The interview was pilot-tested

within four Australian policy agencies. A discrete choice experiment (DCE) was then undertaken using an expert sample to establish the relative importance of these domains. This data was used to produce a scoring system for ORACLE.

Results

The ORACLE interview was developed, comprised of 23 questions addressing seven domains of organisational capacity and tools that support research use, including (1) documented processes for policymaking; (2) leadership training; (3) staff training; (4) research resources (e.g. database access); and systems to (5) generate new research, (6) undertake evaluations, and (7) strengthen relationships with researchers. From the DCE data, a conditional logit model was estimated to calculate total scores that took into account the relative importance of the seven domains. The model indicated that our expert sample placed the greatest importance on domains (2), (3) and (4).

Conclusion

We utilised qualitative and quantitative methods to develop a system to assess and score organisations' capacity to engage with and apply research to policy. Our measure assesses a broad range of capacity domains and identifies the relative importance of these capacities. ORACLE data can be used by organisations keen to increase their use of evidence to identify areas for further development.

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Volume 37, Number 4, November 2015

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

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Volume 4, Issue 2, 2015

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

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January 2016 Volume 42, p1-74

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Editorial

Why is Pakistan a threat to “The Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan 2013–2018”? A look into the past decade

Tariq Khan, Bilal Haider Abbasi, Mubarak Ali Khan, Akhtar Nadhman
p4–6

Published online: November 16 2015

Abstract

The fight against endemic polio transmission is restricted to three countries: Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nigeria. In 2012, when the world saw the lowest numbers of cases from polio-reporting countries, the World Health Organization (WHO) initiated a comprehensive strategy, “The Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan 2013–2018”.¹ The plan (as it will be called from this point onwards) aims at: (1) wild polio virus (WPV) interruption by the end of 2014, (2) a strengthened immunization system and cessation of oral polio vaccine (OPV), (3) containment and certification, and (4) the quest for maintenance of a polio-free world by 2018.

Perspective

Impacts of neglected tropical disease on incidence and progression of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria: scientific links

G.G. Simon

Management Sciences for Health, Arlington VA, USA

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijid.2015.11.006>

Highlights

:: The neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) share a high degree of geographic overlap with malaria and HIV.

:: Research suggests that NTDs can impact HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria disease progression.
:: Immunological, epidemiological, and social cofactors contribute to disease impact.

Summary

The neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are the most common infections of humans in Sub-Saharan Africa. Virtually all of the population living below the World Bank poverty figure is affected by one or more NTDs. New evidence indicates a high degree of geographic overlap between the highest-prevalence NTDs (soil-transmitted helminths, schistosomiasis, onchocerciasis, lymphatic filariasis, and trachoma) and malaria and HIV, exhibiting a high degree of co-infection. Recent research suggests that NTDs can affect HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria disease progression. A combination of immunological, epidemiological, and clinical factors can contribute to these interactions and add to a worsening prognosis for people affected by HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria. Together these results point to the impacts of the highest-prevalence NTDs on the health outcomes of malaria, HIV/AIDS, and TB and present new opportunities to design innovative public health interventions and strategies for these 'big three' diseases. This analysis describes the current findings of research and what research is still needed to strengthen the knowledge base of the impacts NTDs have on the big three.

Reviews

Bridging the gap between evidence and policy for infectious diseases: How models can aid public health decision-making

Gwenan M. Knight, Nila J. Dharan, Gregory J. Fox, Natalie Stennis, Alice Zwerling, Renuka Khurana, David W. Dowdy

p17–23

Published online: November 3 2015

Highlights

:: Mathematical models are under-utilized in public health.
:: We discuss the current use of infectious disease modelling with a case study.
:: We lay out the methods and limitations of modelling infectious diseases.
:: We present a framework for improved interaction between public health and modellers.
:: This could lead to more transparent and evidence-driven policy decisions.

Summary

The dominant approach to decision-making in public health policy for infectious diseases relies heavily on expert opinion, which often applies empirical evidence to policy questions in a manner that is neither systematic nor transparent. Although systematic reviews are frequently commissioned to inform specific components of policy (such as efficacy), the same process is rarely applied to the full decision-making process. Mathematical models provide a mechanism through which empirical evidence can be methodically and transparently integrated to address such questions. However, such models are often considered difficult to interpret. In addition, models provide estimates that need to be iteratively re-evaluated as new data or considerations arise. Using the case study of a novel diagnostic for tuberculosis, a framework for improved collaboration between public health decision-makers and mathematical modellers that could lead to more transparent and evidence-driven policy decisions for infectious diseases in the future is proposed. The framework proposes that policymakers should establish long-term collaborations with modellers to address key questions, and that modellers should strive to provide clear explanations of the uncertainty of model structure and outputs. Doing so will improve the applicability of models and clarify their limitations when used to inform real-world public health policy decisions.

Original Reports

Age and Ebola viral load correlate with mortality and survival time in 288 Ebola virus disease patients

Jin Li, Hui-Juan Duan, Hao-Yang Chen, Ying-Jie Ji, Xin Zhang, Yi-Hui Rong, Zhe Xu, Li-Jian Sun, Ji-Yuan Zhang, Li-Ming Liu, Bo Jin, Jian Zhang, Ning Du, Hai-Bin Su, Guang-Ju Teng, Yue Yuan, En-Qiang Qin, Hong-Jun Jia, Shu Wang, Tong-Sheng Guo, Ye Wang, Jin-Song Mu, Tao Yan, Zhi-Wei Li, Zheng Dong, Wei-Min Nie, Tian-Jun Jiang, Chen Li, Xu-Dong Gao, Dong Ji, Ying-Jie Zhuang, Lei Li, Li-Fu Wang, Wen-Gang Li, Xue-Zhang Duan, Yin-Ying Lu, Zhi-Qiang Sun, Alex B.J. Kanu, Sheku M. Koroma, Min Zhao, Jun-Sheng Ji, Fu-Sheng Wang
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Volume 23, Issue 2, 2016

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Winter 2015 Volume 49, Issue 4 Pages 843–1070, e33–e48

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November 2015 - Volume 13 - Issue 3 pp: 200-296

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February 2016, Issue 1, Pages 1-205

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January 2016, Volume 70, Issue 1

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[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 26, Number 4, November 2015

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Volume 5 Issue 3 2015

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Volume 17, Issue 6, December 2015

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[Reviewed earlier]

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Volume 13, Issue 4, 2015

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Volume 213 Issue 3 February 1, 2016

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November 2015 Volume 27, Issue 8 Pages 1351–1545

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Winter 2015 Volume 43, Issue 4 Pages 673–913

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Journal of Medical Ethics

January 2016, Volume 42, Issue 1

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

Viewpoint

[To research \(or not\) that is the question: ethical issues in research when medical care is disrupted by political action: a case study from Eldoret, Kenya](#)

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Author Affiliations

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2Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH), Eldoret, Kenya

3Department of Child Health and Paediatrics, Moi University School of Medicine, Eldoret, Kenya

4Center for Bioethics, Indiana University, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

Correspondence to Dr Darlene R House, Emergency Medicine, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN 46202, USA; dhouse@iupui.edu

Abstract

While considerable attention has been focused on understanding the myriad of ethical analysis in international research in low and middle income countries, new issues always arise that have not been anticipated in guidelines or studied extensively. The disruption of medical care arising as a direct result of political actions, including strikes, postelection violence and related activities, is one such issue that leaves physician-researchers struggling to manage often conflicting professional responsibilities. This paper discusses the ethical conflicts that arise for physician-researchers, particularly when disruption threatens the completion of a study or completion is possible but at the expense of not addressing unmet medical needs of patients. We review three pragmatic strategies and the ethical issues arising from each: not starting research, stopping research that has already started, and continuing research already initiated. We argue that during episodes of medical care disruption, research that has been started can be continued only if the ethical standards imposed at the beginning of the study can continue to be met; however, studies that have been approved but not yet started should not begin until the disruption has ended and ethical standards can again be assured.

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Volume 4 Issue 4 December 2015

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Volume 36, Issue 4 (November 2015)

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Knowledge Management for Development Journal

Vol 11, No 1 (2015)

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Jan 16, 2016 Volume 387 Number 10015 p199-310

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

Articles

Under-5 mortality in 2851 Chinese counties, 1996–2012: a subnational assessment of achieving MDG 4 goals in China

Yanping Wang, Xiaohong Li, Maigeng Zhou, Shusheng Luo, Juan Liang, Chelsea A Liddell, Matthew M Coates, Yanqiu Gao, Linhong Wang, Chunhua He, Chuyun Kang, Shiwei Liu, Li Dai, Austin E Schumacher, Maya S Fraser, Timothy M Wolock, Amanda Pain, Carly E Levitz, Lavanya Singh, Megan Coggeshall, Margaret Lind, Yichong Li, Qi Li, Kui Deng, Yi Mu, Changfei Deng, Ling Yi, Zheng Liu, Xia Ma, Hongtian Li, Dezhi Mu, Jun Zhu, Christopher J L Murray, Haidong Wang

Summary

Background

In the past two decades, the under-5 mortality rate in China has fallen substantially, but progress with regards to the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 4 at the subnational level has not been quantified. We aimed to estimate under-5 mortality rates in mainland China for the years 1970 to 2012.

Methods

We estimated the under-5 mortality rate for 31 provinces in mainland China between 1970 and 2013 with data from censuses, surveys, surveillance sites, and disease surveillance points. We estimated under-5 mortality rates for 2851 counties in China from 1996 to 2012 with the reported child mortality numbers from the Annual Report System on Maternal and Child Health. We used a small area mortality estimation model, spatiotemporal smoothing, and Gaussian process regression to synthesise data and generate consistent provincial and county-level estimates. We compared progress at the county level with what was expected on the basis of income and educational attainment using an econometric model. We computed Gini coefficients to study the inequality of under-5 mortality rates across counties.

Findings

In 2012, the lowest provincial level under-5 mortality rate in China was about five per 1000 livebirths, lower than in Canada, New Zealand, and the USA. The highest provincial level under-5 mortality rate in China was higher than that of Bangladesh. 29 provinces achieved a decrease in under-5 mortality rates twice as fast as the MDG 4 target rate; only two provinces will not achieve MDG 4 by 2015. Although some counties in China have under-5 mortality rates similar to those in the most developed nations in 2012, some have similar rates to those recorded in Burkina Faso and Cameroon. Despite wide differences, the inter-county Gini coefficient has been decreasing. Improvement in maternal education and the economic boom have contributed to the fall in child mortality; more than 60% of the counties in China had rates of decline in under-5 mortality rates significantly faster than expected. Fast reduction in under-5 mortality rates have been recorded not only in the Han population, the dominant ethnic majority in China, but also in the minority populations. All top ten minority groups in terms of population sizes have experienced annual reductions in under-5 mortality rates faster than the MDG 4 target at 4·4%.

Interpretation

The reduction of under-5 mortality rates in China at the country, provincial, and county level is an extraordinary success story. Reductions of under-5 mortality rates faster than 8·8% (twice MDG 4 pace) are possible. Extremely rapid declines seem to be related to public policy in addition to socioeconomic progress. Lessons from successful counties should prove valuable for China to intensify efforts for those with unacceptably high under-5 mortality rates.

Funding

National "Twelfth Five-Year" Plan for Science and Technology Support, National Health and Family Planning Commission of The People's Republic of China, Program for Changjiang Scholars and Innovative Research Team in University, the National Institute on Aging, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Series

Antimicrobials: access and sustainable effectiveness

Exploring the evidence base for national and regional policy interventions to combat resistance

Osman A Dar, Rumina Hasan, Jørgen Schlundt, Stephan Harbarth, Grazia Caleo, Fazal K Dar, Jasper Littmann, Mark Rweyemamu, Emmeline J Buckley, Mohammed Shahid, Richard Kock, Henry Lishi Li, Haydar Giha, Mishal Khan, Anthony D So, Khalid M Bindayna, Anthony Kessel, Hanne Bak Pedersen, Govin Permanand, Alimuddin Zumla, John-Arne Røttingen, David L Heymann

Antimicrobials: access and sustainable effectiveness

International cooperation to improve access to and sustain effectiveness of antimicrobials

Christine Årdal, Kevin Outterson, Steven J Hoffman, Abdul Ghafur, Mike Sharland, Nisha Ranganathan, Richard Smith, Anna Zorzet, Jennifer Cohn, Didier Pittet, Nils Daulaire, Chantal Morel, Zain Rizvi, Manica Balasegaram, Osman A Dar, David L Heymann, Alison H Holmes, Luke S P Moore, Ramanan Laxminarayan, Marc Mendelson, John-Arne Røttingen

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Jan 2016 Volume 16 Number 1 p1-130 e1-e9

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January 2016; 36 (1)

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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>

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January 2016, Volume 22 No 1 pp1-113

<http://www.nature.com/nm/journal/v22/n1/index.html>

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December 2015; 44 (6)

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January 2016, VOLUME 137 / ISSUE 1

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Volume 33, Issue 12, December 2015

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[Spatiotemporal Evolution of Ebola Virus Disease at Sub-National Level during the 2014 West Africa Epidemic: Model Scrutiny and Data Meagreness](#)

Eva Santermans, Emmanuel Robesyn, Tapiwa Ganyani, Bertrand Sudre, Christel Faes, Chantal Quinten, Wim Van Bortel, Tom Haber, Thomas Kovac, Frank Van Reeth, Marco Testa, Niel Hens, Diamantis Plachouras

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Volume 30 - Issue 06 - December 2015

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Volume 82, Pages 1-118 (January 2016)

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Volume 8 Issue 3 November 2015

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January 2016; 26 (2)

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Volume 34 Issue 4 December 2015

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September 2015 Vol. 38, No. 3

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December 2015 Volume 35, Issue 12 Pages 2121–2228

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Winter 2016 Volume 14, Number 1
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Volume 7, Issue 12 (December 2015), Pages 15785-16884
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January 2016 Volume 21, Issue 1 Pages 1–156
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<http://unchronicle.un.org/>

Sustainable Energy

This issue focuses on sustainable energy, and explores topics such as universal energy access, increasing the use of renewable energy, improved energy efficiency and the nexus between energy and development.

Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies

An International Interdisciplinary Journal for Research, Policy and Care

Volume 10, Issue 4, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rvch20/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

World Heritage Review

n°77 - October 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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