



center for governance, evidence, ethics, policy, practice

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

The Sentinel

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

Week ending 27 February 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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:: [Week in Review](#)

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

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

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

:: Week in Review

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

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:: [Foundation/Major Donor Watch](#) :: [Journal Watch](#)*

Editor's Note:

The cessation of hostilities agreement in Syria and announcements involving the refugee crisis the conflict has spawned lead our Week in Review section. We include the full text of the Security Council resolution below.

Syria**Syrian Arab Republic: Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien - Statement to the Security Council on Syria, New York, 24 February 2016**

Initial text

Mr. President,

Next month, we will mark a grim anniversary: the brutal conflict will have torn Syria apart for five long years. It has been a relentless period of violence and destruction. The Syrian people have seen their country reduced to rubble, loved ones killed or injured, and millions of people displaced, either inside the country or in the region and beyond. They have suffered far too much and for far too long. The international community watched on as Syria became one of the largest and most destructive crises of our times, with the majority of the population – some 13.5 million people – in dire need of protection and humanitarian assistance.

The announcement by the chairs of the International Syria Support Group, the United States and the Russian Federation, of a nationwide cessation of hostilities scheduled to come into effect this weekend is a welcome development and a long-awaited signal of hope to the Syrian people. I echo the call of the Secretary-General for the parties to abide by the terms of the agreement to bring about an immediate reduction in violence as a first step towards a more durable ceasefire and to create the conditions necessary for an increase in humanitarian aid...

Security Council Unanimously Endorses Syria Cessation of Hostilities Accord, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2268 (2016)

26 February 2016

SC/12261

7634th Meeting (PM)

An hour before it was due to go into effect, the Security Council today unanimously endorsed the cessation of hostilities agreement aimed at ending five years of bloodshed in Syria.

The 15-member Council approved resolution 2268 (2016), endorsing the deal announced in the Joint Statement by the United States and the Russian Federation, Co-chairs of the International Syria Support Group. The resolution demanded that all parties to the agreement live up to its terms, and urged all Member States to use their influence to ensure that parties to the conflict fulfil their commitments and create the conditions for a durable and lasting ceasefire.

Briefing the Council before the vote, Staffan de Mistura, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Syria, said the cessation of hostilities was the result of lengthy and detailed discussions and the outcome of intense negotiations at the highest level. Speaking via videoconference from Geneva, he added that it was a "major achievement".

Much work for the implementation of the agreement lay ahead, he continued, stressing that Saturday would be a critical day and warning that there would be no shortage of attempts to undermine the process under way. The international community must work fast to address any incidents that may arise, while all parties must demonstrate restraint. He announced that,

provided the cessation of hostilities held and humanitarian access was kept open, he intended to reconvene formal Syria peace talks in Geneva on Monday, 7 March...

[Editor's text bolding]

Resolution

The full text of resolution 2268 (2016) reads as follows:

"The Security Council,

"Recalling its resolutions 2042 (2012), 2043 (2012), 2118 (2013), 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2170 (2014), 2175 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2199 (2015), 2235 (2015), 2249 (2015), 2253 (2015), 2254 (2015) and 2258 (2015), and Presidential Statements of 3 August 2011 (S/PRST/2011/16), 21 March 2012 (S/PRST/2012/6), 5 April 2012 (S/PRST/2012/10), 2 October 2013 (S/PRST/2013/15), 24 April 2015 (S/PRST/2015/10) and 17 August 2015 (S/PRST/2015/15),

"Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, and to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

"Recognizing the efforts of the Secretary-General in implementing resolution 2254 (2015) and noting, through his good offices and by his Special Envoy for Syria, the launch of the formal negotiations on a political transition process, consistent with paragraph 2 of resolution 2254 (2015), on 29 January 2016,

"Commending the commitment of the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) to ensure a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political transition based on the Geneva communiqué of 30 June 2012 in its entirety and to immediately facilitate the full implementation of resolution 2254 (2015), and emphasizing the urgency for all parties in Syria to work diligently and constructively towards this goal,

"Welcoming the ISSG statement of 11 February 2016, including the establishment of an ISSG humanitarian task force and an ISSG ceasefire task force,

"1. *Endorses* in full the Joint Statement of the United States and the Russian Federation, as Co-Chairs of the ISSG, on Cessation of Hostilities in Syria of 22 February 2016 and the Terms for the Cessation of Hostilities in Syria (hereafter referred to as 'the Annex') attached to the Statement, and demands the cessation of hostilities to begin at 00:00 (Damascus time) on 27 February 2016;

"2. *Demands* the full and immediate implementation of resolution 2254 (2015) to facilitate a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political transition, in accordance with the Geneva communiqué as set forth in the ISSG Statements, in order to end the conflict in Syria, and stresses again that the Syrian people will decide the future of Syria;

"3. *Demands* that all parties to whom the cessation of hostilities applies as set forth in the Annex (hereafter referred to as the "parties to the cessation of hostilities") fulfil their commitments laid out in the Annex, and urges all Member States, especially ISSG members, to use their influence with the parties to the cessation of hostilities to ensure fulfilment of those commitments and to support efforts to create conditions for a durable and lasting ceasefire; "

4. *Recognizes* the efforts of the Russian Federation and the United States to reach understanding on the Terms of the Cessation of Hostilities, and acknowledges and welcomes that the forces of the Syrian Government and those supporting it, as communicated to the Russian Federation, and the Syrian armed opposition groups, as communicated to the Russian Federation or the United States, have accepted and committed to abide by the Terms of the Cessation of Hostilities, and as such are now parties to it;

"5. ***Reiterates* its call on the parties to immediately allow humanitarian agencies rapid, safe and unhindered access throughout Syria by most direct routes, allow immediate, humanitarian assistance to reach all people in need, in particular in all besieged and hard-to-reach areas, and immediately comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law as applicable;**

"6. ***Expresses* support for the ISSG initiative, coordinated through the ISSG humanitarian working group, to accelerate the urgent delivery of humanitarian aid, with the view towards the full, sustained, and unimpeded access throughout the country,** including to Deir ez Zor, Foah, Kafraya, Az-Zabadani, Madaya/Bqin, Darayya, Madamiyet Elsham, Duma, East Harasta, Arbin, Zamalka, Kafr Batna, Ein Terma, Hammuria, Jisrein, Saqba, Zabadin, Yarmuk, eastern and western rural Aleppo, Azaz, Afrin, At Tall, Rastan, Talbiseh, Al Houle, Tier Malah/Al Gantho/Der Kabira, Al Waer, Yalda, Babila and Beit Saham;

"7. *Reaffirms* its support for a Syrian-led political process facilitated by the United Nations, requests the Secretary-General, through his good offices and the efforts of his Special Envoy for Syria, to resume the formal negotiations between the representatives of the Syrian government and the opposition, under the auspices of the United Nations, as soon as possible, and urges the representatives of the Syrian Government and the Syrian opposition to engage in good faith in these negotiations;

"8. *Welcomes* the cessation of hostilities as a step towards a lasting ceasefire and reaffirms the close linkage between a ceasefire and a parallel political process, pursuant to the 2012 Geneva communiqué, and that both initiatives should move ahead expeditiously as expressed in resolution 2254 (2015);

"9. *Calls on* all states to use their influence with the Government of Syria and the Syrian opposition to advance the peace process, **confidence-building measures, including the early release of any arbitrarily detained persons, particularly women and children, and implementation of the cessation of hostilities;**

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the implementation of this resolution, including by drawing on information provided by the ISSG ceasefire taskforce, and on resolution 2254 (2015), within 15 days of the adoption of this resolution and every 30 days thereafter;

"11. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter."

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UNHCR, UNICEF launch Blue Dot hubs to boost protection for children and families on the move across Europe

Joint UNHCR, UNICEF Press Release

26 February 2016

As part of a joint endeavour to step up protection for the growing numbers of children and others with specific needs arriving in Europe, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and UNICEF are setting up special support centres for children and families along the most frequently used migration routes in Europe.

Twenty Child and Family Support Hubs, to be known as "Blue Dots," will provide a safe space for children and their families, vital services, play, protection and counselling in a single location. The hubs aim to support vulnerable families on the move, especially the many unaccompanied or separated children at risk of sickness, trauma, violence, exploitation and trafficking.

While the situation continues to evolve, at present the first hubs are now operational or about to open in Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia. All 20 will be operational within the next three months.

The "Blue Dot" hubs come at a time when women and children account for two thirds of those crossing to Europe: In February, women and children made up nearly 60 per cent of sea arrivals compared to 27 per cent in September 2015. They will also aim to identify and protect children and adolescents travelling alone, and reunite them with family wherever possible, depending on their best interests.

"We are concerned about the welfare of unaccompanied boys and girls on the move and unprotected across Europe, many of whom have experienced war and hardship in making these journeys alone," said UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection Volker Türk. "The hubs will play a key role in identifying these children and providing the protection they need in an unfamiliar environment, where they may be at risk," he added...



Europe/migration: Five-country police agreement exacerbates crisis and puts vulnerable migrants at risk -- Zeid

GENEVA (25 February 2016) – The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein on Thursday expressed serious concern at security measures adopted at a recent meeting of the heads of police of five European countries*, which are already having a negative impact on the human rights of refugees and migrants in southern and central Europe, and are compounding the already exceptionally difficult situation in Greece.

"In the wake of the adoption of these measures last week, the treatment of refugees and migrants moving through some of these countries already appears to have changed, with seriously negative implications for their human rights," Zeid said. "Latest reports suggest chain deportations are now taking place all the way down the Balkan land route, which includes

Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, towards Greece. In addition, hundreds of Afghans were reportedly stranded in abject conditions for over five days on the border between The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia, and many other Afghans have been blocked from entering The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia from Greece, apparently solely on the basis of their nationality.”

The High Commissioner also regretted certain authorities’ reported refusal of entry to any people arriving at their borders, if they were unable to produce the documents specified in the agreement.

“Whether or not someone possesses a particular document has no bearing whatsoever on whether or not they are a refugee,” Zeid said. “There any number of reasons why a refugee may have to flee her or his country without valid travel documents. The lack of a valid document should never be a reason for refusing entry into an asylum procedure.”

“I understand the challenge facing the authorities in some European countries who are trying to cope with large numbers of migrants arriving on, or transiting, their territory, and efforts to improve the management of the situation would be very welcome indeed.” Zeid said. “However, this extraordinary agreement by police chiefs establishes a policy across five states that includes measures which seem to be incompatible with the human rights obligations of the countries concerned, all of which are bound by international human rights and refugee law.”

“I am particularly troubled that the agreement appears to enable the collective expulsion of non-nationals, acts explicitly prohibited under international law,” Zeid said.

The prohibition against collective expulsion entitles every non-national to an individualized examination of all the arguments used against his or her removal. It represents an important due process guarantee to prevent arbitrary expulsions of non-nationals. An integral element of the right to protection from collective expulsion and the right of access to an effective remedy is that an expulsion is stayed until its compliance with international human rights law has been finally determined.

The agreement, outlined in the “Joint Statement of Heads of Police Services” of the five countries, which was issued on 18 February, appears to authorize profiling people, and limiting “entry on humanitarian grounds,” solely on the basis of their nationality, and possession of identification documents, rather than on an individual assessment of whether or not they are in need of asylum or some other form of international protection of their human rights.

The agreement establishes extremely narrow criteria for allowing entry -- “fleeing war” – with no mention of “persecution” which is the key criteria for recognizing refugees under the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol and related international law. This narrow focus also appears to invalidate a number of other legitimate grounds according to which a person may be permitted to enter another State’s territory (for example, depending on circumstances, family reunification), under international and European human rights law.

“Alarming, given the primary duty of the police to protect people, the agreement contains no measures aiming at protecting these extremely vulnerable women, children and men on the move – there is, for example, not even a mention of special measures to protect people who

might be particularly at risk of human rights violations, including children, persons with disabilities, LGBT persons, older people, victims of torture or victims of gender-based violence or trafficking,” Zeid said. “Instead, the agreement appears to be solely concerned with applying stringent limitations of entry on people travelling along the so-called Balkan Land Route, and providing for the ‘controlled transfer of migrants,’ without sufficient safeguards.”

The adoption of the police measures followed the announcement by the Government of Austria of limitations both on the number of refugees to be accepted in 2016, and on the number of people who will be allowed to transit the country.

“These measures are exacerbating the chaos and misery all down the line, and especially in Greece, which is already overwhelmed. The up-stream border closures, are putting massive pressure on the country that is most in need of help. This could have unforeseen and devastating consequences on Greece and on the large number of people currently on its territory. I urge the five countries who signed last week’s agreement to carefully recalibrate the approach of their police forces and bring it fully in line with international law.”

The High Commissioner noted the repeated calls by the UN refugee agency, UNHCR, and by the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants Francois Crépeau, to the European Union to halt the continuous regression of the human rights of refugees and migrants.

Zeid urged EU and other European countries to “take steps to counter the myth-making, stereotyping, racism and xenophobia which have so distorted and politicized the migration debate, undermining efforts to govern the movements of refugees and migrants in rational ways that both protect their rights and ease the management challenges the whole of Europe is facing.”

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Zika virus [to 27 February 2016]

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)

<http://www.who.int/emergencies/zika-virus/en/>

WHO: [Zika Virus, Microcephaly and Guillain–Barré syndrome situation report](#)

26 February 2016

[Read the full situation report](#)

Summary

:: Between 1 January 2007 and 25 February 2016, a total of 52 countries and territories have reported autochthonous (local) transmission of Zika virus, including those where the outbreak is now over and countries and territories that provided indirect evidence of local transmission. Among the 52 countries and territories, Marshall Islands, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago are the latest to report autochthonous transmission of Zika virus.

:: The geographical distribution of Zika virus has steadily widened since the virus was first detected in the Americas in 2015. Autochthonous Zika virus transmission has been reported in 31 countries and territories of this region. Zika virus is likely to be transmitted and detected in

other countries within the geographical range of competent mosquito vectors, especially *Aedes aegypti*.

:: So far an increase in microcephaly cases and other neonatal malformations have only been reported in Brazil and French Polynesia, although two cases linked to a stay in Brazil were detected in two other countries.

:: During 2015 and 2016, eight countries and territories have reported an increased incidence of Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) and/or laboratory confirmation of a Zika virus infection among GBS cases.

:: Evidence that neurological disorders, including microcephaly and GBS, are linked to Zika virus infection remains circumstantial, but a growing body of clinical and epidemiological data points towards a causal role for Zika virus.

:: The global prevention and control strategy launched by WHO as a Strategic Response Framework¹ encompasses surveillance, response activities and research, and this situation report is organized under those headings. Following consultation with partners and taking changes in caseload into account, the framework will be updated at the end of March 2016 to reflect epidemiological evidence coming to light and the evolving division of roles and responsibilities for tackling this emergency.

WHO releases new guidance for Zika virus and potential complications

25 February 2016 -- WHO, today, releases guidance for health workers to assess microcephaly and identify and manage Guillain-Barré syndrome and other issues in relation to Zika virus and the current health emergency. Watch the video to learn how to prevent Zika virus by protecting yourself against mosquitoes.

:: Psychosocial support for pregnant women and for families with microcephaly and other neurological complications in the context of Zika virus

26 February 2016

:: Assessment of infants with microcephaly in the context of Zika virus

25 February 2016

:: Identification and management of Guillain-Barré syndrome in the context of Zika virus

25 February 2016

:: Breastfeeding in the context of Zika virus

25 February 2016

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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 27 February 2016]

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

Selected Press Releases/Meetings Coverage

26 February 2016

SC/12261

[Security Council Unanimously Endorses Syria Cessation of Hostilities Accord, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2268 \(2016\)](#)

An hour before it was due to go into effect, the Security Council today unanimously endorsed the cessation of hostilities agreement aimed at ending five years of bloodshed in Syria.

26 February 2016

SG/SM/17563-REF/1224

[Greatly Concerned over Rise in Refugee Restrictions, Secretary-General Urges All States to Keep Borders Open, Expand Legal Asylum Paths, Share Responsibilities](#)

26 February 2016

DSG/SM/943-GA/11765

[As General Assembly Debates Second 'Responsibility to Protect' Decade, Deputy Secretary-General Calls for Stronger Peacebuilding Commitments](#)

26 February 2016

GA/11764

['Responsibility to Protect' Remains Worthy, yet Elusive, Concept in Decade after World Leaders Pledge to End Atrocities, General Assembly Hears](#)

A decade after world leaders agreed on the responsibility to protect at a Headquarters world summit, the principle remained a worthy yet elusive concept, with success seen in some places, but with Syria standing out as a glaring example of the international community's failure to put it into practice, delegates said during a General Assembly thematic panel discussion today.

24 February 2016

SC/12258

[Humanitarian Chief, Briefing Security Council, Welcomes Cessation of Hostilities Accord as 'a Long-Awaited, Optimistic Sign' for Millions Suffering in Syria](#)

Welcoming the nationwide ceasefire agreement due to take effect in Syria on Saturday, the United Nations humanitarian chief described the development today as a long-awaited, optimistic sign for millions suffering in the war-torn country.

23 February 2016

SC/12253

[Speakers in Security Council Stress Need for Better Coordination, More Reliable Funding in United Nations Peacebuilding Efforts](#)

Member States and the United Nations must stop viewing peacebuilding solely as a post-conflict activity and focus more on coordinated programming and funding to prevent war and relapse into conflict, speakers in the Security Council said today.

UN OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 27 February 2016]

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

Selected Press Releases

Europe/migration: Five-country police agreement exacerbates crisis and puts vulnerable migrants at risk -- Zeid

GENEVA (25 February 2016) – The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein on Thursday expressed serious concern at security measures adopted at a recent meeting of the heads of police of five European countries*, which are already having a negative impact on the human rights of refugees and migrants in southern and central Europe, and are compounding the already exceptionally difficult situation in Greece...

[see Week in Review above for more details]

UN rights expert urges Russia not to implement the new extradition treaty with North Korea

GENEVA / SEOUL (26 February 2016) – The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Marzuki Darusman, urges the Government of the Russian Federation not to implement the extradition treaty signed with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) earlier this month.

According to reports, there are an estimated 10,000 North Korean regular labourers in Russia, some of whom stay in the country after their contracts have expired in order to seek asylum. Others fleeing the DPRK try to reach Russia through other countries.

"I am alarmed by the new extradition treaty signed between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Russian Federation on 2 February 2016. The treaty calls for transferring and readmitting individuals 'who have illegally' left their country and stay 'illegally' in another's territory.

In November 2015, Russia signed a separate extradition treaty with the DPRK, calling for mutual assistance in criminal matters. I am concerned that the latest treaty is much broader in scope and may lead to forced repatriation to the DPRK of individuals at risk of human rights violations, in contravention of Russia's international obligations.

Given the practice of the DPRK to send labourers to Russia, who often work in slave-like conditions, it is feared that such a treaty could also be used to capture and repatriate workers who attempt to seek asylum.

In fact the practice of sending workers abroad to be exploited may constitute state-sponsored enslavement of human beings, possibly amounting to a specific category of crime against humanity...

UN report documents litany of violations and abuses amid chaos in Libya

GENEVA (25 February 2016) – A UN report* published on Thursday has documented widespread violations and abuses committed in Libya since the beginning of 2014. The report recommends urgent measures to fight against impunity and to strengthen and reform the justice sector.

"Despite the human rights situation in Libya, the country only sporadically makes the headlines. A multitude of actors – both State and non-State – are accused of very serious violations and abuses that may, in many cases, amount to war crimes," said UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein.

To access the shorter version of the report, please go to:
http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/LY/A_HRC_31_47_E.pdf

To access a more extensive version, with detailed findings of the investigation and a map, please go to: http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/LY/A_HRC_31_CRP_3.pdf

Committee on the Rights of the Child [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

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

[to 27 February 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 27 February 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 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

UN OCHA [to 27 February 2016]

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

26 Feb 2016

[South Sudan: Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs calls for an end to the suffering of civilians in South Sudan](#)

26 Feb 2016

[Central African Republic: Central African Republic: The humanitarian community provides assistance to internally displaced people affected by recurrent accidental fires](#)

25 Feb 2016

[South Sudan: United Nations Emergency Fund Releases \\$21 Million to Assist People Affected by Conflict in South Sudan](#)

24 Feb 2016

[Syrian Arab Republic: Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien - Statement to the Security Council on Syria, New York, 24 February 2016](#)

22 Feb 2016

Syrian Arab Republic: Statement by the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Jordan [EN/AR]

UNICEF [to 27 February 2016]

http://www.unicef.org/media/media_89711.html

Selected Press Releases

UNHCR, UNICEF launch Blue Dot hubs to boost protection for children and families on the move across Europe

GENEVA, 26 February, 2016 – As part of a joint endeavour to step up protection for the growing numbers of children and others with specific needs arriving in Europe, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and UNICEF are setting up special support centres for children and families along the most frequently used migration routes in Europe.

[see Week in Review above for more details]

Statement by UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake on the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement in Syria

NEW YORK, 22 February, 2016 - For Syria's children, today's agreement on the terms of a cessation of hostilities is welcome news after five years of brutal conflict. UNICEF welcomes this diplomatic progress. Now it must be matched by action...

Children left injured and homeless after violence in Malakal, South Sudan

JUBA, South Sudan, 22 February 2016 - UNICEF is responding to the needs of children in the aftermath of the violence that occurred inside the Protection of Civilians (PoC) site in Malakal this week. At least 18 people were killed, with children injured, distressed and separated from their parents.

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [to 27 February 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

26 February 2016

UNHCR, UNICEF launch Blue Dot hubs to boost protection for children and families on the move across Europe

25 February 2016

First anniversary of the Abidjan Declaration on the eradication of statelessness

23 February 2016

UNHCR concerned by build up along borders and additional hardships for refugees and asylum seekers

IOM / International Organization for Migration [to 27 February 2016]

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

02/26/16

Mediterranean Migrant, Refugee Arrivals in Europe Top 120,000

Greece - Migrant and refugee arrivals in Greece and Italy have exceeded 120,000 in 2016, having reached the 100,000 milestone earlier this week.

IOM Evacuates More Stranded Burkinabe Migrants from Libya

02/26/16

Libya - As the humanitarian situation in Libya continues to deteriorate, the number of migrants seeking IOM support to voluntarily return to their home countries is rising.

South Korea's Entertainment Visas Pose Risk of Human Trafficking: Policy Forum

02/26/16

Republic of Korea - An IOM co-hosted policy forum in Seoul on Tuesday addressed the lack of legal protection for entertainment visa (E-6) holders in the Republic of Korea.

Resource Manuals Target Millions of Indonesian Overseas Workers

02/26/16

Indonesia - Efforts to reduce the vulnerability of Indonesia's vast migrant labour force received a boost this week with the release of six new resource books for overseas workers produced by IOM and Indonesia's national agency tasked with their wellbeing.

IOM, USAID Support Rehabilitation Services in Conflict-Affected Colombian Municipalities

02/26/16

Colombia - IOM and USAID are supporting the Colombian Ministry of Health and Social Protection to strengthen rehabilitation services in municipalities severely affected by armed conflict in Quibdó, Apartadó, Cartagena, and Popayán.

125 Afghan Nationals Voluntarily Return Home from Germany with IOM Support

02/24/16

Berlin, Kabul – Yesterday (23/02) 125 Afghan nationals departed voluntarily from Germany to Kabul with the help of an Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The group comprised 107 males and 18 females, of which 10 were children who traveled with members of their families. 13 families in total made the trip home.

They arrived safely in Kabul today (24/02), where they were welcomed by IOM staff.

UN Women [to 27 February 2016]

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

Date: 26 February 2016

Women of Fiji look for support to rebuild their livelihoods

Thousands of women in Fiji rely on income gleaned from selling produce or handicrafts at local markets to pay for their children's education and day-to-day living expenses. Tropical Cyclone Winston's destruction of crops and market buildings not only takes away their source of income, it threatens the food security of entire communities, as well as having wider implications for their families' health, nutrition and education.

Prime Minister of Pakistan: "There is no honour in honour killing"

Date: 23 February 2016

Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has re-affirmed the Government of Pakistan's commitment to end discrimination and violence against women and girls, and the end the menace of honour killings prevalent in Pakistan.

Gender Chart reveals how women fared in 2015 global progress

Date: 23 February 2016

The final edition of the Gender Chart details how women were faring in global progress in 2015 as the MDGs wrap up and the Sustainable Development Goals begin to take their place.

WHO & Regionals [to 27 February 2016]

Commentary

Africa: Now is the time to reach every child with life-saving vaccines

Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa

Dr Ala Alwan, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean

22 February 2016

[Excerpts]

Africa has an incredible opportunity to provide a better life for each and every child – and we know exactly how to seize it: provide universal access to immunization across the continent to protect them from vaccine preventable diseases. We have seen the transformative impact of efforts to reach more children with life-saving vaccines. Child deaths in Africa fell by half over the past generation, in large part due to the use of high impact interventions such as immunization...

Ministerial Conference on Immunization in Africa

To galvanize action, WHO's offices for Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean, in conjunction with the African Union and other partners, are hosting the first-ever Ministerial Conference on Immunization in Africa, in Addis Ababa from 24–25 February 2016.

This conference will represent a remarkable moment. For the first time ministers of health, finance and other sectors from across the continent will come together to declare their commitment to strengthening immunization services, and put universal access to immunization at the forefront of efforts to improve health and drive sustainable development. These leaders are taking action now because they know that vaccines are a smart investment and that their countries can and must do more.

:: *website - Ministerial Conference on Immunization in Africa*

.....

:: **WHO Regional Offices**

WHO African Region AFRO ::

:: Ministers pledge to improve access to vaccines at first-ever Ministerial Conference on Immunization in Africa

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (25 February 2016)

:: Meningitis A nearly eliminated in Africa through vaccination, reaching more than 235 million people - 23 February 2016

WHO Region of the Americas PAHO

:: [PAHO experts visit Colombia to support the response to Zika virus](#) (02/23/2016)

WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO

:: [Take concrete steps to fight antibiotic resistance, turn pledges into action: WHO](#)

23 February 2016

WHO European Region EURO

No new digest content identified.

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO

:: [Health at your fingertips: Using mobiles to help diabetics in Egypt](#)

24 February 2016

:: [Africa: Now is the time to reach every child with life-saving vaccines](#)

22 February 2016

WHO Western Pacific Region

:: [WHO supports Fiji's health needs caused by Tropical Cyclone Winston](#)

SUVA, 26 February 2016 – In response to Fiji's call for international assistance in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Winston, the World Health Organization (WHO) is providing emergency medical supplies and additional personnel to support Fiji as it organizes relief efforts for the survivors. Fiji has declared a State of Emergency.

UNAIDS [to 27 February 2016]

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

25 February 2016

[**Celebrate individuality and stand out on Zero Discrimination Day**](#)

23 February 2016

[**More investment needed in developing female-controlled HIV prevention options**](#)

Results from two recent studies of a monthly vaginal ring show modest protection from HIV infection for women

GENEVA, 23 February 2016—Results from two large-scale studies of a vaginal ring that releases the antiretroviral medicine dapivirine to prevent HIV among women have shown protection of around 30% against HIV. The results are encouraging and show the urgent need to expand investment in research and development for female-controlled methods of HIV prevention...

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNDP United Nations Development Programme [to 27 February 2016]

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

Feb 24, 2016

[**UNDP at 50: An investment in UN's key role in development**](#)

As it marks 50 years at the frontlines of international development, UNDP should be seen as an investment in the UN's critical role in helping to build a world free of poverty and inequality.

Helen Clark: Statement at ECOSOC on "Integration of development, humanitarian and peace pillars in the work of the UN system"

Feb 23, 2016

ECOSOC Chamber - New York, USA

The scale of today's humanitarian crises, with their profound impacts on peoples' lives and on the development trajectory of countries, calls for integrated responses from the international community, including from the United Nations.

Increasingly in the UN system we see new ways of working together across the traditional silos to help build resilience, reduce disaster risk, support recovery from crises of whatever kind, and to deliver together, even during protracted crises...

UNDP at 50: World must step up to beat poverty by 2030

Feb 23, 2016

Meeting the Sustainable Development Goals is only possible with a broad coalition of leaders from government, civil society, multilaterals and the private sector, said Helen Clark.

UN Division for Sustainable Development [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

UN Statistical Commission :: UN Statistics Division [to 27 February 2016]

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

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

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

United Nations Statistical Commission- 47th Session (2016)

The documents of the forty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission, to be held in New York from 8 - 11 March 2016 are available here.

47th session documents

Third meeting of the IAEG-SDGs

30 MAR - 1 APR 2016 Mexico City

The third meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), will be held from 30 March to 1 April 2016 in Mexico City, Mexico. The meeting will be hosted jointly by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico.

Meeting objectives

- :: Establishment of a tier system for indicators
- :: Establishment of procedures for the methodological review of indicators, including approval mechanisms of needed revisions
- :: Development of global reporting mechanisms, including identifying entities responsible for compiling data for global reporting on individual indicators and discussing data flow from the national to the global level
- :: Discussion of the work plan and next steps

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme [to 27 February 2016]

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

27/02/2016

G20 Financial Leaders Commit to Exploring Green Finance Options

Pollinators Vital to Our Food Supply Under Threat

Assessment Details Options for Safeguarding Pollinators

26/02/2016

Op-Ed: Year of green finance nurturing economy

by Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director

26/02/2016

UNEP Executive Director Accepts Appointment to Lead Oxford Martin School

25/02/2016

Strengthened Integration Needed for Effective Action on Air Pollution, Sustainable Consumption, Green Economy

Gearing up for the 2nd UN Environment Assembly, countries define an integrated approach to implementing environmental dimension of Sustainable Development Goals

25/02/2016

UN Development Programme Celebrates 50 Years of Work to End Poverty

24/02/2016

UNISDR UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

UN DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 27 February 2016]

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

25 February 2016, New York

Getting ready to implement the 2030 Agenda

The 2016 ECOSOC operational activities for development segment took place on 22-24 February to examine longer-term positioning of the UN development in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The event also reviewed the progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCP), which is the mechanism through which coherence, effectiveness and funding of the United Nations 27 programmes, funds and specialized agencies for development is evaluated.

UNESCO [to 27 February 2016]

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

Selected Press Releases/News

26 February 2016

UNESCO launches new Competency Framework

In April 2015 UNESCO launched a house-wide project with the participation of staff both at headquarters and in the field, to elaborate a new comprehensive competency framework for the Organization. This new framework seeks to clearly articulate the expected behavioral standards required of UNESCO staff and to provide renewed clarity on the core values that should permeate those behavioral standards. By incorporating both values and competencies in one single framework, a 'common language' will be adopted that will facilitate dialogue and link most of our Human Resources processes...

26 February 2016

UNESCO presented findings of study on web-radios in Morocco

...This study, conducted by Sebastien Negre, a consultant specialized in community radios, is an in depth investigation of 19 of the web radios of the 68 identified in the country. This initiative is part of the Maghreb bureau effort to promote freedom of speech both on and offline as well as media diversity and pluralism.

More than 40 participants from the different Moroccan Web radios answered our invitation. Among the attendees: Radio Campus Marrakech, Radio Ajial in Agadir, Darblanca in Casablanca, Mothers on Line in Tangiers, Sawte in Ouarzazate, e-Joussour in Rabat and Women of the South in Agadir.

In Morocco, the current legal framework of the media sector does not allow the web radios to have a presence on the airwaves. According to Sebastien Negre "Internet is the only media that allows the associations to promote their actions and principles to a wider audience." This study also analyzed the various economical and editorial characteristics of these online medias. As a community media, they mainly raise issues surrounding youths, sex, employment, equality and citizenship...

25 February 2016

Repositioning literacy to meet the 2030 Education Agenda targets

Literacy and numeracy are key to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development yet estimates show that there are 757 million adults, including 115 million youth, who cannot read or write a simple sentence and two-thirds of them are women.

UNESCO and the [UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning \(UIL\)](#) is holding a consultation meeting at the Organization's Headquarters in Paris on 25 February, 2016 to discuss the establishment of a Global Alliance for Literacy (GAL) within the framework of lifelong learning.

'The Global Alliance for Literacy is an ambitious attempt to make the major stakeholders work together to pull in the same direction to better support countries to achieve better,' said Arne Carlsen, Director UIL...

25 February 2016

UNESCO calls for research proposals: Social media and youth radicalization in the digital age

UNESCO launches a call for research proposals to provide a global mapping of research into the assumed roles played by social media in radicalization processes in all regions. The research should also examine ongoing steps being taken to counter radicalization, and provide an in-depth analysis on their potential impact on online and offline freedoms. Building on these empirical findings, the study should also include recommendations for various actors including state actors, Internet companies, news media, civil society and researchers.

UNESCO, therefore, invites interested researchers, institutions, research consortiums and organizations to submit their proposals, according to the General Terms of Reference and [Background note](#) by email to internetstudy(at)unesco.org before noon (CET), 24 March 2016. Proposals should include a detailed description of the research methodology, research outline, timeline and the requested funding in US\$ with a budget breakdown...

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 27 February 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 27 February 2016]

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

Posted February 26, 2016

UN-Habitat and partners complete Pakistani project

Islamabad, 26 February 2016, – UN-Habitat and [Muslim Hands International \(MHI\)](#), in close collaboration with the [Provincial Disaster Management Authority \(PDMA\)](#) and [FATA Disaster Management Authority \(FDMA\)](#) and funding from [Government of Japan](#), jointly held the Project Completion Ceremony for the “Shelter and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) support for the Temporarily Dislocated People (TDPs) from North Waziristan Agency living among host communities in 3 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan”...

UN-Habitat hosts youth discussion on urban youth and equity in Asia-Pacific

Medan, Indonesia, 23 February 2016 – Around 70 young people gathered in Medan, Indonesia on Saturday for a focus group discussion and survey research on urban youth and equity in Asia-Pacific.

Posted February 23, 2016

FAO Food & Agriculture Organization [to 27 February 2016]

<http://www.fao.org/news/archive/news-by-date/2016/en/>

27-02-2016

Governments from Latin America and the Caribbean to strengthen their fight against hunger at the FAO Regional Conference

Government representatives from Latin America and the Caribbean will meet in Mexico City from the 29th of February to the 3rd of March at the Regional Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAO, to deepen their joint efforts to eradicate hunger and malnutrition.

Pollinators vital to our food supply under threat

The assessment, titled Thematic Assessment of Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production is a groundbreaking effort to better understand and manage a critical element of the global ecosystem.

26-02-2016

Community-based forestry can be a driving force in boosting sustainability and people's livelihoods

Community-based forestry has shown itself to be a potent vehicle for promoting sustainable forest management, reducing poverty and generating jobs and income for rural communities, but unlocking its true potential will require greater support by governments through policy reforms and other measures.

23-02-2016

FAO puts sustainability on the menu in the world's fastest-growing food sector: fish

High-level delegations of fisheries ministries from more than 50 countries are gathering in Agadir with industry players to discuss a sector that provides the world with 17 percent of its animal protein and developing countries with more export revenue than meat, tobacco, rice and sugar combined.

22-02-2016

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 27 February 2016]

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

22 February –

Two IFAD-supported projects contribute to post-Ebola recovery in Liberia

Rome, 22 February 2016 –The Republic of Liberia and the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) signed two agreements today to finance the Tree Crops Extension Project (TCEP) and the Rural Community Finance Project (RCFP), initiatives that will boost farmers' income, generate much needed foreign exchange, and contribute more broadly to the country's post-Ebola recovery. The two projects will directly target 35,000 smallholder farmers.

The total investment for the two projects amounts to US \$41.6 million, which includes two IFAD loans totalling \$18.5 million, both granted on highly concessional terms, and a \$5 million IFAD grant. The government of Liberia will contribute \$2.4 million while the local population and private sector will contribute an additional \$6.7 million. The government of Liberia is seeking co-financing of \$9 million from other donors to fund the remainder...

21 February –

IFAD links research to development for impact in the Near East, North Africa and Europe region

ILO International Labour Organization [to 27 February 2016]

<http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/lang--en/index.htm>

No new digest content identified.

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization [to 27 February 2016]

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

26/2/16

Additional Clarifications on New Lithium Ion Shipment Restrictions

23/2/16

ICAO Council Prohibits Lithium-Ion Cargo Shipments on Passenger Aircraft

IMO International Maritime Organization [to 27 February 2016]
<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/Home.aspx>
No new digest content identified.

WMO World Meteorological Organization [to 27 February 2016]
<https://www.wmo.int/media/news>

WCRP calls for strengthening ocean observations

25 February 2016

The World Climate Research Programme's ocean observations community has contributed a commentary to Nature Climate Change warning that the ocean observing system is showing signs of degradation. The observing system that has been built up over the past several decades has made possible an unprecedented database of ocean observations. This has enabled scientists for the first time to measure deep ocean heat content, which is a critical part of the global energy budget, as well as pan-oceanic salinity, which is a critical part of the global water budget. Unfortunately, just as this observing system has started to generate this invaluable data it is starting to suffer from a lack of new investment.

Tropical Cyclone Winston causes devastation in Fiji

22 February 2016

Severe tropical cyclone Winston caused widespread damage and destruction as it hit the Fiji islands on 20 and 21 February as a Category 5 intensity storm, the highest category of cyclones, with winds averaging 220 kilometers per hour and gusts of 315 kilometers per hour.

The Fiji National Disaster Management Office is coordinating the response and has activated the National Emergency Operation Center. A 30-day state of natural disaster has been declared. Reports of casualties are rising.

Winston was one of the strongest cyclones ever to hit Fiji, with wind speeds more than enough to lift an airplane. Its intensity is comparable to that of Tropical Cyclone Pam, which caused devastation in Vanuatu on 14 March 2015. In addition to the high winds, storm surge, heavy swells and torrential rains led to serious flooding.

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 27 February 2016]
<http://www.unido.org/news-centre/news.html>

Tuesday, 23 February 2016

Kiribati becomes newest member state of UNIDO

VIENNA, 23 February 2016 – The Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) today welcomed the accession of the Republic of Kiribati as a new member of the Organization.

UNWTO World Tourism Organization [to 27 February 2016]
<http://media.unwto.org/news>

26 February 2016

UNWTO confident in Egypt's tourism recovery

UNWTO Secretary-General, Taleb Rifai, has expressed the Organizations' full confidence in the recovery of tourism in Egypt during a recent visit to the country. On the occasion, Mr. Rifai

met with Egypt's President, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, in the presence of the Egyptian Minister of Tourism, Hisham Zaazou. The President reiterated his full support to the tourism sector and its utmost determination in ensuring that Egypt is a safe, attractive and leading tourism destination saying "if tourism recovers, Egypt will recover".

ITU International Telecommunications Union [to 27 February 2016]

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

26 February 2016

IMT-2020 makes progress in developing 5G standard

Criteria refined for selection of 5G radio interface technologies

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity [to 27 February 2016]

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

2016-02-26

Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing edges closer to reaching goal of 100 ratifications by year's end

Montreal, 26 February 2016 – Ratifications by Togo and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has brought 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 to 72.

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USAID [to 27 February 2016]

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

February 22, 2016

New Antiretroviral Ring Safely Reduces HIV Infection by 31 Percent

A new vaginal ring providing sustained release of the antiretroviral (ARV) dapivirine was shown to help reduce the chance of HIV infection during vaginal sex among women ages 18 and older. USAID, through the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, provided \$25 million in support for the trial and ring licensure.

DFID [to 27 February 2016]

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

23 February 2016

UK and GSMA partner on mobile technology to fight global poverty

DFID Press release

Innovative mobile technology will provide life-enhancing services to millions of people in poverty as part of a new partnership between the UK government, the GSMA Foundation, and the GSMA, the organisation that represents mobile operators worldwide.

The UK's Department for International Development (DFID) will provide financial support to develop and roll out new technologies that can improve response to natural disasters, help women obtain financial services and boost access to safe water and clean energy across the developing world.

The partnership will make significant contributions to nine of the Global Goals including ending extreme poverty, promoting decent work and economic growth, innovation and infrastructure, affordable and clean energy, clean water and sanitation and addressing gender inequality...

ECHO [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

.....

African Union [to 27 February 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]

February 26, 2016

AU delegation arrives Saharawi Refugee Camps to celebrate 40th anniversary of Saharawi Republic proclamation

Saharawi Republic – 25 February 2016: An African Union delegation, led by the Commissioner for Social Affairs, Dr. Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko, has arrived in the Saharawi refugee camps near Tindouf, Algeria, ahead of celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the proclamation of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR).

The Commissioner is due to deliver a solidarity message on behalf of the AU Commission Chairperson, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, during a solemn ceremony planned for 27 February 2016, in Dakhla Refugee Camp in Tindouf...

...The SADR, also known as Western Sahara, is Africa's last colony, which has been under Morocco's occupation since 1975. For forty years, most Saharawis have been living in exile in refugee camps in Southwest Algeria. The SADR, however, controls the eastern third of the country.

At the 26th Ordinary Session of the Assembly, AU Heads of State and Government reiterated their call on the United Nations to set a date for the organisation of the referendum on self-determination for the people of Western Sahara.

February 24, 2016 | Press Releases

African ministers and leaders are discussing progress toward expanding immunization coverage at the African Union

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 24 February 2016 – African leaders, including ministers of health, finance, and other line ministries, have gathered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for the Ministerial Conference on Immunization in Africa – the first-ever ministerial-level convening with a singular focus on ensuring that people across the continent can get access to life-saving vaccines.

The conference – hosted by the World Health Organization Regional Offices for Africa (AFRO) and the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) in conjunction with the African Union Commission – will provide a powerful platform for African policymakers and advocates to celebrate progress

toward expanding immunization coverage; discuss strategies for tackling the biggest challenges facing vaccine efforts; foster country ownership for sustainable financing for immunization; and advocate for greater engagement with all stakeholders to ensure sustainable demand for immunization...

...In her remarks, Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa said for Africa to achieve its full potential and secure a bright future, "we must unite to ensure that every child on the continent receives the vaccines he or she needs to survive" adding that "It is unacceptable that one in five African children lack access to lifesaving vaccines"...

ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations [to 27 February 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]

February 24th, 2016|*ASEAN Secretariat News, Press Release*

ASEAN Ramps Up Regional Cooperation in Higher Education

BANGKOK, 24 February 2016 – Today, ASEAN and the European Union (EU) Support to Higher Education in ASEAN Region (SHARE) Programme commenced their second in a series of SHARE policy dialogues. In cooperation with the ASEAN University Network (AUN) and hosted by Chulalongkorn University, this two-day event brings together more than 150 high-level education officials, academics and students from ASEAN Member States and the EU.

The policy dialogue focuses on students' learning outcomes in the context of the various degree structures across ASEAN universities and is an important stepping-stone on ASEAN's path towards a more connected regional higher education system. "Building a regional higher education system with an effective and sustainable scholarship scheme at its core will not only benefit students and universities, but will form a cornerstone of a truly people-centred ASEAN community and contribute significantly to the competitiveness of ASEAN Member States as well as ASEAN as a whole," said H.E. Vongthep Arthakaivalvatee, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community...

February 22nd, 2016|*ASEAN Secretariat News, Press Release*

Press Release of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)

JAKARTA, 22 February 2016 – The Twelfth Meeting of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) was convened on 16-19 February 2016 at the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia.

The Meeting reviewed the status of projects and activities under the ACWC Work Plan 2012-2016. The Meeting finalised the ASEAN Early Childhood Care, Development and Education (ECCDE) Quality Standards particularly for childcare services (birth to 4 years of age) and pre-school services (4-6 years of age). The ECCDE Quality Standards was developed under the coordination of Malaysia. The Meeting also finalised the ASEAN Guideline for a Non-Violent Approach to Nurture, Care, and Development of Children, in All Settings which was developed under the coordination of Thailand.

Another four draft outcome documents of the ACWC's projects were reviewed by the Meeting, notably: a) draft Progress Report on Women's Rights, Empowerment and Gender Equality led by the Philippines; b) draft Regional Review of the Laws, Policies and Practices within ASEAN Member States Relating to the Identification and Treatment of Victims of Trafficking, especially Women and Children led by Lao PDR; c) outline of the Baseline Study on Child Protection

Systems in ASEAN Member States led by Indonesia; and d) outline of the Report on the ACWC Institutional Strengthening led by the Philippines. These four projects would be further discussed at the Special Meeting of ACWC on 31 March – 3 April 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the view of finalising them...

European Union [to 27 February 2016]

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

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

Commission launches Action Plan to crack down on wildlife trafficking

Date: 26/02/2016

European - Press release Commission Brussels, 26 February 2016 Today the European Commission adopted an EU Action Plan to tackle wildlife trafficking within the EU and to strengthen the EU's role in the global fight against these illegal activities.

What is the Digital Economy and Society Index?

Date: 25/02/2016

European Commission - Fact Sheet Brussels, 25 February 2016 What is the Digital Economy and Society Index?

The Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) is an online tool to measure the progress of EU Member States towards a digital economy and society. As such, it brings together a set of relevant indicators on Europe's current digital policy mix.

The DESI is composed of five principal policy areas which represent overall more than 30 indicators:

- :: Connectivity: how widespread, fast and affordable broadband is,
- :: Human Capital/Digital Skills: the digital skills of the population and workforce,
- :: Use of Internet: the use of online activities from news to banking or shopping,
- :: Integration of Digital Technology: how businesses integrate key digital technologies, such as e-invoices, cloud services, e-commerce, etc. and
- :: Digital Public Services: such as e-government and e-health.

To calculate a country's overall score, each set and subset of indicators were given a specific weighting by European Commission experts. Connectivity and digital skills ('human capital'), considered as foundations of the digital economy and society, each contribute 25% to the total score (maximum digital performance score is 1). Integration of digital technology accounts for 20%, since the use of ICT by the business sector is one of the most important drivers of growth. Finally, online activities ('use of Internet') and digital public services each contribute 15%.

The DESI online tool is flexible and allows users to experiment with different weightings for each indicator and see how this impacts overall rankings...

Remarks by Commissioner Avramopoulos at the launch of the European Migrant Smuggling Centre

Date: 22/02/2016

European Commission - Speech - [Check Against Delivery] The Hague, 22 February 2016

Ladies and gentlemen, we are gathered at a critical moment here today. It is already commonly known that more than a million desperate people have entered in the EU in 2015 – risking their lives throughout the entire itinerary of the process.

Many of those have used smuggling networks to come here...

...Migrant smuggling is a phenomenon that transcends national borders – and can therefore only be eradicated effectively through a joint approach.

That is why today is a more than timely occasion for the launch of the European Migrant Smuggling Centre, at the 2nd Europol and Interpol Operational Forum on migrant smuggling.

The EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling, adopted in May last year, set the goal to turn this crime from a low risk, high profit business, into a high risk, low profit one.

The European Migrant Smuggling Centre should boost the fight against ruthless migrant smuggling networks all across Europe.

:: It builds upon analytical and operational expertise developed within Europol over the years.

:: It also builds on the Joint Operation Team focused on the Mediterranean so called JOT MARE, which was officially launched in March 2015.

With the European Migrant Smuggling Centre, we want to go beyond the Mediterranean to cover the whole of the EU, and all forms of smuggling and routes

The Centre will be the European information hub to combat migrant smuggling.

:: It will provide support through analysis, cross-matching of data as well as through deployment of experts, operational meetings and joint actions.

:: It will enable Europol to be more operational on the ground.

:: Its presence in the hotspots will be strengthened through the deployment of EU Mobile Investigation Support Teams...

OECD [to 27 February 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]

22-February-2016

Global economy urgently needs a stronger and more coherent policy response to promote robust and inclusive growth

Policymakers need to deploy broad-based reform plans that incorporate monetary, fiscal, and structural policies to stimulate persistently weak demand, re-launch productivity growth, create jobs and build a more inclusive global economy, according to the OECD's annual Going for Growth report.

22-February-2016

All interested countries and jurisdictions to be invited to join global efforts led by the OECD and G20 to close international tax loopholes

The OECD today agreed a new framework that would allow all interested countries and jurisdictions to join in efforts to update international tax rules for the 21st Century. The proposal for broadening participation in the OECD/G20 Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Project will be presented to G20 Finance Ministers at their next meeting on 26-27 February in Shanghai, China.

22-February-2016

Urgent research needed into risks from nanomaterials in household waste

Urgent research is needed to assess the possible risks to human health and ecosystems from the ever-increasing amounts of engineered nanomaterials going into household waste and ending up in the environment, according to a new OECD report.

Organization of American States (OAS) [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) [to 27 February 2016]

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

26/02/2016

OIC Cosponsors Central African Republic Intra-Muslim Dialogue Conference at KAICIID

The General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation cosponsored and supported the Central African Republic Intra-Muslim Dialogue and Capacity Building Conference being hosted by King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID) in Vienna on 25-26 February 2016...

23/02/2016

The OIC Welcomes US-Russia Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities in Syria

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) welcomed the agreement reached by US President Barak Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin to impose a cessation of hostilities in Syria to be respected by all parties involved in military and paramilitary operations as of 27-2-2016. Such an agreement should contribute to the resumption of UN-sponsored Geneva negotiations to reach a political settlement for the Syrian crises, bring an end to the suffering of the Syrian people and the killings as well as the forced displacement to which they have been subjected for the last five years...

23/02/2016

OIC Calls Upon Afghani Ulama to Play their Role in the Efforts to Eradicate Polio from Afghanistan

An International Ulama Conference on Eradication of Polio was opened in Kabul, Afghanistan on 22 February 2016. The Conference has attracted over 100 Ulama (Islamic Scholars) from all parts of Afghanistan and beyond...

Group of 77 [to 27 February 2016]

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

25 February 2016

Remarks on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by Ms. Pilanya Niyomthai, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations, at informal meeting on the ECOSOC Dialogue on **Longer-term Positioning of the UN Development System in the context of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** (New York, 25 February 2016)

UNCTAD [to 27 February 2016]

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

Press Releases

23 Feb 2016 –

Advanced biofuels set to play key role in developing countries, UNCTAD report says

[see Week in Review above for details]

World Trade Organisation [to 27 February 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]

24 and 25 February 2016

GENERAL COUNCIL

DG Azevêdo urges WTO members to deepen their dialogue to build on recent successes

In his report to the General Council on 24 February as chair of the Trade Negotiations Committee, Director-General Roberto Azevêdo urged WTO members to “deepen their dialogue with each other” about how to advance the work of the WTO and to build on the recent success of the Ministerial Conference in Nairobi.

:: Report by the Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee

:: Audio: Statement by Roberto Azevêdo

IPU Inter-Parliamentary Union [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

International Criminal Court (ICC) [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

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World Bank [to 27 February 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]

Opinion

Closing the Gender Gap: Lessons from Africa

February 25, 2016

Makhtar Diop and Cristina Duarte The Huffington Post

We hear that girls in Africa don't have the same opportunities as boys to get a decent education, that discrimination is shutting women out of the jobs and assets they need to provide a better standard of living for their families, that the benefits of economic growth are being wiped out because women are having too many children, and that thousands of women are dying in childbirth because they don't have access to basic healthcare.

While all of these things are true, they also hide something that you rarely hear – that Africa has been making significant progress and even has a thing or two to teach the rest of the world...

World Bank Ready to Support Fijian Government Following Tropical Cyclone Winston

SYDNEY, February 21 2016 – The World Bank is deeply concerned for the people of Fiji as reports come in about the damage caused by Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Winston. The World Bank's disaster risk management...

Date: February 21, 2016 Type: Press Release Language: English

IMF [to 27 February 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]

February 22, 2016

Revenue Mobilization and International Taxation: Key Ingredients of 21st-Century Economies

Speech by Christine Lagarde, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund

Arab Fiscal Forum

Abu Dhabi,

African Development Bank Group [to 27 February 2016]

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

25/02/2016

AfDB Board approves 2016-2020 Country Strategy Paper for Tanzania

The African Development Bank Group (AfDB) will support Tanzania's economic transformation to inclusive and green growth with an indicative concessional resource assistance package estimated at over US \$1.1 billion over a five-year period.

AfDB-Seychelles: New development strategy targets diversification and resilience

25/02/2016 - The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank (AfDB) on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 approved the 2016-2020 Country Strategy Paper (CSP) for Seychelles, which aims to foster a more diversified economy with greater resilience to external shocks and job creation for youth.

AfDB and World Bank meet to discuss way forward for Africa Hydromet Program

22/02/2016 - Faced with drought, flooding, and climate-resilient infrastructure, adequate hydro-meteorological services are necessary to support resilient growth across a range of sectors in Sub-Saharan Africa. But given 80 percent of such services on the continent are under-funded, have weak capacity and deteriorated infrastructure, collaboration is seen as the only viable solution to help turn the situation around.

Adesina received by the Egyptian President during Africa 2016 forum in Sharm el-Sheikh

22/02/2016 - On February 20, 2016, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi received African Development Bank (AfDB) President Akinwumi Adesina during the "Africa 2016" forum held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

First meeting of insurance bodies urges closer cooperation to boost investments in Africa

22/02/2016 - Over 30 participants from 18 institutions that provide guarantees and insurance in Africa gathered in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from February 15 to 16, 2016 for the Abidjan Union, the first pan-African meeting of export credit and investments insurers in Africa.

Asian Development Bank [to 27 February 2016]

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

16 February 2016

News Releases

26 February 2016

ADB, New Zealand Help Boost Education Services in Ha'apai, Tonga After Cyclone Ian

Officials today participated in an opening ceremony and formal handover of schools rebuilt and refurbished after they were damaged by Cyclone Ian in 2014.

26 February 2016

More Than 3,000 Madang Villagers Complete Financial Literacy Course

More than 3,000 residents of Madang Province celebrated the completion of a financial literacy course today, bringing the total number of course graduates to almost 100,000.

25 February 2016

Faster Public Investment Crucial for Nepal's Recovery - ADB President

ADB President Takehiko Nakao today met with Nepal's Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli and Finance Minister Bishnu Prasad Paudel to discuss Nepal's economic recovery and social development after the earthquakes in 2015.

24 February 2016

ADB, LOMC Sign \$25 Million Loan to Boost Credit Access, Support Sri Lankan Micro Business

ADB and LOMC, one of Sri Lanka's leading non-bank microfinance institutions, today signed a \$25 million loan agreement to boost access to credit for individuals and micro enterprises.

23 February 2016

ADB President Announces Scaled-Up Support for Sri Lanka to Over \$2 Billion for 2016-2018

ADB President Takehiko Nakao today met with Sri Lanka's President Maithripala Sirisena and other government officials, reaffirming ADB's strong commitment to support Sri Lanka's continued development.

23 February 2016

ADB to Provide \$2 Million Emergency Assistance to Fiji After Cyclone Winston

ADB will provide \$2 million in emergency assistance to help the government and people of Fiji to cope with and recover from the damage caused by Tropical Cyclone Winston.

23 February 2016

Innovative Auctions to Channel Funds to Small Sri Lanka Firms

ADB will provide \$100 million through innovative bank auctions to help channel more funds to smaller Sri Lankan firms that struggle to access the finance they need to grow.

23 February 2016

[ADB to Help Sri Lanka Expand Colombo Port Operations Using PPP](#)

ADB and the Sri Lanka Ports Authority today signed a transaction advisory services agreement to develop the East Container Terminal of Colombo Port through a public-private partnership.

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

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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 27 February 2016]

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

Published: 25 February 2016

[Can A Bath Of Milk And Honey Replace Female Genital Mutilation?](#)

[Alternative rites of passage]

Aravind Eye Care System [to 27 February 2016]

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

[Undated]

[Farm Fest Award for Aravind – Pondicherry](#)

Pondicherry

The Department of Agriculture, Government of Puducherry conducted 30th Flower, Vegetable and Fruit show 2016 from 24th to 26th January 2016. Aravind Eye Hospital, Pondicherry participated and won First Prize for Ornamental and Kitchen Garden, as well as Second Prize for Herbal Garden. Certificates and a memento were given by the Department of Agriculture, Puducherry. Staff got First Prize for Vegetable and Fruit Carving second prize for Rangoli. It is for the six consecutive year that Aravind - Pondicherry receives first prize for Ornamental Garden.

BRAC [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

CARE International [to 27 February 2016]

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

26th Feb 2016

Cyclone Winston: Women the backbone of Fiji's disaster recovery

Fiji

As the international relief effort in Fiji continues, humanitarian organisation CARE says it is critical international aid targets the specific needs of women and girls.

SYRIA CRISIS: Aid and civilians attacked as leaders talk ceasefire

23rd Feb 2016 *Syria*

Just as the world's leaders committed themselves to get aid delivered to millions of Syrians in need, aid agencies warn that this has been one of the worst months on record with many reports of indiscriminate attacks on aid and civilians.

ETHIOPIA EL NIÑO DROUGHT: In eight weeks, millions will have no food if funding gap persists

23rd Feb 2016 *Ethiopia*

Ethiopia is now firmly in the epicentre of the global El Niño crisis, with widespread drought severely impacting large swathes of the north, central and eastern highlands. With a gap in the supply fast approaching, over 10 million are at risk of going without food by April. ...

FIJI CYCLONE WINSTON: CARE warns of disease outbreaks

22nd Feb 2016

After the devastation of tropical cyclone Winston on Fiji, CARE warns of disease outbreaks, with water supplies cut off and thousands still seeking emergency shelter.

Casa Alianza [to 27 February 2016]

Covenant House [to 27 February 2016]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

Clubhouse International [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Danish Refugee Council [to 27 February 2016]

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

26.02.16

Danish Refugee Council provides emergency response after large scale destruction in Malakal, South Sudan

Around 30,000 internally displaced persons experienced another traumatic displacement when serious violence occurred last week in an established Protection of Civilians (PoC) site in Malakal, South Sudan. The site was populated by almost 50.000 South Sudanese who had sought protection from the civil war.

24.02.16

Closing of borders in Europe is the wrong way to go

The Danish Refugee Council warns against the closing of European national borders, which takes place in many places in Europe due to the current influx of refugees. It can result in large refugee camps in the countries at Europe's outposts and could eventually force people to stay inside countries as Syria and Iraq. The latest example of the control of borders is that Afghans are now being rejected at the border between the Former Yugoslavia Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Greece.

ECPAT [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Fountain House [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Handicap International [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Heifer International [to 27 February 2016]

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

Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2016

Heifer International Weekly

HelpAge International [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

IRC International Rescue Committee [to 27 February 2016]

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

Latest Press Releases

25 Feb 2016

[International Rescue Committee Disappointed by Austria, Balkan States' Decision to Institute New Measures on Refugees Seeking Sanctuary in Europe](#)

23 Feb 2016

[Deterioration in southern Syria highlights urgency of President Obama's meeting with King of Jordan](#)

22 Feb 2016

[IRC: Macedonia border closure to Afghans another example of arbitrary decisions which threaten the lives & wellbeing of refugees](#)

22 Feb 2016

[The International Rescue Committee welcomes the European Council's commitment to making urgently needed humanitarian assistance available for refugee response within the EU](#)

ICRC [to 27 February 2016]

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

Selected News Releases and Articles

[Syria: "Time to end this horrendous war" says ICRC president](#)

The president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Peter Maurer, has urged the parties to the Syrian conflict to allow aid deliveries to all people in need and to continue to work towards a political solution to end the suffering o

26-02-2016 | News release

[Ukraine crisis: ICRC participates in release and transfer of nine conflict-related detainees](#)

Kiev/Donetsk (ICRC) – Today, nine detainees held in connection with the conflict in Ukraine were released and transferred back to their place of origin.

26-02-2016 | News release

[Iran: National Societies meet to discuss how migrants can keep in touch](#)

Tehran (ICRC) –The Iranian Red Crescent and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) hosted a conference on helping migrants maintain ties with family members.

25-02-2016 | News release

[Paul Pogba to present €100,000 cheque to ICRC on behalf of UEFA](#)

For the ninth consecutive year, UEFA has set aside €100,000 for the ICRC.

23-02-2016 | News release

IRCT [to 27 February 2016]

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

News

[US Court of Appeals: Rasmieh Odeh must be allowed to submit psychological evidence of torture](#)

26 February 2016

News

[Scientific Symposium: Megan Berthold from the Scientific Committee explains why an event like the Symposium is needed](#)

22 February 2016

Islamic Relief [to 27 February 2016]

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

February 23, 2016

[Why is the World Humanitarian Summit important?](#)

Today, as we reach three months until the world's first World Humanitarian Summit, Islamic Relief explains why the initiative is so important.

February 23, 2016

[A Quick & Easy Guide to the World Humanitarian Summit](#)

The World Humanitarian Summit will be held in 2016, and its focus is on innovative ways to respond to the growing humanitarian needs in the country. We explain what it's all about and why Islamic Relief has been involved in the process from the beginning.

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières [to 27 February 2016]

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

Press Releases

[Patent Challenge Hearing on Gilead Hepatitis C Drug Sofosbuvir Starts in India](#)

February 26, 2016

New York/New Delhi—In proceedings that could have major implications for millions of people waiting for affordable access to a lifesaving hepatitis C drug, the Indian Patent Office this week began hearings to determine whether US pharmaceutical company Gilead Sciences deserves a patent for sofosbuvir, a hepatitis C drug for which the company currently charges \$1,000 per pill in the US.

Press release

[Developing Countries Hit with High Price Tag for Critical New TB Drug](#)

February 24, 2016

International medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) today expressed great concern at the high price announced for the new tuberculosis (TB) drug delamanid. Japanese pharmaceutical company Otsuka said that it would make delamanid available to some developing countries at a price of \$1,700 per treatment course.

Press release

[Kenya: MSF Warns of Possible Cholera Spike if Poor Conditions in Wajir are Not Addressed](#)

February 22, 2016

As the rainy season approaches in Wajir, northeastern Kenya, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) warns that the substandard water and sanitation

situation is creating ideal conditions for a future increase in cholera cases. While today patient numbers in the cholera treatment center in Wajir Hospital are stable, MSF urges for an immediate improvement in sanitation services to avoid another spike in cases.

Field news

CAR: MSF Distributes Aid Following Fire

February 25, 2016

After a recent large fire destroyed the makeshift shelters and belongings of at least 449 families in the Batangafo displaced persons camp, one of the largest in Central African Republic (CAR), Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) teams rapidly organized to distribute emergency kits including cooking and hygiene items for those affected.

Field news

South Sudan: Its Compound Looted, MSF Still Treats Wounded Amid Fighting in Pibor

February 24, 2016

A Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) medical compound was looted during fighting that began on the afternoon of Tuesday, February 23, in the town of Pibor, in South Sudan's Jonglei State. The fighting, which continued into today, wounded at least 35 people and drove approximately 1,000 to seek shelter at the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) base in the area.

Field news

Thousands Stranded by Border Restrictions in Greece and the Balkans

February 23, 2016

Thousands of men, women, and children are stranded between Greece and the Balkans after the sudden imposition of new border restrictions for Afghan refugees on the Western Balkans route this week. Refugees are being provided with no information and little-to-no humanitarian assistance, and are at risk of violence and abuse.

Mercy Corps [to 27 February 2016]

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

FEBRUARY 20, 2016

MERCY CORPS ON SYRIA: HUMANITARIAN AID FOR ALL, NOW

Global Organization Calls for Unfettered, Sustained Humanitarian Access across Syria

STATEMENT FROM NEAL KENY-GUYER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF MERCY CORPS

Operation Smile [to 27 February 2016]

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

Program Schedule

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

OXFAM [to 27 February 2016]

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

25 February 2016

[Oxfam water filters arrive in Fiji for Cyclone Winston response](#)

Oxfam water filtering equipment that will be vital in preventing the spread of waterborne disease in the weeks following Severe Tropical Cyclone Winston has arrived on the ground in Fiji, as Oxfam steps up its response.

[Southern Africa faces "litmus test" to help millions of people now suffering from worsening regional food crisis](#)

24 February 2016

Aid donors and southern African governments must take immediate and substantial action to help poor people cope with a rapidly-deteriorating regional food crisis, fuelled by El Nino-related drought and crop failures.

[Oxfam water & hygiene expert reports back from cyclone hit Fiji](#)

24 February 2016

Oxfam water and hygiene expert Carlos Calderon has landed in Fiji, where Oxfam is gearing up its aid efforts following the complete destruction left by Cyclone Winston.

[Oil, gas and mining transparency initiative facing crisis of relevance and legitimacy: Oxfam](#)

23 February 2016

Oxfam raised the alarm today that a leading global transparency initiative for the oil, gas and mining sector faces a crisis of relevance and legitimacy. As the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) meets for its Global Conference in Lima, Peru this week, Oxfam calls on the EITI Board and stakeholders to regain its position as a leader in reforming the industry.

[Winnie Byanyima appointed to UN High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment](#)

23 February 2016

Oxfam International Executive Director Winnie Byanyima says she is "honored" at her appointment by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon to the first-ever High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment.

[Water high priority in Cyclone Winston response](#)

23 February 2016

Access to clean water and sanitation will be one of the greatest needs in Fiji's Tropical Cyclone Winston response, and must be prioritised, Oxfam said today. Clean water for drinking and hand washing is essential for the prevention of waterborne diseases after a disaster.

[Fiji Government trying to contact Tropical Cyclone Winston blackspots as death toll rises](#)

22 February 2016

The Fijian Government is still trying to contact areas that haven't been heard from since being struck by Severe Tropical Cyclone Winston on the weekend. Oxfam in the Pacific Regional Director Raijeli Nicole said communication blackspots were making it very hard to assess damage and determine the scale of the response required.

Norwegian Refugee Council [to 27 February 2016]

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

Colombia

New tensions affect the peace process

Oda Lykke Mortensen (25.02.2016)

New tensions arise in the three-year-long peace process between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). It is believed to be less likely the parts will meet the deadline of 23 March. Our Country Director in Colombia, Christian Visnes, explains the situation.

Pact [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Partners In Health [to 27 February 2016]

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

Feb 23, 2016

Lesotho: First Patients Enrolled in Revolutionary Tuberculosis Project

PIH's Dr. KJ Seung gives up an update on endTB, a project aimed at revolutionizing treatment for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis. [Read More](#) ►

PATH [to 27 February 2016]

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

Press release | February 22, 2016

Meningitis A nearly eliminated in Africa through vaccination, reaching more than 235 million people

Officials at Addis conference plan transition from mass campaigns to use in childhood immunization programs to prevent resurgence of deadly epidemics.

Plan International [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Save The Children [to 27 February 2016]

http://www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGIpI4E/b.9357111/k.C14B/Press_Releases_2016/apps/nl/newsletter2.asp

Press Releases

Thousands of Children Affected by Cyclone Winston in Fiji Could Face Prolonged Stays in Evacuation Centers, Warns Save the Children

February 22, 2016

Families in Fiji Prepare for Impacts of Category 5 Cyclone Winston, Most Powerful

Storm to Hit the Island Nation Since Records Began

February 20, 2016

Growing Fears for Remote Communities in Aftermath of Cyclone Winston as Monster Storm Finally Leaves Fiji

February 20, 2016

SOS-Kinderdorf International [to 27 February 2016]

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

26.02.2016

Living in the shadows of the Bhopal tragedy

- Sanjay Verma was one of only three members of his family to survive the December 1984 Bhopal gas leak and, along with his sister Mamta, grew up in an SOS family in the central Indian city.

Tostan [to 27 February 2016]

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

February 22, 2016

Abandonment of Harmful Practices: A Growing Movement

As Tostan approaches the celebration of its 25th Anniversary this week, we want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible changes we've witnessed over the past 25 years. This has included major progress in the community-led movement for the abandonment of female genital cutting (FGC) since the village of Malicounda Bambara in Senegal first declared their public abandonment of this harmful traditional practice in 1997.

To date, over 7,500 communities across West Africa—who have directly and indirectly participated in our human rights-based education program, the Community Empowerment Program (CEP)—have participated in public declarations to promote human rights and abandon harmful practices like FGC, child marriage, and gender-based violence...

Women for Women International [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

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ChildFund Alliance [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

CONCORD [to 27 February 2016]

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

[European NGO confederation for relief and development]

Monday, 22 February 2016

CONCORD meets the DEVE Committee - livestreamed workshop

CONCORD Europe has been invited to meet the DEVE Committee on February 23rd at the Parliament. The Sustainable Development Goals, the Cotonou agreement, the Multiannual Financial Framework as well the ODA definition will be in the agenda.

Disasters Emergency Committee [to 27 February 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 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

END Fund [to 27 February 2016]

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

Press Releases and Major Announcements

No new digest content identified.

Gavi [to 27 February 2016]

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

26 February 2016

Positive impact of Advance Market Commitment highlighted in report

Innovative financing mechanism helping pneumococcal vaccines reach poorest children in record time.

Geneva,– Children in the world’s poorest countries are being protected against the leading cause of pneumonia more quickly than ever thanks in part to the influence of the pilot Advance Market Commitment (AMC) for pneumococcal vaccines, an independent evaluation report published today confirms.

The AMC Outcomes and Impact Evaluation examined the role of the AMC in the successful introduction of the pneumococcal vaccine into the routine immunisation programmes of more than 50 developing countries since 2010. Historically it has taken more than a decade for the first children in developing countries to access the same new, effective vaccines as children in richer countries. In this case, newly developed pneumococcal vaccines were provided to developing countries within a year.

The report concludes that “the introduction of pneumococcal conjugate vaccines through the AMC pilot has accelerated immunisation coverage against pneumococcal disease across 53 Gavi counties to date, with 49 million [children] fully immunised [against the disease]”. The report also confirms that manufacturers made decisions to expand capacity to serve Gavi countries’ requirements in response to the AMC and its supply agreements...

Global Fund [to 27 February 2016]

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

25 February 2016

Global Fund Supports Health Investments in Mali

BAMAKO, Mali - Mali and the Global Fund strengthened their partnership by signing three new grant agreements totalling €108 million to achieve greater impact against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and to build sustainable systems of health.

The financial resources provided through the Global Fund come from many sources and partners, including France, which was represented at a signing ceremony this week...

...The HIV grant of €46 million aims to provide access to anti-retroviral treatment for people living with HIV and by ensuring that at least 65 percent of HIV-positive pregnant women receive treatment to prevent the transmission of the virus to her child.

The malaria grant of €55 million will permit the distribution of mosquito nets in three highly affected regions of the country and the provision of effective treatment for all adults and children diagnosed with malaria.

Mali will use the tuberculosis grant of €7.5 million to increase the treatment success rate for patients with tuberculosis and to ensure that, by 2017, 90 percent tuberculosis patients co-infected with HIV also receive anti-retroviral treatment...

Hilton Prize Coalition [to 27 February 2016]

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

An Alliance of Hilton Prize Recipients

Part 3 of the Storytelling Series in Nepal: This Humanitarian Spirit

Posted February 26, 2016 ·

InterAction [to 27 February 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 to drive adoption of locally owned, integrated solutions."

No new digest content identified.

Start Network [to 27 February 2016]

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

[Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies]

No new digest content identified.

Muslim Charities Forum [to 27 February 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.

No new digest content identified.

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Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

CHS Alliance [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

EHLRA/R2HC [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) [to 27 February 2016]

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

Report Synopsis

Date: 2016/02/24

Displacement due to conflict, Sudan

On 23 February 2016 we responded to a funding alert in response to displacement upsurge as a result of conflict in Sudan.

An estimated 73,000 people are reported to be displaced from Jebel Marra to North and Central Darfur. Because of this escalation in displacement there are increased needs for water, sanitation and hygiene.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)'s Financial Tracking Service (FTS), donors have committed/contributed US\$37.1 million of humanitarian assistance to Sudan since the start of 2016. In 2015, a total of US\$650.1 was committed/contributed.

:: [Read our full analysis of the current funding situation.](#) Accompanying data is available in [Excel](#) and [Open Document](#).

GHA AND THE START NETWORK

The GHA Programme is partnering with the [START network](#) to help to inform its funding allocation decisions. The START network is a consortium of British-based humanitarian INGOs, which has recently launched its own [fund](#) to help fill funding gaps and enable rapid response to under-reported crises where need is great.

When the START members issue a funding alert, we produce (within 12 hours) a rapid overview of the humanitarian funding picture – recent funding, an overview of appeals and funds, and analysis of donor trends. The analysis is targeted not only at the START network but also to a wider set of stakeholders engaged in these crises – including donors, humanitarian organisations, analysts, advocates and citizens

The Sphere Project [to 27 February 2016]

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

24 February 2016 | Sphere Project

Sphere e-learning course now available to UN humanitarian staff

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is offering the Sphere Handbook in Action e-learning course to its over 2,000 staff across the world. The course has been incorporated into the new OCHA learning platform, being launched in February.

Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP) [to 27 February 2016]

<https://phap.org/>

25 February 2016

Cautious optimism from NGOs in PHAP event on Summit report

On 18 February 2016, PHAP hosted an online event in collaboration with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) on "One Humanity: Shared Responsibility," the Report of the U.N. Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). The event provided a platform for NGO

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Center for Global Development [to 27 February 2016]

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

Selected Press Releases, Blog Posts, Publications

Global Health Donors Viewed as Regulators of Monopolistic Service Providers: Lessons from Regulatory Literature - Working Paper 424

2/26/16

Han Ye

Controlling healthcare costs while promoting maximum health impact in the recipient countries is one the biggest challenges for global health donors. This paper views global health donors as the regulators of monopolistic service providers, and explores potential optimal fund payment systems under asymmetric information. It provides a summary and assessment of optimal price regulation designs for monopolistic service providers.

Designing Contracts for the Global Fund: Lessons from the Theory of Incentives - Working Paper 425

2/26/16

Liam Wren-Lewis

This paper uses contract theory to suggest simple contract designs that could be used by the Global Fund. Using a basic model of procurement, we lay out five alternative options and consider when each is likely to be most appropriate. We ultimately provide a synthesis to guide policy makers as to when and how 'results-based' incentive contracts can be used in practice.

Balancing Financial Integrity with Financial Inclusion: The Risk-Based Approach to "Know Your Customer"

2/25/16

Alan Gelb

Recognizing the importance of financial inclusion as a policy objective, regulators have endorsed the use of a risk-based approach (RBA) towards know-your-customer (KYC) requirements aimed at strengthening financial integrity. This paper considers applications of the RBA in domestic banking, mobile money and international financial transactions against the features of a rigorous RBA where both the rigor and level of due diligence and the structure and balance of incentives should be proportional to the balance of risks, including that of exclusion. Recommendations include greater attention to national identification systems and to encourage the use of digital technology to shift from cash-cash wire transfers to more transparent account-account transactions between identified holders.

ODI [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Urban Institute [to 27 February 2016]

<http://www.urban.org/about/media>

Testimony

Understanding the Rates, Causes, and Costs of Churning in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Gregory B. Mills February 26, 2015

Testimony before the Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Nutrition, United States House of Representatives

In this testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture's Subcommittee on Nutrition, Greg Mills presents research findings on participant churning in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) including the rates, causes and costs of participant churn in SNAP, which occurs when households receiving SNAP exit the program and then re-enter within several months. Findings include that churn rates across the six states that were studied range from 17 to 28 percent for FY 2011 and that the causes of churn are due primarily to procedural difficulties experienced by participants rather than fluctuations in the earnings of SNAP recipients.

[View the testimony here.](#)

World Economic Forum [to 27 February 2016]

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

News 25 Feb 2016

Social Innovation: Proving the Link between Corporate and Societal Value

:: A new World Economic Forum study shows how social innovation is increasingly entering the business mainstream

:: The report profiles best practices from major multinationals and leading regional companies; hotspot reveals social innovation highly active in healthcare, pharmaceuticals, financial services, IT, agriculture, consumer goods and retail, chemicals, energy and telecommunications

Geneva, Switzerland, 25 February 2016 – The World Economic Forum today launched a new report, "Social Innovation: A Guide to Achieving Corporate and Societal Value", profiling companies helping underserved communities and showing why social innovation is becoming an

increasingly relevant strategy for companies to pursue. The report illustrates what social innovation strategies and business models look like, what the range of opportunities are, and the business benefits companies can get from pursuing them. It also covers best practices from companies on how best to implement such models in ways that support business goals.

Social innovation is defined by the Forum's Global Agenda Council on Social Innovation as "the application of innovative, practical, sustainable, market-based approaches to benefit society in general, and low-income or underserved populations in particular". The report released in collaboration with Oliver Wyman draws from workshops and interviews with over 30 executives from major multinationals and leading companies and advice from the Forum's Global Agenda Council on Social Innovation to offer recommendations for companies...

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:: Foundation/Major Donor Watch

We will primarily monitor press/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 [to 27 February 2016]

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

Press Releases

UCA Launches its Inaugural Admissions Campaign for the 2016 Academic Year

19 February 2016 - The University of Central Asia (UCA) has launched its undergraduate admissions campaign to encourage qualified students from rural and urban schools across Central Asia to apply.

Aga Khan says: Africa's moment has come

Please also see: Keynote Address by His Highness the Aga Khan, Video

Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, 21 February 2016 - His Highness the Aga Khan today extolled Africa's resilience, economic progress and new willingness to accept diversity.

"What I see emerging today is a refreshingly balanced confidence in Africa - a spirit that takes encouragement from past progress, while also seeking new answers to new challenges," he said.

The Imam (Spiritual Leader) of the Shia Ismaili Muslims made the remarks in a keynote address to the "Africa 2016: Business for Africa, Egypt and the World" conference in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, hosted by Egypt's president, His Excellency Abdel Fattah el Sisi...

BMGF - Gates Foundation [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Annie E. Casey Foundation [to 27 February 2016]

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

Posted February 25, 2016

New \$5 Million Grant Program Will Connect Youth Facing Obstacles to Higher Education and Employment

In partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service's Social Innovation Fund, the Annie E. Casey Foundation announced today that it plans to award \$5.4 million in grants over the next three years to help more teens and young adults complete high school and postsecondary education and build paths to careers.

Clinton Foundation [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Ford Foundation [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

GHIT Fund [to 27 February 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.

No new digest content identified.

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Grameen Foundation [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

IKEA Foundation [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

HHMI - Howard Hughes Medical Institute [to 27 February 2016]

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

Research [February 22, 2016]

Clock Gene May Connect Mood and Sleep

HHMI scientists identify a gene that might serve as a molecular link between mood and the circadian clock.

Kellogg Foundation [to 27 February 2016]

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

Feb 23, 2016

"Managing Lead in Drinking Water at Schools and Early Childhood Education Facilities" report released

The Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) has released a timely, commissioned report on "Managing Lead in Drinking Water at Schools and Early Childhood Education Facilities."

As parents and communities throughout the country discover high levels of lead present in their drinking water, this report provides specific criteria and guidelines for schools and early childhood education (ECE) facilities to remediate lead levels.

Lead is recognized as the single most significant environmental health threat to America's children. Its toxicity in relatively small doses is associated with learning disabilities, poor attention spans and lowered IQ scores. Furthermore, children of color and children living in low-income communities bear a disproportionately high burden of lead exposures and lead toxicity.

Today, of course, the corrosion of lead pipes distributing water to the citizens of Flint contaminated the city's potable water, resulting in elevated blood lead levels in the city's nearly 9,000 children under the age of 6.

This guide, prepared by the Horsley Witten Group, is a comprehensive source of best practices for lead sampling and analysis in schools and ECE facilities across the country. It also includes reference guidance from federal, state, local government agencies and other organizations, and case studies with examples from schools and ECE facilities that have experienced lead contamination in drinking water sources.

"The presence of lead in drinking water represents a crisis of environmental justice, falling woefully short in our basic function as a democracy to educate and keep our children safe," WKKF President and CEO La June Montgomery Tabron said. "Yet, it also presents an opportunity for all of us to proactively engage and be accountable to each other and for each other, especially in our schools and early childhood education facilities."

MacArthur Foundation [to 27 February 2016]

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

Publication

The Human Toll of Jails

Published February 23, 2016

The Human Toll of Jail project by the Vera Institute of Justice, supported by MacArthur's Safety and Justice Challenge, tells the story of real people affected by America's excessive and inappropriate use of jails. Through the perspectives of the incarcerated, their families and

local justice system workers, the project sheds light on the experiences of the more than 12 million people admitted to U.S. jails annually.

Blue Meridian Partners

<http://www.emcf.org/capital-aggregation/blue-meridian-partners/>

Blue Meridian Partners is a new capital aggregation collaboration that plans to invest at least \$1 billion in high-performance nonprofits that are poised to have truly national impact for economically disadvantaged children and youth.

No new digest content identified.

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation [to 27 February 2016]

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

Press Releases

Assurance: Generating Value from External Assurance of Sustainability Reporting

World Business Council on Sustainable Development February 22, 2016

How companies generate value from external assurance of sustainability reporting - leveraging WBCSD new Assurance Maturity Model

Geneva, 15 February 2016: Companies who report on their sustainability performance can now turn to a new paper that explains how businesses at different stages of the assurance journey can use the Assurance Maturity Model to assure and validate the information in their reports.

Assurance is becoming an increasingly important element in sustainability reporting. It provides external validation of the financial, social and environmental disclosures made within those reports. Independent assurance statements help companies enhance their credibility and reassure readers of reports that their disclosures are reliable.

Released today, the new WBCSD report is titled "Assurance: Generating value from external assurance of sustainability reporting". It shows that reporting effectiveness can be enhanced by obtaining an independent assurance statement. The report also provides key guidance from assurance providers and standard setters to assist reporters in navigating the assurance landscape...

Open Society Foundation [to 27 February 2016]

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

Open Society Voices

The Struggle of Displaced Journalists in Ukraine

February 22, 2016 by Ilona Sabera

The conflict in Ukraine has forced many journalists to relocate, but their work has only become more vital.

David and Lucile Packard Foundation [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Pew Charitable Trusts [to 27 February 2016]

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

Press Release

Health Impact Project Provides Funding to Promote Health in Southern and Appalachian States

7 planning grants awarded to examine how factors like housing and education affect well-being

February 24, 2016 - Health Impact Project

WASHINGTON—The Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts, announced grants today to fund projects in Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, and West Virginia. Each grantee will develop an evidence-based action plan for addressing social, economic, and environmental factors (such as housing, education, and community development) that lead to disparities in health outcomes—known as health inequities...

Rockefeller Foundation [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Wellcome Trust [to 27 February 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

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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 Preventive Medicine

March 2016 Volume 50, Issue 3, p295-426, e65-e90

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Public Health

Volume 106, Issue 3 (March 2016)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

February 2016; 94 (2)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

BMC Health Services Research

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

(Accessed 27 February 2016)

[No new content]

BMC Infectious Diseases

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

(Accessed 27 February 2016)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Medical Ethics

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

(Accessed 27 February 2016)

[No new content]

BMC Medicine

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

(Accessed 27 February 2016)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

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

(Accessed 27 February 2016)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Public Health

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

(Accessed 27 February 2016)

Study protocol

Health effects of smoke from planned burns: a study protocol

Large populations are exposed to smoke from bushfires and planned burns. Studies investigating the association between bushfire smoke and health have typically used hospital or ambulance data...

David O’Keeffe, Martine Dennekamp, Lahn Straney, Mahjabeen Mazhar, Tom O’Dwyer, Anjali Haikerwal, Fabienne Reisen, Michael J. Abramson and Fay Johnston

BMC Public Health 2016 16:186

Published on: 24 February 2016

Research article

Enabling relationship formation, development, and closure in a one-year female mentoring program at a non-governmental organization: a mixed-method study

Mental health problems among young women aged 16–24 have increased significantly in recent decades, and interventions are called for. Mentoring is a well-established preventative/promotive intervention...

Madelene Larsson, Camilla Pettersson, Therése Skoog and Charli Eriksson

BMC Public Health 2016 16:179

Published on: 24 February 2016

Research article

Motivations to participate in a Phase I/II HIV vaccine trial: A descriptive study from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Participation in an HIV vaccine trial in a Tanzanian context is likely to be influenced by altruism and comprehensive education about the trial. Gender differences, marital status and education level need to be considered to enhance participation in future HIV vaccine trials.

E. A. M. Tarimo, M. Bakari, D. C. V. Kakoko, T. W. Kohi, F. Mhalu, E. Sandstrom and A. Kulane

BMC Public Health 2016 16:182

Published on: 24 February 2016

BMC Research Notes

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

(Accessed 27 February 2016)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation

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

(Accessed 27 February 2016)

[No new content]

BMJ Open

2016, Volume 6, Issue 2

<http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

British Medical Journal

27 February 2016 (vol 352, issue 8046)
<http://www.bmj.com/content/352/8046>
[No new 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 2, February 2016, 77-156
<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/94/2/en/>
[Reviewed earlier]

Complexity

January/February 2016 Volume 21, Issue 3 Pages 1–88
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/cplx.v21.3/issuetoc>
[Reviewed earlier]

Conflict and Health

<http://www.conflictandhealth.com/>
[Accessed 27 February 2016]
[No new relevant content identified]

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>
[Reviewed earlier]

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 2, 2016

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cdip20/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Development Policy Review

March 2016 Volume 34, Issue 2 Pages 177–319

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/dpr.2016.34.issue-2/issuetoc>

Original Articles

[Targeting Disaster Aid in Post-Tsunami Sri Lanka \(pages 179–195\)](#)

Asha Gunawardena and Jean-Marie Baland

Article first published online: 2 FEB 2016 | DOI: 10.1111/dpr.12148

Abstract

In this article we examine the allocation of boats and houses, the two major types of aid made available to tsunami-affected fishery households in Sri Lanka. We investigate the effectiveness of targeting by looking at the distributional impacts and the determinants of allocation of these transfers at the household level. We find that houses were much better targeted than boats in terms of compensating for the losses due to the tsunami. We also find that the ex post distribution of boats is much more unequal than the distribution that prevailed before the tsunami. The reverse is true for the distribution of houses, for which the government took a much more active role.

[Household Enterprises and Poverty Reduction in Sub-Saharan Africa \(pages 197–221\)](#)

Louise Fox and Thomas Pave Sohnesen

Article first published online: 2 FEB 2016 | DOI: 10.1111/dpr.12152

Abstract

Employment in Household Enterprises (HEs) has been an integral part of the recent economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). Yet employment and development strategies tend to exclude the sector, despite the fact that households with HEs tend to be richer. A good example is Mozambique, where 34% of households rely on income from this source. Analysis of household livelihoods using panel data shows that starting HEs is associated with upward wealth mobility and poverty reduction, particularly for rural and poorly-educated households. Targeted programmes directed towards the constraints to HE creation, survival and income growth would be likely to enhance the effectiveness of employment and poverty reduction strategies in Mozambique as well as in other low income countries in SSA.

[Effects of 'women empowerment' on household food security in rural KwaZulu-Natal province \(pages 223–252\)](#)

S. Sharaunga, M. Mudhara and A. Bogale

Article first published online: 2 FEB 2016 | DOI: 10.1111/dpr.12151

Abstract

Understanding the dimensions of 'women's empowerment' that influence food security among rural households is crucial to inform policy. This study uses the Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS) to identify the food security status of 300 primary female-headed households in Msinga, South Africa. Principal Component Analysis was then used to identify the various dimensions along which the rural women sampled were empowered. Finally, the Ordered Logit model was used to identify the dimensions of women's empowerment that influence their household food security status. It was found that households headed by women with higher levels of economic agency, physical capital empowerment, psychological

empowerment and farm financial management skills empowerment were more likely to be food secure.

Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology

Volume 11, Issue 3, 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness

Volume 10 - Issue 01 - February 2016

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

Brief Reports

Civil-Military Engagement: An Empirical Account of Humanitarian Perceptions of Civil-Military Coordination During the Response to Typhoon Haiyan

Vincenzo Bollettino

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2015.85> Published online: 10 July 2015

Abstract

Objective

This study sought to identify how humanitarian actors in natural disasters coordinate (or communicate) with the military to identify the needs of disaster-affected populations, identify how coordination should be undertaken for the delivery of relief goods, perceive the effectiveness of such coordination, perceive the role that training played in preparation for coordinating with the military and the effectiveness of this training, and view the overall civil-military engagement and its implications for the independence of the humanitarian sector.

Methods

A survey instrument focused on participant perceptions of the civil-military engagement in response to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines was sent to country directors and agency leads who played a role in the response.

Results

Although the data supported anecdotal accounts that the coordination between civilian and military actors during the disaster relief efforts in Typhoon Haiyan worked well, they also revealed that fewer than half of the respondents were familiar with the Guidelines on the Use of Foreign Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief (the "Oslo Guidelines") and only 12% of respondents thought that the Oslo Guidelines were used to develop organizational policy on humanitarian aid agency engagement with military actors.

Conclusions

Humanitarians felt that international militaries and the Philippines Armed Forces played an important role in ensuring that aid reached people in need, particularly in the early days of the response. However, less than half of the respondents were familiar with the Oslo Guidelines. (Disaster Med Public Health Preparedness. 2016;10:7-10)

Disaster-Related Injury Management: High Prevalence of Wound Infection After Super Typhoon Haiyan

Yong Won Kim, Seong Yeop Kim, Hoon Kim, Moo Eob Ahn, Kang Hyun Lee and Eun Seok Hong

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2015.100>, Published online: 02 September 2015

Abstract

Background

After Super Typhoon Haiyan, a category 5 tropical cyclone, insufficient resources were available for medical management. Many patients in the Philippines were wounded as a result of the disaster. We examined the prevalence, risk factors, and consequences of disaster-related wounds and wound infection in the post-disaster period.

Methods

We performed a retrospective review of consecutive patients admitted to a Korean Disaster Relief Team clinic at St. Paul's Hospital, Tacloban City, Republic of Philippines, between December 9 and 13, 2013. Traumatic injury patients were included; patients not exhibiting a wound were excluded.

Results

Of the 160 patients enrolled in the study, 71 (44.4%) had infected wounds. There were no significant differences in the age, sex, past medical history, wound site, wound depth, injury mechanism, or inducer of injury between the uninfected and infected groups. In the univariate analysis, a foreign-body-contaminated wound, a chronic wound, elapsed time from injury to medical contact, an inadequately cared for wound, and need for subsequent wound management were associated with wound infection ($P < 0.05$). The multivariate analysis revealed that foreign body contamination and having an inadequately cared for wound were associated with wound infection (odds ratio [OR]: 10.12, 95% confidence interval [CI]: 3.59–28.56; OR: 3.51, 95% CI: 1.07–11.51, respectively).

Conclusion

In the post-disaster situation, many wound infections required definitive care. Wound infection was associated with inadequately cared for wounds and foreign-body-contaminated wounds. (Disaster Med Public Health Preparedness. 2016;10:28–33)

Youth Resilience Corps: An Innovative Model to Engage Youth in Building Disaster Resilience

Joie Acosta, Vivian Towe, Anita Chandra and Ramya Chari

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2015.132> Published online: 20 October 2015

Abstract

Objective

Despite the growing awareness that youth are not just passive victims of disaster but can contribute to a community's disaster resilience, there have been limited efforts to formally engage youth in strengthening community resilience. The purpose of this brief report was to describe the development of a Youth Resilience Corps, or YRC (ie, a set of tools to engage young people in youth-led community resilience activities) and the findings from a small-scale pilot test.

Methods

The YRC was developed with input from a range of government and nongovernmental stakeholders. We conducted a pilot test with youth in Washington, DC, during summer 2014. Semi-structured focus groups with staff and youth surveys were used to obtain feedback on the YRC tools and to assess what participants learned.

Results

Focus groups and youth surveys suggested that the youth understood resilience concepts, and that most youth enjoyed and learned from the components.

Conclusions The YRC represent an important first step toward engaging youth in building disaster resilience, rather than just focusing on this group as a vulnerable population in need of special attention. (Disaster Med Public Health Preparedness. 2016;10:47–50)

Disasters

January 2016 Volume 40, Issue 1 Pages 1–182

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Emergency Medicine Journal

February 2016, Volume 33, Issue 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Epidemics

Volume 15, In Progress (June 2016)

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

[No new relevant content]

End of Life Journal

2016, Volume 6, Issue 1

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

[No new relevant content]

Epidemiology and Infection

Volume 144 - Issue 04 - March 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

The European Journal of Public Health

Volume 26, Issue 1, 1 February 2016

<http://eurpub.oxfordjournals.org/content/26/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

Food Policy

Volume 59, In Progress (February 2016)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/03069192>

[Reviewed earlier]

Food Security

Volume 8, Issue 1, February 2016

<http://link.springer.com/journal/12571/8/1/page/1>

Plant health and food security, linking economics, policy and industry

Original Paper

Plant health and food security, linking science, economics, policy and industry

Alan MacLeod, Glyn D. Jones, Helen M. Anderson, Rick A. Mumford

Original Paper

Options for managing the infectious animal and plant disease risks of international trade

Charles Perrings

Original Paper

Biosecurity and food security—effective mechanisms for public-private partnerships

Greg Fraser

Original Paper

Is resilience a useful concept in the context of food security and nutrition programmes? Some conceptual and practical considerations

Christophe Béné, Derek Headey, Lawrence Haddad, Klaus von Grebmer

Original Paper

In search of a global model of cultivation: using remote sensing to examine the characteristics and constraints of agricultural production in the developing world

Greg Husak, Kathryn Grace

Forum for Development Studies

Volume 43, Issue 1, 2016

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

Special Issue: Frontiers of Research on Development and the Environment

The Frontiers of Poverty Reduction in Emerging Asia

Dan Banik & Arve Hansen

pages 47-68

Free access

DOI:10.1080/08039410.2015.1134646

Abstract

It is difficult, if not impossible, to satisfactorily answer the question 'Why does poverty persist?' Nonetheless, there appear to be two approaches that can provide a useful start. One alternative is to examine why poverty (and extreme forms of it) continue to persist in the poorest countries of the world, mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa. The other, which is the focus on this article, is to examine a set of factors or reforms that have worked in reducing poverty in middle-income countries of the 'Emerging South' and the challenges these countries continue to face in distributing the benefits of economic growth and addressing persistent levels of poverty within their borders. We aim to better understand successful attempts to reduce poverty in a selected few emerging economies – India, China and Vietnam – by examining the role of specific types of reforms and initiatives in shaping and determining action by national governments to reduce poverty. Do some of these emerging economies advocate and adopt different poverty-reduction policies? If so, what, how and why? And to what extent can some of these poverty-reduction models be usefully applied in other developing country contexts? We then identify and discuss two broad sets of frontiers of research and policy-making on poverty in emerging Asia –

environmental challenges and growing inequality – that require considerable attention if India, China and Vietnam are to experience continued economic growth and poverty reduction.

What Counts as Progress? The Contradictions of Global Health Initiatives

Sidsel Roalkvam & Desmond McNeill

pages 69-88

DOI:10.1080/08039410.2015.1134645

Abstract

Global initiatives to finance maternal and child health have saved millions of lives and protected millions more against the ravages of crippling and debilitating disease; for this they are to be highly commended. Such technological and vertical programmes are appealing to policy-makers at the global level; but these health interventions take place within complex social and economic structures, and pertinent questions have been raised both about some negative consequences of these programmes and the implications for governance at local, national and global levels. Based on recent and ongoing research, and especially on a case study from India, this article critically assesses these related concerns. Is it the case that these programmes may actually weaken local health systems, which are crucial both in themselves and for ensuring health improvements? Do they change the direction of accountability, with national governments becoming accountable upwards to donors (for achieving specified numerical targets) rather than downwards to their citizens? And do such programmes also serve to de-politicize the field of global public health, diverting attention from the responsibilities of powerful nations to rectify the shortcomings of the global political economy and global governance which impact negatively on people's health?

Genocide Studies International

Volume 9, Issue 2, Fall 2015

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

Articles

Humanitarian Missions to the Nuba Mountains, Sudan: Delivery of Food to Those in Critical Need

Samuel Totten

9(2), pp. 248–268

Published online: February 23, 2016

Abstract

The following reports delineate the most recent experiences and insights gleaned by Samuel Totten, a scholar of genocide studies based in the United States, as he traveled up into the war-torn Nuba Mountains in Sudan during December 2014 and April–May 2015. During the course of both trips, accompanied by an interpreter and a driver, both from the Nuba Mountains, he served as a witness to the ongoing aerial attacks by the government of Sudan against Nuba civilians (in their villages, on their farms, in open marketplaces, in their schools, and in places of worship) and delivered food (sorghum, lentils, dried beans, salt, sugar, and cooking oil) to those Nuba in the most dire need. An untold number of Nuba have been forced out of their villages and off their farms due to the aerial bombings, and without access to their farms and stores of food, many, particularly those residing in the remotest regions, are experiencing everything from malnutrition to severe malnutrition to starvation.

Global Health: Science and Practice (GHSP)

December 2015 | Volume 3 | Issue 4

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Global Health Governance

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

[Accessed 27 February 2016]

[No new content]

Global Public Health

Volume 11, Issue 4, 2016

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

Articles

[Access and utilisation of healthcare services in rural Tanzania: A comparison of public and non-public facilities using quality, equity, and trust dimensions](#)

pages 407-422

Elizabeth H. Shayo, Kesheni P. Senkoro, Romanus Momburi, Øystein E. Olsen, Jens Byskov, Emmanuel A. Makundi, Peter Kamuzora & Leonard E.G. Mboera

DOI:10.1080/17441692.2015.1132750

Published online: 17 Feb 2016

ABSTRACT

This study compared the access and utilisation of health services in public and non-public health facilities in terms of quality, equity and trust in the Mbarali district, Tanzania. Interviews, focus group discussions, and informal discussions were used to generate data. Of the 1836 respondents, 1157 and 679 respondents sought healthcare services on their last visit at public or non-public health facilities, respectively. While 45.5% rated the quality of services to be good in both types of facilities, reported medicine shortages were more pronounced among those who visited public rather than non-public health facilities (OR = 1.7, 95% CI 1.4, 2.1). Respondents who visited public facilities were 4.9 times less likely than those who visited non-public facilities to emphasise the influence of cost in accessing and utilising health care (OR = 4.9, CI 3.9–6.1). A significant difference was also found in the provider–client relationship satisfaction level between non-public (89.1%) and public facilities (74.7%) (OR = 2.8, CI: 1.5–5.0), indicating a level of lower trust in the later. Revised strategies are needed to ensure availability of medicines in public facilities, which are used by the majority of the population, while strengthening private–public partnerships to harmonise healthcare costs.

[The impact of global health initiatives on the health system in Angola](#)

pages 475-495

Isabel Craveiro & Gilles Dussault

DOI:10.1080/17441692.2015.1128957

Published online: 13 Jan 2016

ABSTRACT

We assessed the impact of global health initiatives (GHIs) on the health care system of Angola, as a contribution to documenting how GHIs, such as the Global Fund, GAVI and PEPFAR, influence the planning and delivery of health services in low-income countries and how national

systems respond. We collected the views of national and sub-national key informants through 42 semi-structured interviews between April 2009 and May 2011 (12 at the national level and 30 at the sub-national level). We used a snowball technique to identify respondents from government, donors and non-governmental organisations. GHIs stimulated the formulation of a health policy and of plans and strategies, but the country has yet to decide on its priorities for health. At the regional level, managers lack knowledge of how GHIs' function, but they assess the effects of external funds as positive as they increased training opportunities, and augment the number of workers engaged in HIV or other specific disease programmes. However, GHIs did not address the challenge of attraction and retention of qualified personnel in provinces. Since Angola is not entirely dependent on external funding, national strategic programmes and the interventions of GHIs co-habit well, in contrast to countries such as Mozambique, which heavily depend on external aid.

Globalization and Health

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

[Accessed 27 February 2016]

[No new content]

Health Affairs

February 2016; Volume 35, Issue 2

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

Issue Focus: Vaccines

[Reviewed earlier]

Health and Human Rights

Volume 17, Issue 2 December 2015

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Economics, Policy and Law

Volume 11 - Issue 01 - January 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Policy and Planning

Volume 31 Issue 1 February 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Research Policy and Systems

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

[Accessed 27 February 2016]

Research

[Health policy and systems research and analysis in Nigeria: examining health policymakers' and researchers' capacity assets, needs and perspectives in south-east Nigeria](#)

Benjamin Uzochukwu, Chinyere Mbachu, Obinna Onwujekwe, Chinenye Okwuosa, Enyi Etiaba, Monica E. Nyström and Lucy Gilson

Published on: 24 February 2016

Human Rights Quarterly

Volume 38, Number 1, February 2016

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/human_rights_quarterly/toc/hrq.38.1.html

[Reviewed earlier]

Human Service Organizations Management, Leadership & Governance

Volume 40, Issue 1, 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Humanitarian Exchange Magazine

Number 65 November 2015

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

Special Feature: The Crisis in Iraq

[Reviewed earlier]

IDRiM Journal

Vol 5, No 2 (2015)

<http://idrimjournal.com/index.php/idrim/issue/view/14>

[Reviewed earlier]

Infectious Diseases of Poverty

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

[Accessed 27 February 2016]

Scoping Review

[Moving interdisciplinary science forward: integrating participatory modelling with mathematical modelling of zoonotic disease in Africa](#)

Catherine Grant, Giovanni Lo Iacono, Vupenyu Dzingirai, Bernard Bett, Thomas R. A. Winnebah and Peter M. Atkinson

Published on: 25 February 2016

Abstract

This review outlines the benefits of using multiple approaches to improve model design and facilitate multidisciplinary research into infectious diseases, as well as showing and proposing practical examples of effective integration. It looks particularly at the benefits of using

participatory research in conjunction with traditional modelling methods to potentially improve disease research, control and management. Integrated approaches can lead to more realistic mathematical models which in turn can assist with making policy decisions that reduce disease and benefit local people. The emergence, risk, spread and control of diseases are affected by many complex bio-physical, environmental and socio-economic factors. These include climate and environmental change, land-use variation, changes in population and people's behaviour.

The evidence base for this scoping review comes from the work of a consortium, with the aim of integrating modelling approaches traditionally used in epidemiological, ecological and development research. A total of five examples of the impacts of participatory research on the choice of model structure are presented. Example 1 focused on using participatory research as a tool to structure a model. Example 2 looks at identifying the most relevant parameters of the system. Example 3 concentrates on identifying the most relevant regime of the system (e.g., temporal stability or otherwise), Example 4 examines the feedbacks from mathematical models to guide participatory research and Example 5 goes beyond the so-far described two-way interplay between participatory and mathematical approaches to look at the integration of multiple methods and frameworks. This scoping review describes examples of best practice in the use of participatory methods, illustrating their potential to overcome disciplinary hurdles and promote multidisciplinary collaboration, with the aim of making models and their predictions more useful for decision-making and policy formulation.

International Health

Volume 8 Issue 1 January 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Human Rights Law Review

Volume 4, Issue 2, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction

Volume 15, In Progress (March 2016)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/22124209/15>

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Infectious Diseases

February 2016 Volume 43, p1-110

Open Access

<http://www.ijidonline.com/current>

Editorial

[Health literacy: a concept with potential to greatly impact the infectious diseases field](#)

Richard H. Osborne, Alison Beauchamp, Roy Batterham
p101–102

Published online: December 24 2015

Preview

This edition of the International Journal of Infectious Diseases presents a comprehensive narrative review of health literacy research by Castro-Sánchez et al. that has been undertaken across conditions and countries. Health literacy is a relatively new concept in medicine and, for many, has some immediate appeal. The term was coined by Simonds in the 1970s, who argued the case for school health education, with the intention that pupils would not only be educated in the customary curriculum subjects, but might become as 'literate' in health as they were, for example, in history and science.

Reviews

Health literacy and infectious diseases: why does it matter?

Enrique Castro-Sánchez, Peter W.S. Chang, Rafael Vila-Candel, Angel A. Escobedo, Alison H. Holmes

p103–110

Published online: January 2 2016

Preview

The planetary scale of the threat presented by infectious diseases to human health and society has been well described.¹ An intricate arrangement of clinical, societal, and ecological determinants powers the emergence of new infectious pathogens such as Ebola virus, and the resurgence of others previously considered to be under control. These same factors drive the unsustainable use and consumption of antimicrobials,² sketching the looming prospect of a 'world without antibiotics' reflected upon by many,³ and without new therapeutic agents likely to be developed at a sufficient rate and periodicity to provide a significant counterbalance.

Highlights

- :: Health literacy is an emerging public health and research field.
- :: There are limited studies focused on health literacy and infectious diseases.
- :: Infections such as malaria with a high burden of morbidity were underrepresented.
- :: Most investigations considered functional but not critical health literacy.

Summary

Objectives

Multifactorial interventions are crucial to arrest the threat posed by infectious diseases. Public involvement requires adequate information, but determinants such as health literacy can impact on the effective use of such knowledge. The influence of health literacy on infectious diseases is examined in this paper.

Methods

Databases were searched from January 1999 through July 2015 seeking studies reporting on health literacy and infections such tuberculosis, malaria, and influenza, and infection-related behaviours such as vaccination and hand hygiene. HIV was excluded, as comprehensive reviews have already been published.

Results

Studies were found on antibiotic knowledge and use, the adoption of influenza and MMR immunizations, and screening for sexually transmitted and viral hepatitis infections. There was a lack of investigations on areas such as tuberculosis, malaria, hand hygiene, and diarrhoeal diseases.

Conclusions

Limited or insufficient health literacy was associated with reduced adoption of protective behaviours such as immunization, and an inadequate understanding of antibiotics, although the

relationship was not consistent. Large gaps remain in relation to infectious diseases with a high clinical and societal impact, such as tuberculosis and malaria.

International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology

Volume 23, Issue 2, 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Migration Review

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

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/imre.2015.49.issue-4/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

JAMA

February 23, 2016, Vol 315, No. 8

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

Viewpoint | February 23, 2016

Critical Care in Resource-Restricted Settings

Arjen M. Dondorp, MD, PhD^{1,2}; Shivakumar S. Iyer, MD³; Marcus J. Schultz, MD, PhD^{1,4}

Author Affiliations

JAMA. 2016;315(8):753-754. doi:10.1001/jama.2016.0976.

Extract

This Viewpoint discusses the challenges of providing intensive care in settings and countries with limited resources.

In many low- and middle-income countries, with improved public health services like sanitation and immunization, the relative contribution of curative care for critically ill patients to overall health and life expectancy has increased considerably. The importance of intensive care facilities as a global good was emphasized by recent epidemics in which survival was highly dependent on adequate critical care. Examples include the SARS coronavirus (2002-2003), avian influenza H5N1 (2004 and onward), pandemic influenza A(H1N1) (2009), the MERS coronavirus (2012 and onward), and Ebola virus disease (2014-2015)...

JAMA Pediatrics

February 2016, Vol 170, No. 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Asian Development

Vol 1, No 1 (2015)

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Community Health

February 2016, Issue 1, Pages 1-205

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10900/41/1/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Development Economics

Volume 118, Pages 1-298 (January 2016)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Human Trafficking

Volume 1, Issue 4, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/uhmt20/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health

March 2016, Volume 70, Issue 3

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Global Ethics

Volume 11, Issue 3, 2015

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjge20/.U2V-Elf4L0l#.VAJEj2N4WF8>

Forum: The Sustainable Development Goals

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Global Infectious Diseases (JGID)

January-March 2016 Volume 8 | Issue 1 Page Nos. 1-56

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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

Volume 27, Number 1, February 2016

https://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_health_care_for_the_poor_and_underserved/toc/hpu.27.1.html

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Management

Volume 5 Issue 3 2015

<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/toc/jhlscm/5/3>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health

Volume 18, Issue 1, February 2016

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10903/18/1/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies

Volume 13, Issue 4, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Infectious Diseases

Volume 213 Issue 3 February 1, 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of International Development

January 2016 Volume 28, Issue 1 Pages 1–158

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jid.v28.1/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics

Winter 2015 Volume 43, Issue 4 Pages 673–913

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jlme.2015.43.issue-4/issuetoc>

Special Issue: SYMPOSIUM: Harmonizing Privacy Laws to Enable International Biobank Research: Part I

[14 articles]

Journal of Medical Ethics

February 2016, Volume 42, Issue 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (JPIDS)

Volume 5 Issue 1 March 2016

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

SLIPE HIGHLIGHTS: UPDATE FROM LATIN AMERICA

Influenza B Burden in Latin America and Potential Benefits of the New Quadrivalent Vaccines

Luiza Helena Falleiros Arlant, Lucia F. Bricks

Extract

Respiratory infections caused by the influenza virus have a huge impact on public health. Influenza vaccination offers many benefits to not only patients at high risk for complications of influenza but also to healthy individuals [1]. Because of pandemics, influenza A virus is perceived to carry greater risk than influenza B [2]. However, both types of influenza virus can affect people of any age group, and they cause clinically indistinguishable infections and pose equal risks [1, 2].

Globally, the influenza type B virus causes 20% to 25% of influenza infections. Influenza B viruses include 2 antigenically distinguished lineages, Victoria and Yamagata, which have been cocirculating globally since 2002 [3]. Circulation of the B lineages varies from year to year, so predicting which one to include in the next year's trivalent influenza vaccine (IIV3) is difficult. In fact, data from the United States and Europe indicate that in half of the influenza seasons over the past decade, the B lineage included in ...

Journal of Public Health Policy

Volume 37, Issue 1 (February 2016)

<http://www.palgrave-journals.com/jphp/journal/v37/n1/index.html>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of the Royal Society – Interface

01 January 2016; volume 13, issue 114

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Knowledge Management for Development Journal

Vol 11, No 2 (2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

The Lancet

Feb 27, 2016 Volume 387 Number 10021 p817-916 e21

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

[New issue; Nor relevant content identified]

The Lancet Infectious Diseases

Feb 2016 Volume 16 Number 2 p131-264 e10-e21

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Global Health

Feb 2016 Volume 4 Number 2 e69-e136

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Maternal and Child Health Journal

Volume 20, Issue 2, February 2016

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10995/20/2/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

Medical Decision Making (MDM)

February 2016; 36 (2)

<http://mdm.sagepub.com/content/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

The Milbank Quarterly

A Multidisciplinary Journal of Population Health and Health Policy

December 2015 Volume 93, Issue 4 Pages 651–883

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1468-0009.2015.93.issue-4/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

Nature

Volume 530 Number 7591 pp381-510 25 February 2016

http://www.nature.com/nature/current_issue.html

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Nature Medicine

February 2016, Volume 22 No 2 pp115-217

<http://www.nature.com/nm/journal/v22/n2/index.html>

[Reviewed earlier]

New England Journal of Medicine

February 25, 2016 Vol. 374 No. 8

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

Review Article

[Challenges in the Elimination of Pediatric HIV-1 Infection](#)

Katherine Luzuriaga, M.D., and Lynne M. Mofenson, M.D.

N Engl J Med 2016; 374:761-770 February 25, 2016 DOI: 10.1056/NEJMr1505256

Preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV-1 requires a series of steps in the care of women and their infants during pregnancy, delivery, and the postpartum period. This review outlines the steps and summarizes progress in resource-limited countries and elsewhere.

Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly

February 2016; 45 (1)

<http://nvs.sagepub.com/content/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration

OxMo – Vol. 5, No. 2

<http://oxmofm.com/current-issue/>

[Reviewed earlier]

Pediatrics

February 2016, VOLUME 137 / ISSUE 2

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/137/2?current-issue=y>

[Reviewed earlier]

PharmacoEconomics

Volume 34, Issue 2, February 2016

<http://link.springer.com/journal/40273/34/2/page/1>

Big Data Themed Issue

Editorial

Big Data and Its Role in Health Economics and Outcomes Research: A Collection of Perspectives on Data Sources, Measurement, and Analysis

Eberechukwu Onukwugha

Initial text

Health economists and outcomes researchers have watched the term 'big data' increase in prominence over the last several years. However, to date, the use of big data in medicine has not been concretely illustrated across a variety of health economics and outcomes research (HEOR). At the same time, many of the same observers agree that fundamental questions remain unanswered and include (1) "What does the term 'big data' mean?" and (2) "What does the availability of big data mean for individuals who produce and use findings from HEOR?" This editorial tackles the first question and leaves contributors to this issue of PharmacoEconomics to discuss the promises, possibilities and potential pitfalls of using big data in HEOR....

Current Opinion

Big Data and Health Economics: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

Brendan Collins

Abstract

'Big data' is the collective name for the increasing capacity of information systems to collect and store large volumes of data, which are often unstructured and time stamped, and to analyse these data by using regression and other statistical techniques. This is a review of the potential applications of big data and health economics, using a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) approach. In health economics, large pseudonymized databases, such as the planned care.data programme in the UK, have the potential to increase understanding of

how drugs work in the real world, taking into account adherence, co-morbidities, interactions and side effects. This 'real-world evidence' has applications in individualized medicine. More routine and larger-scale cost and outcomes data collection will make health economic analyses more disease specific and population specific but may require new skill sets. There is potential for biomonitoring and lifestyle data to inform health economic analyses and public health policy.

PLOS Currents: Disasters

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

[Accessed 27 February 2016]

Assessing Households Preparedness for Earthquakes: An Exploratory Study in the Development of a Valid and Reliable Persian-version Tool

February 25, 2016 · [Research Article](#)

Introduction: Iran is placed among countries suffering from the highest number of earthquake casualties. Household preparedness, as one component of risk reduction efforts, is often supported in quake-prone areas. In Iran, lack of a valid and reliable household preparedness tool was reported by previous disaster studies. This study is aimed to fill this gap by developing a valid and reliable tool for assessing household preparedness in the event of an earthquake.

Methods: This survey was conducted through three phases including literature review and focus group discussions with the participation of eight key informants, validity measurements and reliability measurements. Field investigation was completed with the participation of 450 households within three provinces of Iran. Content validity, construct validity, the use of factor analysis; internal consistency using Cronbach's alpha coefficient, and test-retest reliability were carried out to develop the tool.

Results: Based on the CVIs, ranging from 0.80 to 0.100, and exploratory factor analysis with factor loading of more than 0.5, all items were valid. The amount of Cronbach's alpha (0.7) and test-retest examination by Spearman correlations indicated that the scale was also reliable. The final instrument consisted of six categories and 18 questions including actions at the time of earthquakes, nonstructural safety, structural safety, hazard map, communications, drill, and safety skills.

Conclusion: Using a Persian-version tool that is adjusted to the socio-cultural determinants and native language may result in more trustful information on earthquake preparedness. It is suggested that disaster managers and researchers apply this tool in their future household preparedness projects. Further research is needed to make effective policies and plans for transforming preparedness knowledge into behavior.

Characteristics of an Effective International Humanitarian Assistance: A Systematic Review

February 25, 2016 · [Research Article](#)

Introduction: The objective of this study is to identify the effectiveness characteristics, review the definition of them, and develop a conceptual mapping of existing domains in the field of International Humanitarian Assistance (IHA).

Methods: We conducted a systematic review and searched the major databases (Science Direct, Scopus, Springer and Pubmed) and grey literature, including references of potentially eligible articles and conference proceedings through March 2015. Articles were included if they focused on IHA effectiveness. Reviewers independently identified the eligible studies and extracted data.

Results: 10 studies were included and 48 characteristics were identified. There is a lack of scientific studies and agreement on the characteristics of IHA effectiveness.

Conclusion: This study could be the step toward an understanding of IHA effectiveness characteristics and its definitions with the findings making a base line for more research in this area.

Rapid and near Real-time Assessments of Population Displacement Using Mobile Phone Data Following Disasters: The 2015 Nepal Earthquake

February 24, 2016 · [Research Article](#)

Introduction: Sudden impact disasters often result in the displacement of large numbers of people. These movements can occur prior to events, due to early warning messages, or take place post-event due to damages to shelters and livelihoods as well as a result of long-term reconstruction efforts. Displaced populations are especially vulnerable and often in need of support. However, timely and accurate data on the numbers and destinations of displaced populations are extremely challenging to collect across temporal and spatial scales, especially in the aftermath of disasters. Mobile phone call detail records were shown to be a valid data source for estimates of population movements after the 2010 Haiti earthquake, but their potential to provide near real-time ongoing measurements of population displacements immediately after a natural disaster has not been demonstrated.

Methods: A computational architecture and analytical capacity were rapidly deployed within nine days of the Nepal earthquake of 25th April 2015, to provide spatiotemporally detailed estimates of population displacements from call detail records based on movements of 12 million de-identified mobile phones users.

Results: Analysis shows the evolution of population mobility patterns after the earthquake and the patterns of return to affected areas, at a high level of detail. Particularly notable is the movement of an estimated 390,000 people above normal from the Kathmandu valley after the earthquake, with most people moving to surrounding areas and the highly-populated areas in the central southern area of Nepal.

Discussion: This analysis provides an unprecedented level of information about human movement after a natural disaster, provided within a very short timeframe after the earthquake occurred. The patterns revealed using this method are almost impossible to find through other methods, and are of great interest to humanitarian agencies.

PLoS Currents: Outbreaks

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

(Accessed 27 February 2016)

[No new content]

PLoS Medicine

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

(Accessed 27 February 2016)

A Time for Global Action: Addressing Girls' Menstrual Hygiene Management Needs in Schools

Marni Sommer, Bethany A. Caruso, Murat Sahin, Teresa Calderon, Sue Cavill, Therese Mahon, Penelope A. Phillips-Howard

Health in Action | published 23 Feb 2016 | PLOS Medicine

10.1371/journal.pmed.1001962

Summary Points

- :: There is an absence of guidance, facilities, and materials for schoolgirls to manage their menstruation in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).
- :: Formative evidence has raised awareness that poor menstrual hygiene management (MHM) contributes to inequity, increasing exposure to transactional sex to obtain sanitary items, with some evidence of an effect on school indicators and with repercussions for sexual, reproductive, and general health throughout the life course.
- :: Despite increasing evidence and interest in taking action to improve school conditions for girls, there has not been a systematic mapping of MHM priorities or coordination of relevant sectors and disciplines to catalyze change, with a need to develop country-level expertise.
- :: Columbia University and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) convened members of academia, nongovernmental organizations, the UN, donor agencies, the private sector, and social entrepreneurial groups in October 2014 ("MHM in Ten") to identify key public health issues requiring prioritization, coordination, and investment by 2024.
- :: Five key priorities were identified to guide global, national, and local action

PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases

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

(Accessed 27 February 2016)

[Reducing Cost of Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis: Experience of a Tertiary Care Hospital in Pakistan](#)

Naseem Salahuddin, M. Aftab Gohar, Naila Baig-Ansari

Research Article | published 26 Feb 2016 | PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases

10.1371/journal.pntd.0004448

PLoS One

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

[Accessed 27 February 2016]

[Do Maternal Knowledge and Attitudes towards Childhood Immunizations in Rural Uganda Correlate with Complete Childhood Vaccination?](#)

Bryan J. Vonasek, Francis Bajunirwe, Laura E. Jacobson, Leonidas Twesigye, James Dahm, Monica J. Grant, Ajay K. Sethi, James H. Conway

Research Article | published 26 Feb 2016 | PLOS ONE

10.1371/journal.pone.0150131

Abstract

Improving childhood vaccination coverage and timeliness is a key health policy objective in many developing countries such as Uganda. Of the many factors known to influence uptake of childhood immunizations in under resourced settings, parents' understanding and perception of childhood immunizations has largely been overlooked. The aims of this study were to survey mothers' knowledge and attitudes towards childhood immunizations and then determine if these variables correlate with the timely vaccination coverage of their children. From September to December 2013, we conducted a cross-sectional survey of 1,000 parous women in rural Sheema district in southwest Uganda. The survey collected socio-demographic data and knowledge and attitudes towards childhood immunizations. For the women with at least one child between the age of one month and five years who also had a vaccination card available

for the child (N = 302), the vaccination status of this child was assessed. 88% of these children received age-appropriate, on-time immunizations. 93.5% of the women were able to state that childhood immunizations protect children from diseases. The women not able to point this out were significantly more likely to have an under-vaccinated child (PR 1.354: 95% CI 1.018–1.802). When asked why vaccination rates may be low in their community, the two most common responses were “fearful of side effects” and “ignorance/disinterest/laziness” (44% each). The factors influencing caregivers’ demand for childhood immunizations vary widely between, and also within, developing countries. Research that elucidates local knowledge and attitudes, like this study, allows for decisions and policy pertaining to vaccination programs to be more effective at improving child vaccination rates.

PLoS Pathogens

<http://journals.plos.org/plospathogens/>

(Accessed 27 February 2016)

[No new relevant content identified]

PNAS - Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/>

(Accessed 27 February 2016)

[No new relevant content]

Prehospital & Disaster Medicine

Volume 31 - Issue 01 - February 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Preventive Medicine

Volume 83, Pages 1-76 (February 2016)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/00917435/83>

[Reviewed earlier]

Public Health Ethics

Volume 8 Issue 3 November 2015

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

Special Symposium: Antimicrobial Resistance

[Reviewed earlier]

Qualitative Health Research

February 2016; 26 (3)

<http://qhr.sagepub.com/content/current>

Special Issue: Qualitative Meta-Analysis

[Reviewed earlier]

Refugee Survey Quarterly

Volume 34 Issue 4 December 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Reproductive Health

<http://www.reproductive-health-journal.com/content>

[Accessed 27 February 2016]

[No new relevant content]

Revista Panamericana de Salud Pública/Pan American Journal of Public Health (RPSP/PAJPH)

December 2015 Vol. 38, No. 6

<http://www.paho.org/journal/>

SECCIÓN ESPECIAL / SPECIAL SECTION

[Declaración SPIRIT 2013: definición de los elementos estándares del protocolo de un ensayo clínico](#) [SPIRIT 2013 Statement: defining standard protocol items for clinical trials]

An-Wen Chan, Jennifer M. Tetzlaff, Douglas G. Altman, Andreas Laupacis, Peter C. Gøtzsche, Karmela Krleža-Jerić, Asbjørn Hrobjartsson, Howard Mann, Kay Dickersin, Jesse A. Berlin, Caroline J. Dore, Wendy R. Parulekar, William S. M. Summerskill, Trish Groves, Kenneth F. Schulz, Harold C. Sox, Frank W. Rockhold, Drummond Rennie y David Moher

Abstract

The protocol of a clinical trial serves as the foundation for study planning, conduct, reporting, and appraisal. However, trial protocols and existing protocol guidelines vary greatly in content and quality. This article describes the systematic development and scope of SPIRIT (Standard Protocol Items: Recommendations for Interventional Trials) 2013, a guideline for the minimum content of a clinical trial protocol. The 33-item SPIRIT checklist applies to protocols for all clinical trials and focuses on content rather than format. The checklist recommends a full description of what is planned; it does not prescribe how to design or conduct a trial. By providing guidance for key content, the SPIRIT recommendations aim to facilitate the drafting of high-quality protocols. Adherence to SPIRIT would also enhance the transparency and completeness of trial protocols for the benefit of investigators, trial participants, patients, sponsors, funders, research ethics committees or institutional review boards, peer reviewers, journals, trial registries, policymakers, regulators, and other key stakeholders.

Risk Analysis

February 2016 Volume 36, Issue 2 Pages 183–430

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/risa.2016.36.issue-2/issuetoc>

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Science

26 February 2016 Vol 351, Issue 6276

<http://www.sciencemag.org/current.dtl>

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Social Science & Medicine

Volume 150, Pages 1-290 (February 2016)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/02779536/150>

[Reviewed earlier]

Stability: International Journal of Security & Development

<http://www.stabilityjournal.org/articles>

[accessed 27 February 2016]

[No new content]

Stanford Social Innovation Review

Winter 2016 Volume 14, Number 1

<http://ssir.org/>

[Reviewed earlier]

Sustainability

Volume 8, Issue 2 (February 2016)

<http://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/8/1>

Article:

The Making of a Sustainable Wireless City? Mapping Public Wi-Fi Access in Shanghai

Received: 14 October 2015 / Revised: 18 January 2016 / Accepted: 19 January 2016 /

Published: 26 January 2016

by Mingfeng Wang, Felix Haifeng Liao, Juan Lin, Li Huang, Chengcheng Gu and Yehua Dennis Wei

Sustainability 2016, 8(2), 111; doi:[10.3390/su8020111](https://doi.org/10.3390/su8020111)

Abstract

In the context of the global information economy, ready access to the Internet is critical to a city's competitiveness, which has prompted a number of cities to launch plans to establish wireless networks. Most literature on the development of wireless cities focuses on cities in Western countries, and few have discussed how Chinese cities have adopted wireless technologies in their urban infrastructure development efforts. This paper examines recent development and spatial distribution of public Wi-Fi access in Shanghai, a leading business hub in China. We mapped Wi-Fi hotspots through the government sponsored "i-Shanghai" project and China Mobile Communications Corporation (CMCC). We find that while telecommunication providers have been proactively deploying WLAN (wireless local area network, a proxy of public Wi-Fi or wireless access) hotspots in Shanghai, neither government sponsored WLAN hotspots nor facilities established by CMCC could cover the old traditional neighborhoods in the central city and sub-districts in remote rural areas. We also address the development of a more

sustainable wireless city in Shanghai with a particular focus on digital divide and social equity issues.

TORTURE Journal

Volume 25, Nr. 2, 2015

<http://www.irct.org/Default.aspx?ID=5768>

[Reviewed earlier]

Tropical Medicine & International Health

February 2016 Volume 21, Issue 2 Pages 157–291

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/tmi.2016.21.issue-2/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

UN Chronicle

Vol. LII No. 3 2015 December 2015

<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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