

The Sentinel

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

Week ending 12 March 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***
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- :: [Foundation/Major Donor Watch](#) -Selected Updates***
- :: [Journal Watch](#) - Key articles and abstracts from 100+ peer-reviewed journals***

:: [Week in Review](#)

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



Editor' Note:

The UN Human Rights Council deliberations continue with full, live coverage on [UN web TV](#)

United Nations Human Rights Council

[31st regular session of the Human Rights Council](#)

Geneva 29 February to 24 March 2016

Website for agenda and documentations:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session31/Pages/31RegularSession.aspx>



South Sudan

[Ivan Simonovic \(Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights\) and David Marshall \(OHCHR\) on the situation in South Sudan- Press Conference](#)

[Video:: 41:07]

11 Mar 2016 - Briefing from Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ivan Simonovic, and David Marshall from the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights on the situation in South Sudan.

[South Sudan: UN report contains “searing” account of killings, rapes and destruction](#)

GENEVA (11 March 2016) – A new report on South Sudan published Friday by the UN Human Rights Office describes “in searing detail” a multitude of horrendous human rights violations, including a Government-operated “scorched earth policy,” and deliberate targeting of civilians for killing, rape and pillage.

Although all parties to the conflict have committed patterns of serious and systematic violence against civilians since fighting broke out in December 2013, the report says state actors bore the greatest responsibility during 2015, given the weakening of opposition forces.

The scale of sexual violence is particularly shocking: in five months last year, from April to September 2015, the UN recorded more than 1,300 reports of rape in just one of South Sudan’s ten states, oil-rich Unity. Credible sources indicate groups allied to the Government are being allowed to rape women in lieu of wages but opposition groups and criminal gangs have also been preying on women and girls.

“The scale and types of sexual violence – primarily by Government SPLA forces and affiliated militia – are described in searing, devastating detail, as is the almost casual, yet calculated, attitude of those slaughtering civilians and destroying property and livelihoods,” said UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra`ad Al Hussein. “However, the quantity of rapes and

gang-rapes described in the report must only be a snapshot of the real total. This is one of the most horrendous human rights situations in the world, with massive use of rape as an instrument of terror and weapon of war -- yet it has been more or less off the international radar."

The new report is the work of an assessment team sent by the High Commissioner to South Sudan from October 2015 to January 2016, in accordance with a resolution by the Human Rights Council in July 2015. It focuses primarily on the worst affected Unity and Upper Nile States, as well as Western and Central Equatoria, where the conflict has spread. While building on earlier reports of the African Union Commission of Inquiry and the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), the new report places special emphasis on violations that took place during 2015...

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Syria

Joint United Nations statement on Syria

Press Releases, 12 March 2016

After five years of a brutal and senseless conflict over a quarter of a million Syrians have been killed and over half the population forced from their homes out of fear and want. Some 4.6 million people are barely existing in places that few can leave and aid cannot reach. A further 4.8 million people have fled the country. Syria today is a very different place – almost unrecognizable in parts – that will take generations to rebuild.

In the past few weeks however, we are seeing signs of momentum, fragile glimmers of hope. Fewer bombs are falling; humanitarian access has opened up in some places; negotiators from all sides are preparing to come together and talk. As humanitarians we welcome progress where it means real change.

The United Nations, NGOs and partners have seized new opportunities to reach people who have had nothing for a very long time. Despite danger and uncertainty we are trying new delivery methods, constantly trying to negotiate ways to reach people. Through regular aid and the recent deliveries to besieged towns we have managed to reach over six million people since the beginning of 2016.

However, until all parties to this conflict stop attacking civilians, schools, markets and hospitals, we will continue to press them on their obligations and hold them to account. Medical supplies and equipment are still being removed at checkpoints: this is unacceptable.

Until parties to the conflict fully open up safe, unimpeded access to everyone we will keep trying to reach civilians by all and any means possible, however challenging. We are able to reach more people now in besieged areas: but we are yet to reach one in every five besieged Syrians who urgently need help and protection.

While we are starting to get basic supplies to communities who have been cut off for months or more, it is just not enough. For example, we are extremely concerned about the situation in

northern rural Homs and in Aleppo, where around 500,000 people are caught behind active frontlines. Two million people are in areas controlled by ISIL.

We and our partners remain ready to deliver assistance. The United Nations continues to work to negotiate access with all parties and to deliver aid to people across the hard-to-reach areas, including the besieged locations we have not yet been able to reach.

No one wants to see a sixth year of conflict start on 15 March. Young people across Syria need to hope and believe that their future lies in their homeland. That they will have education, healthcare, homes and jobs. That life holds more than fear, violence and hunger.

We use our collective voice to call on all parties, local and international, for this anniversary to be the last one and for the political talks to bring real peace and an end to the suffering in Syria.

New York/Geneva/Rome/Amman, 11 March 2016

Signees:

:: Stephen O'Brien, Emergency Relief Coordinator, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs
:: Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director, World Food Programme
:: Anthony Lake, Executive Director, UN Children's Fund
:: Filippo Grandi, High Commissioner for Refugees
:: Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General, World Health Organization
:: William Lacy Swing, Director General, International Organization for Migration
:: Pierre Krähenbühl, Commissioner-General, UN Relief & Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
:: Helen Clark, Administrator, UN Development Programme
:: Samuel Worthington, Chief Executive Officer, InterAction
:: Leila Zerrougui, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
:: Zainab Hawa Bangura, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict

FUELLED THE FIRE: HOW THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL'S PERMANENT MEMBERS ARE UNDERMINING THEIR OWN COMMITMENTS ON SYRIA

Joint Report by Aid Agencies listed below

March 2016 :: 36 pages

Overview

March 2016 marks five years of upheaval and conflict in Syria – conflict that has reduced lives to shadows and cities to rubble. The Syrian government and its allies, as well as armed opposition and extremist groups, bear the primary and direct responsibility for the horrific reality that Syria's civilians face on this grim anniversary. They have targeted civilians, laid siege to cities and towns and denied access to life-saving assistance.

This paper examines what the UNSC demands happen in Syria, the situation since March 2015, and significant actions by the Permanent Members of the UN Security Council. In the first months of 2016 and at time of drafting this paper, some progress has been made in securing greater humanitarian access to those in besieged areas and a cessation of hostilities in parts of

the country which has resulted in a significant decrease in civilian casualties. These are important steps that should be recognised and built on, but they remain fragile and limited in the context of the overall deterioration experienced by civilians inside Syria over the last horrendous year of violence.

CONCLUSION

In its resolutions and statements, the UNSC has provided a framework for easing humanitarian suffering and issued repeated demands for their implementation. The parties to the conflict hold the responsibility to implement this framework. However, as new rounds of negotiations are meant to begin, accompanied by calls for improved humanitarian access and the cessation of sieges, it is clear the very governments that agreed to the resolutions have been fuelling the fire of conflict.

The parties to the Syria conflict bear direct responsibility for the horrific consequences it has unleashed. The failure to end five years of violence, however, also rests with the governments that sit on the UNSC and the ISSG.

Given the increasingly international nature of Syria's war, the members of the Security Council and the ISSG with direct influence over the combatants on the battlefield must stand up for Syria's people and the stability and prosperity of the wider region. Security Council and ISSG members and their allies exert real political, diplomatic and military influence.

The ability to ensure an end to the violence and suffering, and facilitate a sustainable and just peace is now imperative for the protection of civilians in Syria, the region, and beyond.
[Recommendations follow]

Norwegian Refugee Council
No Peace Without Justice
Alkawakibi Organisation for Human Rights
Syria Relief Network
BINAA
Human Appeal
Syria Relief
People in Need
Big Heart Foundation
Syrian NGO Alliance
SEMA
SAWA for Development Aid
Oxfam International
Syrian American Medical Society
Syria Relief and Development
ActionAid
CARE International
Save the Children
Emessa
Baytna Syria
Bihar Relief Organisation
UOSSM

IHSAN Relief and Development
Ghiras Alnahda
Physicians Across Continents
Sham Humanitarian
Mercy Corps
Social Development International
Dawlaty
Khayr/Watan

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Global Fund [to 12 March 2016]
<http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/news/>
News

Removing Human Rights Barriers to End the HIV Epidemic

11 March 2016

GENEVA - The Global Fund made a strong appeal to address human rights issues as a key component of efforts to end epidemics such as AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

"To end HIV, we must overcome discrimination in laws and policies, in practice and in our hearts," Mark Dybul, Executive Director of the Global Fund, said at a session of the United Nations Human Rights Council. "We must grasp the historic opportunity to become better people and societies built on the firm foundation of an inclusive human family."

Despite extraordinary progress against HIV in the last decade, human rights barriers are preventing millions of people from being able to access prevention, treatment and care, Dr. Dybul said. In order to maximize health investments and achieve greater impact, the global community needs to do more to overcome these barriers, including by increasing investment in programs to fight stigma and discrimination, reduce violence against women, provide access to justice, and sensitize law-makers and law enforcement officials, Dr. Dybul said.

"We need to do better on removing human rights barriers, because it is the right thing to do, and because it is essential to our efforts to invest more strategically to end HIV," he added.

Dr. Dybul spoke at a panel discussion on progress and challenges of addressing human rights issues in the context of efforts to end the HIV epidemic, as part of a current session of the Human Rights Council that is underway in Geneva this month.

Dr. Dybul pointed out that in many settings, the impact of investments in health is greatly reduced because of human rights-related barriers to services. In many countries, women and girls often do not access testing and treatment, or are not retained in treatment, because of stigma and discrimination and gender-based violence. Men who have sex with men, people who use drugs, sex workers, transgender people, migrants, and prisoners also often cannot access prevention and treatment because of the discrimination they experience in health-care settings, or the violence perpetrated by police.

The Global Fund partnership was founded with a strong commitment to advancing human rights. Dr. Dybul said the Global Fund had learned from the work done in recent years, and that it was intensifying efforts. The Global Fund's new investment strategy, for 2017-2022, lists as one of its main objectives to "introduce and scale up programs that remove human rights barriers to accessing services".

In this sense, Dr. Dybul said the Global Fund will concentrate efforts on 15 to 20 countries with particular needs and opportunities.

The target in these countries will be to implement comprehensive programs to address human rights-related barriers. This will result in increased uptake of and retention in services, thanks to decreased stigma and discrimination, particularly in health-care settings; increased access to justice; reduction of violence and discrimination against women and girls; greater support among law enforcement officials for prevention and treatment services; a more conducive policy environment; and strengthened participation of affected persons in programs linked to these interventions.

New Multi-country Initiative will Protect Millions of Girls from Child Marriage – UNICEF/UNFPA

Joint Press Release

8 March 2016

NEW YORK — A new multi-country initiative to accelerate action to end child marriage will help protect the rights of millions of the world's most vulnerable girls, UNICEF and UNFPA said on International Women's Day.

The UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage announced today will involve families, communities, governments and young people. This is part of a global effort to prevent girls from marrying too young and to support those already married as girls in 12 countries across Africa, Asia and the Middle East where child marriage rates are high.

"Choosing when and whom to marry is one of life's most important decisions. Child marriage denies millions of girls this choice each year," said Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund. "As part of this global programme, we will work with governments of countries with a high prevalence of child marriage to uphold the rights of adolescent girls, so that girls can reach their potential and countries can attain their social and economic development goals."

The new global programme will focus on proven strategies, including increasing girls' access to education and health care services, educating parents and communities on the dangers of child marriage, increasing economic support to families, and strengthening and enforcing laws that establish 18 as the minimum age of marriage. The programme will also emphasize the importance of using robust data to inform policies related to adolescent girls.

"The world has awakened to the damage child marriage causes to individual girls, to their future children, and to their societies," said UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake. "This

new global programme will help drive action to reach the girls at greatest risk – and help more girls and young women realize their right to dictate their own destinies. This is critical now because if current trends continue, the number of girls and women married as children will reach nearly 1 billion by 2030 – 1 billion childhoods lost, 1 billion futures blighted.”

Child marriage is a violation of the rights of girls and women. Girls who are married as children are more likely to be out of school, suffer domestic violence, contract HIV/AIDS and die due to complications during pregnancy and childbirth. Child marriage also hurts economies and leads to intergenerational cycles of poverty.

The global community demonstrated strong commitment to end child marriage by including a target on eliminating it and other harmful practices in the Sustainable Development Goals. UNICEF and UNFPA call on governments and partner organizations to support the new Global Programme to help eliminate child marriage by 2030.

The UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage is being supported by Canada, the European Union, Italy, Netherlands, and the UK.

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[Bangkok Principles for the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#)

11 March 2016 “” 3 pages

The International Conference on the Implementation of the Health Aspect of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, held on 10-11 March 2016, in Bangkok, Thailand, adopted the “Bangkok Principles” which articulates measures that could assist countries in implementing the health aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The Bangkok Principles are organized under seven recommendation themes:

1. Promote systematic integration of health into national and sub-national disaster risk reduction policies and plans and the inclusion of emergency and disaster risk management programmes in national and sub-national health strategies.
2. Enhance cooperation between health authorities and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen country capacity for disaster risk management for health, the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) and building of resilient health systems.
3. Stimulate people-centered public and private investment in emergency and disaster risk reduction, including in health facilities and infrastructure.
4. Integrate disaster risk reduction into health education and training and strengthen capacity building of health workers in disaster risk reduction.
5. Incorporate disaster-related mortality, morbidity and disability data into multi-hazards early warning system, health core indicators and national risk assessments

6. Advocate for, and support cross-sectoral, transboundary collaboration including information sharing, and science and technology for all hazards, including biological hazards.

7. Promote coherence and further development of local and national policies and strategies, legal frameworks, regulations, and institutional arrangements.

Full text: http://www.preventionweb.net/files/47606_bangkokprinciples.pdf

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Editor's Note:

We are reflecting on the milestone represented below through a UN Women "partnership" facilitating integration a national identity card program with a branded "electronic payments functionality."

MasterCard and UN Women join to advance empowerment of women

Partnership designed to drive financial inclusion of women, beginning with Nigerian pilot Purchase, N.Y., 8 March – Around the world, nearly 2.4 billion people live without any form of official personal identification, and the majority of them are women. As part of broader International Women's Day activities, MasterCard and UN Women signed a Memorandum of Understanding to address this imbalance and advance gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

The first initiative in this relationship is the launch of a pilot programme in Nigeria, which aims to provide half a million Nigerian women with ID cards enabled with electronic payments functionality.

"Research has shown that as soon as a person has a formal identity and access to electronic payments, they can prosper in ways they haven't imagined before," said Martina Hund-Mejean, Chief Financial Officer of MasterCard. "Our relationship with UN Women will help make a real difference in these women's lives as they are more fully empowered to achieve their true potential."...

... "One of UN Women's main objectives is to increase women's economic empowerment. The partnership with MasterCard will help pave the way to economic freedom and financial inclusion for women, initially in Nigeria," says Lakshmi Puri, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women. "We look forward to working together and see the potential of expanding the model to benefit women also in other countries. It is also encouraging that we will collaborate on knowledge generation, advocacy and resource mobilization for greater investment in gender equality and women's empowerment—reflecting MasterCard and its CEO's deep commitment to a Planet 50/50 and to supporting UN Women's efforts," she added.

Under the programme, MasterCard and UN Women will further explore how and when Nigerians have signed up for the country's national identity card programme. Based on these insights, a targeted programme will be launched to educate women on the benefits of the programme and enrol them for the identity card.

"This campaign will help at least half a million women in Nigeria gain access to financial services, many for the first time, and the support they need to enter the country's formal economy," says Omokehinde Ojomuyide, Vice-President and business lead for West Africa at MasterCard.



Do environmental policies affect global value chains?

A new perspective on the pollution haven hypothesis

OECD 10 Mar 2016

Tomasz Koźluk 1, Christina Timiliotis

1: OECD, France

No. 1282 64 pages:

DOI: 10.1787/5jm2hh7nf3wd-en

Abstract

Increasing international fragmentation of production has reinforced fears that industrial activity may flee to countries with laxer environmental policies – in line with the so-called Pollution Haven Hypothesis (PHH). If PHH effects are strong, domestic responses to environmental challenges may prove ineffective or meet strong resistance. Using a gravity model of bilateral trade in manufacturing industries for selected OECD and BRIICS countries over 1990s-2000s, this paper studies how exports are related to national environmental policies. Environmental policies are not found to be a major driver of international trade patterns, but have some significant effects on specialisation. More stringent domestic policies have no significant effect on overall trade in manufactured goods, but are linked to a comparative disadvantage in "dirty" industries, and a corresponding advantage in "cleaner" industries. The effects are stronger for the domestic component of exports than for gross exports, yet notably smaller than the effects of e.g. trade liberalisation.

Press Release

Tougher environmental laws do not hurt export competitiveness – OECD study

10/3/16 - Countries that implement stringent environmental policies do not lose export competitiveness when compared against countries with more moderate regulations, according to a new OECD study that examines trade in manufactured goods between advanced and emerging economies.

The findings suggest that emerging economies with strong manufacturing sectors like China could strengthen environmental laws without denting their overall share in export markets. High-pollution or energy-intensive industries like chemicals, plastics and steel making, whether in the BRIICS or in Europe or North America, would suffer a small disadvantage from a further tightening of regulations, but this would be compensated by growth in exports from less-polluting activities.

Do Environmental Policies Affect Global Value Chains? challenges the conventional wisdom that regulations to curb pollution and energy use hurt businesses by creating new costs. The so-called Pollution Haven Hypothesis suggests that tightening environmental laws often prompts manufacturers to simply relocate some production stages to countries with laxer regulations.

"Environmental policies are simply not the major driver of international trade patterns," said OECD Chief Economist Catherine L. Mann, presenting the study at the London School of

Economics. "We find no evidence that a large gap between the environmental policies of two given countries significantly affects their overall trade in manufactured goods. Governments should stop working on the assumption that tighter regulations will hurt their export share and focus on the edge they can get from innovation."...

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:: Agency/Government/IGO Watch

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

United Nations – Secretary General, Security Council, General Assembly

[to 12 March 2016]

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

Selected Press Releases/Meetings Coverage

11 March 2016

SC/12277

Security Council Asks Secretary-General to Replace Contingents from Countries Failing to Hold Sexual Predators Accountable

7643rd Meeting (PM)

Members Adopt Resolution 2272 (2016) while Rejecting Proposed Amendment

The Security Council, expressing its deep concern over allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeepers, today asked the Secretary-General to replace all military or police units from any contributing country that had failed to hold perpetrators accountable.

Adopting resolution 2272 (2016) by 14 votes in favour to none against, with 1 abstention (Egypt), the Council requested that the Secretary-General ensure that the replacement of personnel from troop- or police-contributing countries upheld standards of conduct and discipline, and appropriately addressed allegations or confirmed acts of sexual exploitation and abuse by their personnel...

[Full text of resolution available from title link above]

UN Peacekeeping operations and sexual exploitation and abuse - Security Council, 7642nd meeting

10 Mar 2016 - United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Sexual exploitation and abuse

[Video:: 2:40:49]

Security Council: United Nations peacekeeping operations - Sexual exploitation and abuse (7643rd meeting)

Resolution Adopted [Video not yet posted]

10 March 2016

SC/12274

Repatriation of Commanders, Units among Steps to Tackle Sexual Exploitation, Abuse by Peacekeepers, Secretary-General Tells Security Council

Briefing the Security Council today, Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon laid out a number of steps to address “the shameful issue” of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers, amid disagreement over a draft resolution aimed at addressing the matter.

UN OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 12 March 2016]

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

Selected Press Releases

11 March 2016

[South Sudan: UN report contains “searing” account of killings, rapes and destruction](#)

[see Week in Review above for detail]

Committee on the Rights of the Child [to 12 March 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 12 March 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 12 March 2016]

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

11 Mar 2016

[Joint Statement on Syria](#)

[see Week in Review above for full text]

08 Mar 2016

[Human Rights Council: Increasingly complex conflicts had a devastating impact on children in 2015](#)

07 Mar 2016

[Central African Republic: Report Describes Children Victims of Relentless Violence in a Climate of Total Impunity](#)

SRSG/SVC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

UN OCHA [to 12 March 2016]

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

11 Mar 2016

[Syrian Arab Republic: Joint Statement on Syria](#)

[see *Week in Review* above for full text]

10 Mar 2016

[Sudan: Jebel Marra Crisis Fact Sheet Issue 4 I 10 March 2016](#)

Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Country: Sudan KEY FACTS • Over 105,000 civilians have been reportedly displaced from the Jebel Marra area in Sudan's Darfur region since mid-January 2016 as a result of increased hostilities between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Abdul Wahid faction of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA/AW). Official government estimates for the newly displaced in North Darfur, at 23 February, are 72,727.

09 Mar 2016

[occupied Palestinian territory: Remarks by Robert Piper, Coordinator for Humanitarian and UN Development Activities for the occupied Palestinian territory - Launch on the Humanitarian Response Plan, Gaza](#)

08 Mar 2016

[World: Humanitarian Private Sector Partnership Platform \(HPPP\) launched in East Africa](#)

Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Country: Kenya, World Nairobi, 8 March 2016: The world is currently facing an unprecedented number of humanitarian crises, putting more strain on responders. The number of people targeted for assistance has more than doubled over the past decade, with the global funding requirements increasing at a much faster rate. An estimated US\$20 billion is needed in 2016 to meet the needs of some 87 million people in need...

UNICEF [to 12 March 2016]

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

Selected Press Releases

[Race for survival as South Sudan's children struggle in forgotten crisis](#)

JUBA, South Sudan, 11 March 2016 - Humanitarian funding for the world's youngest country has collapsed, UNICEF said today, putting the lives of tens of thousands of children at risk.

[UNICEF responds to EU and Turkey summit, calls for protection of refugee and migrant children](#)

GENEVA, 8 March, 2016 - With regard to the outcome of the EU Summit with Turkey, UNICEF reiterates that in the implementation of such decisions the fundamental humanitarian principle of 'do no harm' must guide authorities across Europe, the Balkans and Turkey at every step when it comes to the care of refugee and migrant children.

[New multi-country initiative will protect millions of girls from child marriage – UNICEF/UNFPA](#)

NEW YORK, 8 March 2016 – A new multi-country initiative to accelerate action to end child

marriage will help protect the rights of millions of the world's most vulnerable girls, UNICEF and UNFPA said on International Women's Day.

[see Week in Review above for full text]

Agnes Chan named UNICEF Regional Ambassador for East Asia and Pacific Region

BANGKOK/TOKYO, 7 March 2016 – UNICEF today announced the appointment of Agnes Chan Miling as its newest Regional Ambassador for East Asia and the Pacific Region.

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [to 12 March 2016]

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

Press Releases

12 March 2016

Joint United Nations statement on Syria

[see Week in Review above for full text]

11 March 2016

UNHCR and World Taekwondo Federation partner on training in camps

Joint WTF, UNHCR Press Release

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, has signed an agreement in Geneva with the World Taekwondo Federation (WTF) that will make it easier for thousands of refugees across the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Europe to enjoy the Olympic sport and martial art of taekwondo and keep healthy.

The WTF, through a newly created Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation, will provide coaches and equipment for pilot taekwondo programmes already launched in two camps for Syrian refugees – Kilis in Turkey, and Jordan's Za'atari.

New projects will also bring taekwondo to male and female refugees of all ages in Colombia, Ethiopia, Ghana and Greece...

IOM / International Organization for Migration [to 12 March 2016]

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

03/12/16

IOM-UN Relief Arrives in Cyclone-stricken Fiji

Fiji - More than 80 metric tons of IOM relief supplies have arrived in Fiji to alleviate the suffering of tens of thousands of Fijians severely affected by Cyclone Winston.

IOM Condemns Wednesday Attack at Migrant Response Point in Hodeidah, Yemen

03/11/16

On 9 March 2016, at 3:00 PM, an armed group stormed the IOM Migrant Response Point (MRP) in Hodeidah, Yemen and fired automatic weapons inside the premises.

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals in 2016 Approach 150,000; Deaths Reach 455

03/11/16

Greece - Through March 10, 2016, IOM reports arrivals of migrants and refugees to Italy and Greece via Mediterranean Sea routes have topped 150,000.

IOM, UNHCR Joint Statement on Yemen Crisis

03/08/16

Yemen - IOM and UNHCR have expressed growing concern about the nearly one-year-old conflict in Yemen, which has left 2.4 million people forcibly displaced by fighting.

IOM Receives USD 10 Million from USAID to Fight Human Trafficking in Afghanistan

03/08/16

Afghanistan - USAID has announced it will contribute USD 10 million to IOM to help end human trafficking in Afghanistan.

UN Women [to 12 March 2016]

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

Date: 10 March 2016

Press release: Implementation of 2030 Agenda to be the focus at single largest forum on women and girls

UN Commission on the Status of Women to outline robust set of actions for translating ambitious development roadmap into reality for women and girls

Date: 08 March 2016

MasterCard and UN Women join to advance empowerment of women

Around the world, nearly 2.4 billion people live without any form of official personal identification, and the majority of them are women. As part of broader International Women's Day activities, MasterCard and UN Women signed a Memorandum of Understanding to address this imbalance and advance gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

[See Week in Review above for more detail]

Date: 07 March 2016

Press release: International Women's Day celebrations champion a Planet 50-50 by 2030

International Women's Day celebrations on 8 March will mobilize people around the world to call for a Planet 50-50 by 2030. UN Women is organizing a series of diverse, high-profile events in over 40 countries, where ordinary citizens, activists, musicians, athletes, students, security personnel, scholars and stock exchange officials will be among those who commit to "Stepping It Up for Gender Equality."

WHO & Regionals [to 12 March 2016]

Disease Outbreak News (DONs)

- :: [10 March 2016](#) - Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- :: [10 March 2016](#) - Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Qatar
- :: [10 March 2016](#) - Dengue Fever – Uruguay
- :: [7 March 2016](#) - Guillain-Barré syndrome – France - French Polynesia
- :: [7 March 2016](#) - Zika virus infection – Argentina and France

More than numbers: how better data is changing health systems

March 2016

The Health Data Collaborative, launched by WHO and partner development agencies, countries, donors and academics, will strengthen countries' capacity to collect, analyse and use reliable health data, thereby reducing administrative burden. A list of 100 core health indicators has been produced, and 60 low income and lower-middle income countries, and their supporting donors, will be using common investment plans to strengthen their health information systems by 2024.

:: [Health Data Collaborative website](#)

WHO Highlights

Fukushima five years on

March 2016 -- On 11 March 2011, a magnitude 9 earthquake occurred off the east coast of Japan, generating a tsunami that severely damaged coastal areas. These 10 questions and answers address WHO's current response and next steps to mitigate the public health impact of the Fukushima accident.

Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality

March 2016 -- This year's International Women's Day focuses on accelerating the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, especially goal number 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls and goal 4 – Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.

Consultation for adolescent health

March 2016 -- In response to the health needs of adolescents, WHO and partners are developing a Global Framework for Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents (the Global AA-HA! Framework). Initial input is now requested from governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, youth groups and citizens.

:: WHO Regional Offices

WHO African Region AFRO

:: Angola immunizes 6.7 million people against yellow fever

WHO experts remain at the frontline Luanda, 9 March 2016 - Angolan health authorities and national and international partners continue making tireless efforts to immunize 6.7 million people in Luanda Province and to stop the yellow fever outbreak the country has been facing since December 2015.WHO is supporting the procurement of 7.4 million doses of vaccine that will allow the vaccination of the entire population of Luanda above the age of 6 months.

WHO Region of the Americas PAHO

:: PAHO and OAS partner with University of Miami to offer online courses on good research practices and standards (03/11/2016)

:: Scientists studying intensified vector control measures to combat Zika, dengue and chikungunya in the Americas (03/11/2016)

:: Misión de la OPS en El Salvador destaca oportunidad del país para aportar a la investigación internacional sobre el zika (03/11/2016)

:: International mission convened by PAHO visits El Salvador to exchange experiences and support the response to Zika (03/08/2016)

WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO

:: [Media statement on International Women's Day](#) 8 March 2016

[WHO European Region](#) EURO

:: [E-health in practice](#) 10-03-2016

:: [E-health – when, not if](#) 10-03-2016

:: [Outcome of the 2nd meeting of IHR Emergency Committee on Zika virus and observed increase in neurological disorders and neonatal malformations](#) 09-03-2016

:: [Towards a European strategy for women's health](#) 08-03-2016

[WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region](#) EMRO

:: [Yemen's national oncology centre struggles to continue functioning](#)

10 March 2016 – In late 2015, the national oncology centre in Yemen appealed to the humanitarian community and international bodies to save cancer care services in Yemen from the brink of complete collapse. They warned of the looming health disaster brought about by lack of life-saving chemotherapy drugs, laboratory reagents, and even simple pain killers. The lack of availability of medicines and diagnostic supplies is a direct result of the defacto blockade on Yemen since March 2015, which shows few signs of lifting. Since its establishment in 2005, the national oncology centre has diagnosed and treated more than 60 000 patients.

:: [Women working for polio eradication in Pakistan](#) 9 March 2016

[WHO Western Pacific Region](#)

:: [International Women's Day 2016: Stand up against gender-based violence](#)

8 March 2016 —Violence affects women and girls in epidemic proportions across the Western Pacific Region – with severe consequences for their health and well-being. Women and girls are at greatest risk of violence in their homes from someone they know. On International Women's Day (8 March), the World Health Organization (WHO) enjoins everyone to protect and promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

UNAIDS [to 12 March 2016]

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

11 March 2016

[UNAIDS welcomes South Africa's groundbreaking National Sex Worker HIV Plan](#)

GENEVA—UNAIDS welcomes the roll-out of South Africa's National Sex Worker HIV Plan, 2016–2019. Launched by the Deputy President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, in his role as the Chairperson of the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC), this unique plan will ensure equitable access to health and legal services for sex workers in South Africa.

Sex workers experience a disproportionate burden of HIV, sexually transmitted infections, tuberculosis, violence, and stigma and discrimination. This progressive plan outlines a comprehensive and nationally coordinated response that is tailored to their specific needs and includes a core package of services for sex workers, their partners, their clients and their families.

As well as delivering access to health services to prevent and treat HIV, sexually transmitted infections and tuberculosis, the plan also aims to provide sex workers with access to justice and legal protection services. These services will be made available through a combination of peer educators, community-driven outreach and referrals, and specialized clinics, as well as through primary health-care clinics, with training for all health workers.

The plan includes making HIV testing available and accessible for sex workers. Sex workers who test HIV-positive will be offered antiretroviral therapy. Sex workers who are HIV-negative will be offered antiretroviral medicines to prevent HIV infection—pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)—in combination with other HIV prevention services...

08 March 2016

UNAIDS to collaborate on new mobile technology platform to improve data collection and advance the response to HIV

GENEVA, 8 March 2016—UNAIDS and telecommunications operator Orange have signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate on a new project to strengthen links between health-care providers and people living with and affected by HIV through the use of mobile technology.

Mobile technology will be used to improve HIV services to ensure patient retention in care and treatment adherence and to help break down stigma and discrimination. Data will be collected and analyzed, gaps in services identified and action taken to improve the quality of health care for people living with and affected by HIV. The information collected will be anonymous and full confidentiality will be maintained.

"To achieve UNAIDS' ambitious Fast-Track Targets by 2020, countries need to innovate," said Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of UNAIDS. "This partnership with Orange will allow countries to benefit from state-of-the-art technology that is cost-effective and simple to use, to ensure they can provide the highest quality of services for people living with and affected by HIV."

UNAIDS and partners will use Orange Mobile Training EveryWhere (M-Tew), a web-based platform that has been designed to be fully integrated into health systems and implemented on a large scale. The M-Tew platform will enable health workers to communicate with people enrolled in care through text messages or by phone and voice messages. Health professionals will be able to send messages, conduct text or voice surveys to evaluate user perceptions on quality of services and answer questions through a virtual call centre...

07 March 2016

Respecting women's human rights is key to creating a safer, fairer and healthier world

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund [to 12 March 2016]

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

11 March 2016

Press Release

Unleash the Power of Adolescent Girls of the SDG Generation to Propel Progress for People, Planet, Says UNFPA

UNITED NATIONS, New York—Despite advances in recent years, girls continue to suffer from discrimination and exclusion just because they are young and female, warned Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of UNFPA...

8 March 2016

Press Release

New Multi-country Initiative will Protect Millions of Girls from Child Marriage – UNICEF/UNFPA

NEW YORK — A new multi-country initiative to accelerate action to end child marriage will help protect the rights of millions of the world's most vulnerable girls, UNICEF and UNFPA said on International Women's Day.

[See Week in Review above for more detail]

UNDP United Nations Development Programme [to 12 March 2016]

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

Mar 10, 2016

Helen Clark: Speech on "Sustainable development for all – how will the vision become reality?"

Mar 10, 2016 Polhemssalen, Ingenjörshuset, City Konferens - Stockholm, Sweden.

Additional EUR 59 million boost fight against malaria in Chad

Mar 10, 2016

A new funding agreement, totaling EUR 59 million, has been signed between UNDP and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund). With a focus on young children, pregnant women, nomads and refugees, the grant will roll out community healthcare sites in Chad and intensify efforts to prevent and treat malaria, the leading cause of illness and death in the country.

Helen Clark: Speech on SDGs at the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mar 9, 2016 Copenhagen – Denmark

Helen Clark: Speech at the "Women - the Key to a Sustainable World" event

Mar 8, 2016 Oslo – Norway

Helen Clark: Statement on International Women's Day 2016

Mar 8, 2016

UN Division for Sustainable Development [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

UN Statistical Commission :: UN Statistics Division [to 12 March 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 12 March 2016]

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

10/03/2016

Countries Take Final Step to Put Global Mercury Agreement Into Force

Minamata Convention to Protect Millions Worldwide from Health Threats of Mercury

Amman, 10 March 2016 - Over 550 governments representatives, stakeholders and experts gathered at the Dead Sea in Jordan today to put the final touches to one of the most important legally-binding international agreements - the Minamata Convention on Mercury - which has the potential to end a serious threat to the health of millions of people.

The Minamata Convention on Mercury - named after the Japanese city where thousands of people were poisoned by mercury-tainted industrial water- provides controls and reductions across a range of products, processes and industries that involve mercury. These range from medical equipment such as thermometers and energy-saving light bulbs to the mining, cement and coal fired power sectors.

The Convention was signed in 2013 under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). So far, 23 countries have ratified it out of the 50 required for its entry into force.

Speaking in Jordan, UNEP Deputy Executive Director Ibrahim Thiaw issued a strong call for countries to accelerate the entry into force and implementation of the Convention...

08/03/2016

Environmentally friendly stoves reduce risk of sexual assault

...In perhaps one of the most startling examples, a pilot project in Malawi, supported by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), reduces the number of trees cut down for firewood while also decreasing the risk of sexual assault that women suffer when they enter forests to gather wood.

Energy-efficient stoves were made available to residents in four districts of Malawi, a country with the highest rate of deforestation in Southern Africa. The stoves use high-density briquettes that last longer than wood, reducing the number of trees that are chopped down while decreasing negative impacts on the climate and improving women's health.

The new ceramic stoves, which are made from local clay, have also dramatically cut the number of hours local women spend searching for firewood in the forest...

08/03/2016

Hacked Afghan stoves boost women's health and prevent flooding

Backed by UNEP and the Embassy of Finland, the Afghan NGO Conservation Organisation for Afghan Mountain Areas (COAM) has reinvented two traditional Afghan stoves that produce far less of the noxious smoke and are far more fuel efficient.

08/03/2016

UN Secretary-General's International Women's Day Message, "From the Glass Ceiling to a Carpet of Shards"

UNISDR UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 12 March 2016]

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

11 Mar 2016

Bangkok Principles on health risk agreed

The Bangkok Principles were agreed today at the conclusion of the first international conference on the health aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction which was attended by government officials from 54 countries.

9 Mar 2016

Africa highlights sustainable urbanisation

Delegates from across Africa have met to identify the continent's priorities for sustainable urban development, addressing a critical component of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

UN DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNESCO [to 12 March 2016]

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

Selected Press Releases/News

11 March 2016

UNESCO and heritage professionals from France and Switzerland mobilize to safeguard Syrian heritage

With continued news of the destruction of heritage in Syria, UNESCO joined efforts with French and Swiss heritage and archeology professionals in the summer of 2015 to assess the material needs of players on the ground to help them pursue their work. A particular need emerged for packaging materials essential for the evacuation and safekeeping of collections, conservation materials to preserve fragile items and restore damaged parts, as well as study and registration tools to help professionals complete the inventories and scientific documentation of Syria's heritage to facilitate its identification, management and the safeguarding of data.

11 March 2016

Syrian teachers use cloud technology to create safe schools for refugee students

A project using cloud technology to teach Syrian refugee teachers how to better work with traumatised students was presented as part of UNESCO's flagship ICT event, Mobile Learning Week (MLW) at the Organizations headquarters from 7 – 11 March, 2016.

The Connect to Learn pilot project is run by the International Rescue Committee (ICR) in ten pilot schools in Domiz Camp in the Kurdish Region of Iraq (KRI).

The project recognizes the expertise of Syrian refugee teachers, their importance in creating safe and nurturing spaces to learn in and their challenges in dealing with vulnerable students who may have suffered varying degrees and types of trauma.

IRC launched a yearlong pilot project with information and communication company, Ericsson providing a technology platform that gives refugee teachers access to resources to help meet the complex needs of conflict-affected children, specifically social-emotional skills, literacy and numeracy....

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 12 March 2016]

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

07/03/2016 –

[Statement on International Women's Day, 8 March 2016](#)

UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme [to 12 March 2016]

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

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

FAO Food & Agriculture Organization [to 12 March 2016]

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

10-03-2016

[Asia and the Pacific must play a leading role in meeting the SDGs to eliminate global hunger and malnutrition](#)

While the Asia-Pacific region has shown remarkable progress in reducing poverty and hunger during the last 25 years, it can lead the world in the complete eradication of these scourges within the next 15 years, FAO's Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific heard today.

[Global crop prospects benign, but hunger intensifies in areas suffering from conflict](#)

Thirty-four countries, including 27 in Africa, are currently in need of external assistance for food, due to drought, flooding and civil conflicts, according to FAO's new edition of the *Crop Prospects and Food Situation*, released today. The figure has grown from 33 last December, after the addition of Swaziland.

9-03-2016

[International agencies in Rome together commemorate Women's Day](#)

Leaders of international organizations based in Rome today gathered to highlight the achievements and the real prospects for achieving gender equality. The speakers all agreed accelerating the empowerment of women everywhere is fundamental to achieving a zero hunger world and reaching the world's new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

8-03-2016

US ratification of accord is fresh boost for global effort to combat rogue fishing

US Ambassador to the United Nations agencies in Rome, David Lane, today formally presented FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva with the US' instrument of ratification of the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

7-03-2016

Ethiopian farmers need urgent assistance to feed country caught in major drought

Timely agricultural assistance for the upcoming rainy season is essential to help the drought-affected people of Ethiopia, as one of the strongest El Niño events on record continues to have devastating effects on the lives and livelihoods of farmers and herders.

7-03-2016

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 12 March 2016]

https://www.ifad.org/newsroom/press_release/list/tags/y2016

11 March 2016

Young people are key to rural transformation and poverty reduction in West and Central Africa

Abuja, 11 March 2016 – A regional forum organized by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to be held 14 to 18 March in Abuja will examine lessons learned from IFAD-funded projects in West and Central Africa with a particular focus on successful investments in rural youth.

Over five days, the forum on “Investing in rural youth – How we do plant the seeds for the future?” will focus on effective investments that create opportunities for youth in rural areas. While the number of young people in Africa has never been higher, the situation is particularly acute in rural Sub-Saharan Africa, and especially in West and Central Africa, where half of the population is under 25 years of age...

8 March 2016

International Agencies in Rome together commemorate Women's Day with collective and individual commitments for achieving worldwide gender equity

ILO International Labour Organization [to 12 March 2016]

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

News

Statement by ILO Director-General: Getting to Equal by 2030, The Future is Now

07 March 2016

“Let’s work together to achieve genuine gender equality and women’s empowerment in the world of work. Decent work for women brings decent lives for all,” says ILO Director-General Guy Ryder

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization [to 12 March 2016]

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

8/3/16

States Make Further Progress through ICAO to Help Avoid Recurrence of MH370-Type Disappearances

IMO International Maritime Organization [to 12 March 2016]
<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/Home.aspx>

08/02/2016

States urged to ratify compensation regime for Hazardous and Noxious Cargoes

HNS 2010 treaty covering the transport of hazardous and noxious substances by ship will complement existing liability and compensation regimes

WMO World Meteorological Organization [to 12 March 2016]
<https://www.wmo.int/media/news>

10 March 2016

Carbon dioxide levels in atmosphere spike

The annual growth rate of atmospheric carbon dioxide measured at the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii jumped by 3.05 parts per million during 2015, the largest year-to-year increase in 56 years of research, according to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The development is significant because Mauna Loa Observatory is the oldest continuous atmospheric measurement station in the world and is widely regarded as a benchmark site in the World Meteorological Organization's Global Atmosphere Watch network.

WMO facilitates use of new Himawari-8 satellite data

10 March 2016

The World Meteorological Organization has provided satellite data receiving and processing systems to nine countries in East Asia and the Western Pacific region in cooperation with the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA).

The aim is to spread the benefits of advanced satellite technology with developing countries to improve early warning systems and monitor and detect hazards such as tropical cyclones such as severe Tropical Cyclone Winston which recently hit Fiji.

WMO Celebrates International Women's Day

8 March 2016

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 12 March 2016]
<http://www.unido.org/news-centre/news.html>

Thursday, 10 March 2016

Global manufacturing growth remains low amid declining trends in emerging industrial economies - UNIDO report

VIENNA, 10 March 2016 - World manufacturing production growth further slowed in the last quarter of 2015 with the growth of developing and emerging industrial economies weakening...

Tuesday, 08 March 2016

Japan demonstrates strong support for UNIDO projects in Africa, Middle East

VIENNA, 8 March 2016 – The Government of Japan has provided a contribution of over USD 7.4 million in response to the needs of communities affected by humanitarian crises and the influx of displaced peoples...

International Organization for Standardization (ISO) [to 12 March 2016]

http://www.iso.org/iso/home/news_index.htm

10 March 2016

World Bank Group and ISO partnership highlights how countries benefit from international standards

8 March 2016

Robots and humans can work together with new ISO guidance

Human and robot system interaction in industrial settings is now possible thanks to ISO/TS 15066, a new ISO technical specification for collaborative robot system safety.

7 March 2016

Putting traditions to the test

Despite being in existence for so long, Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) is still clouded in mystery and myths.

UNWTO World Tourism Organization [to 12 March 2016]

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

9 March 2016

Safe and seamless travel, technology and sustainability: priorities for tourism

Ensuring safe and seamless travel, enhancing the opportunities brought by technology and accelerating the shift towards a more sustainable sector are the priorities for the sector said UNWTO Secretary-General, Taleb Rifai, opening the 50th edition of ITB Berlin. (Berlin, Germany, 8 March 2016).

ITU International Telecommunications Union [to 12 March 2016]

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

9 March 2016

ITU strengthens ties between technology, business and policy

Economic and policy requirements to play a greater role in informing ITU standardization

Geneva, – The international community is looking to ITU's unique public-private partnership of members for a neutral platform to strengthen the ties between technical innovation, business needs and economic and policy requirements.

ITU has intensified its efforts to ensure congruent technical innovation and policy development, addressing concerns that technology too often races ahead of policy, with the result that governance frameworks fall out of step with market realities. Challenges to fair market competition may arise as a result, and legislation may no longer afford adequate protection to consumers.

Growing interest among ITU members in building greater cohesion in the progression of technology and policy is very evident in the work of ITU-T Study Group 3, ITU's standardization

expert group responsible for economic and policy issues relevant to international telecommunications...

11 March 2016

Harnessing mobile technology to achieve inclusive, equitable, better quality education

Policy Forum calls for better mobile learning policy environment

Geneva,– A joint ITU/UNESCO Policy Forum on mobile learning brought together for the first time Ministers of Education and Ministers of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) to examine the role that policies and cross-sectoral collaboration can play in fostering innovation and the use of mobile technology to improve the quality, equity and accessibility of education.

Held under the framework of ITU's m-Powering Development Initiative, the Forum was a highlight of this year's UNESCO Mobile Learning Week (MLW), which had the theme "Innovating for Quality"...

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity [to 12 March 2016]

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

2016-03-07

Message of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Braulio Ferreira De Souza Dias, on the occasion of International Women's Day

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USAID [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

DFID [to 12 March 2016]

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

12 March 2016

Justine Greening statement on 5 years of conflict in Syria

DFID Press release

10 March 2016

International Development Minister Nick Hurd stresses the importance of fair elections in the DRC

DFID Press release

ECHO [to 12 March 2016]

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

11/03/2016

[European Commission releases €1 million in humanitarian aid to support victims of Cyclone Winston in Fiji](#)

The European Commission has made available €1 million in humanitarian funding to provide emergency assistance to families impacted by Tropical Cyclone Winston in Fiji. The funds are used to provide the most vulnerable people with shelter, food...

[Refugee crisis: Commission welcomes Member States' agreement on Emergency Assistance instrument for faster crisis response within the EU](#)

09/03/2016

The European Commission welcomes the fast agreement Member States reached today on its proposal for an 'Emergency Assistance Instrument' to provide faster means of support to EU countries facing major humanitarian crises, such as dealing with large...

[Stories of courage and strength: Celebrating women and girls on International Women's Day](#)

08/03/2016

Disasters and conflicts exacerbate women's vulnerabilities as women can become victims of violence or suffer the ill effects of gender inequality. Three fifths of all maternal deaths take place in humanitarian crisis situations according to the UN...

:::::

African Union [to 12 March 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]

March 11, 2016 | Press Releases

[African Union convenes joint coordination meeting with Regional Economic Communities \(RECs\), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa \(UNECA\), African Development Bank \(AfDB\), The New Partnership for Africa's Development \(NEPAD\) and African Capacity](#)

March 10, 2016 | Press Releases

[The African Union Commission and the Network for African National Human Rights Institutions Sign MOU to Strengthen Cooperation and Collaboration](#)

...According to the signed MoU, the Commission and JWF will cooperate to explore opportunities for cooperation and non-exclusive partnership in the following areas:

- :: Fostering participation of National Human Rights Institutions in policy development at the continental level;
- :: Jointly promote and protect human and peoples' rights in Africa;
- :: Support the implementation of the AU Human Rights Strategy for Africa;
- :: Support the implementation of Project 2016;
- :: Information generation and dissemination on issues related to human rights.

March 08, 2016 | Press Releases

AUC Chairperson Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma emphasises the importance to celebrate the determination of women around the world for equal rights and have their voices heard

ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations [to 12 March 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]

No new digest content identified.

European Union [to 12 March 2016]

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

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

Refugee crisis: European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis

Management Christos Stylianides meets with the Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras

Date: 11/03/2016

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 11 March 2016 European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides met with the Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras in Athens © European Union 2016 Today European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides met with the Greek Prime Minister...

Refugee crisis: Commission welcomes Member States' agreement on Emergency Assistance instrument for faster crisis response within the EU

Date: 09/03/2016

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 9 March 2016 The European Commission welcomes the fast agreement Member States reached today on its proposal for an Emergency Assistance instrument to provide faster means of support to EU countries facing major humanitarian crises, such as dealing with large numbers of refugees.

Commission launches a public consultation on the European Pillar of Social Rights

Date: 08/03/2016

European - Press release Commission Strasbourg, 8 March 2016 Today, the European Commission presents a first, preliminary outline of the European Pillar of Social Rights announced by President Juncker in September last year and launches a broad public consultation Today, the European Commission

Joint Statement on International Women's Day

Date: 08/03/2016

European Commission - Statement Brussels, 8 March 2016 Today we celebrate women. We celebrate their role in society, at work, in our families and lives. We also remember their suffering, hardship and injustice, which for many is still a reality today.

OECD [to 12 March 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]

10-March-2016

Tougher environmental laws do not hurt export competitiveness – OECD study

Countries that implement stringent environmental policies do not lose export competitiveness when compared against countries with more moderate regulations, according to a new OECD study that examines trade in manufactured goods between advanced and emerging economies.

10-March-2016

Active policies needed for a competitive and sustainable tourism sector

The tourism industry in OECD countries continues to grow strongly despite economic weakness in advanced economies, and outperformed tourism globally in 2014. However, active, innovative and integrated policies are needed to ensure that tourism remains a competitive and sustainable sector, says OECD.

8-March-2016

OECD countries confirm their drive to improve gender equality in public leadership

OECD countries have agreed to work towards greater gender equality in public life – including in governments, parliaments and judiciaries – with concrete measures to improve women's access to leadership and decision-making roles and integrate more of a gender perspective into public policies.

Organization of American States (OAS) [to 12 March 2016]

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

March 8, 2016

OAS Forum Highlights Progress and Setbacks in Combating Violence Against Women

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) [to 12 March 2016]

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

[Selected Press Releases, Announcements]

09/03/2016

Jakarta Summit supports the Palestinian reconciliation, calls for banning products of settlements and endorses Abbas' call for an international peace conference

The Fifth Extraordinary Islamic Summit concluded in the Indonesian capital Jakarta expressing support for the call made by the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to convene an international peace conference to end the Israeli occupation as an essential step towards ending the unsustainable and volatile situation, which would promote calm and revive hope in a peaceful solution to end occupation, and allow the Palestinian people to live in freedom and dignity in their Palestinian State, with Al-Quds as its capital...

Group of 77 [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNCTAD [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

World Trade Organisation [to 12 March 2016]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

IPU Inter-Parliamentary Union [to 12 March 2016]

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

9 MARCH 2016

African MPs take new steps towards tackling WMDs

Members of Parliament from across Africa have recommended fresh action to halt the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), after a seminar in Côte d'Ivoire. More than 70 MPs from 18 countries took part in the seminar, the first event to bring together MPs from one continent to discuss the implementation of UN Resolution 1540, which deals with the threat posed by WMDs especially when they are in the hands of non-State actors. The event was jointly organized by IPU and the Parliament of Côte d'Ivoire, in partnership with the 1540 Committee and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs. It delivered practical information on the risks posed by WMDs, and how parliaments can act by implementing Resolution 1540. A roadmap will be developed in the light of the seminar's conclusions, with MPs proposing that this should include practical tools on how to implement the resolution.

IPU Secretary General Martin Chungong told the seminar: "The danger of terrorist groups making use of weapons of mass destruction to advance their criminal causes is very real... It really takes an effort in global cooperation for MPs in every country to realize that they have an obligation to act and to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction." Other speakers included Isidor Marcel Sene of the 1540 Committee; Jean Albert Agbre, Delegated President of the IPU national group; and Olatokunbo Ige, Director of the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC), who was also representing the UN Office for Disarmament affairs (UNODA). The Speaker of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire, Guillaume Soro, opened the seminar.

WMDs are most likely to spread in areas of conflict and terrorist activity. [Resolution 1540 \(PDF\)](#) obliges governments to implement effective laws, rules and regulations to prevent terrorists and other non-State actors from acquiring them.

International Criminal Court (ICC) [to 12 March 2016]

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

08/03/2016

On International Women's Day, the ICC calls for greater coordination in global efforts to end sexual and gender-based crimes

.....

World Bank [to 12 March 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]

World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim's statement on the Fifth Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

Date: March 11, 2016 Type: Press Release

7 Million More Jobs Each Year in East Asia if Cities Are More Competitive

More competitive cities can help boost growth in the region

SINGAPORE, March 10, 2016—More than 7 million more jobs can be created each year in East Asia if the cities improved their competitiveness...

Date: March 10, 2016 Type: Press Release

World Bank Group and ISO Partnership Highlights How Countries Benefit from International Standards: Open Trade, Access to Markets and Innovation

WASHINGTON, March 10, 2016—The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the World Bank Group announced today the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to help increase countries' awareness and involvement in the development, adoption and use of international standards that promote open, fair and transparent trade.

The MoU serves as the foundation for future cooperation in the areas of knowledge generation and dissemination; encouraging research and promoting awareness; improving monitoring and evaluation; and enhancing capacity around international standards that give countries the opportunity to participate in global trade and that contribute to economic development, social progress and protection of the environment....

Date: March 10, 2016 Type: Press Release

World Bank and Global Environment Facility (GEF) launch new multi-million dollar 'Global Platform for Sustainable Cities'

International community invests in the Sustainable Cities of the Future

SINGAPORE, March 9, 2016—City leaders from around the world met in Singapore today for the launch of the 'Global Platform for Sustainable Cities', or GPSC, which is part of an initiative funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) that is expected to mobilize up to \$1.5 billion over the next five years for urban sustainability programs in 11 developing countries, including Brazil, Cote D'Ivoire, China, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Senegal, South Africa, and Vietnam.

Coordinated by the World Bank and supported by multilateral development banks, UN organizations, think tanks and various city networks, the GPSC is a knowledge sharing program that will provide access to cutting-edge tools and promote an integrated approach to sustainable urban planning and financing. The GPSC will work with a core group of 23 cities, but will reach many more by sharing of data, experiences, ideas, and solutions to urban challenges, and by linking the knowledge to finance that will influence investment flows toward building cities' long-term urban sustainability.

Date: March 9, 2016 Type: Press Release

Emerging Economies Drive Global Trade Volatility in 2015

WASHINGTON, March 9, 2016—After dramatically declining in the first half of 2015, global trade recovered but at a slower pace over the rest of the year, so that world imports grew by only 1.7 percent in 2015 compared to 3 percent in 2014.

According to a new World Bank Group paper, [Global Trade Watch: Trade Development in 2015](#), by World Bank Group Economists Cristina Constantinescu, Aaditya Mattoo and Michele Ruta, global trade in 2015 reflected persistently weak demand and structural changes in world trade, compounded by falling commodity prices and China's transition to a new growth path.
Date: March 9, 2016 Type: Press Release

[Countries Meet with World Bank to Discuss Carbon Pricing and Build Carbon Markets](#)

ZURICH, March 8, 2016 – Just months after the Paris Agreement at COP21, the World Bank today brought together over 30 developed and developing countries at the Carbon Pricing: Sustaining the Momentum after COP21 conference in Zurich to take stock and discuss opportunities and challenges to use carbon pricing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
Date: March 8, 2016 Type: Press Release

IMF [to 12 March 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]

March 12, 2016

[Asia's Advancing Role in the Global Economy](#)

Speech by Christine Lagarde

Managing Director, International Monetary Fund

New Delhi, India, March 12, 2016

[Conference: Advancing Asia: Investing for the Future](#)

New Delhi, India

March 11–13, 2016

African Development Bank Group [to 12 March 2016]

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

10/03/2016

[Legislation and training crucial for tackling cybercrimes targeting women](#)

Cyber-based violence against women was the focus of a forum hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB) in commemoration of the International Women's Day on March 8, 2016.

[AfDB approves over US \\$36 million support package for Djibouti](#)

09/03/2016 - The African Development Bank Group will help Djibouti to diversify its economy, improve governance and create employment for the country's young population. These commitments were agreed in the 2016-2020 Country Strategy Paper (CSP) for Djibouti approved by the Bank's Board of Directors on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

AfDB receives Green Climate Fund accreditation to increase low-carbon and climate-resilient development in Africa

09/03/2016 - The African Development Bank announced its accreditation on Wednesday, March 9 as a multilateral implementing entity and intermediary to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), further enabling it to scale-up financing necessary to address the impacts of climate change.

New AfDB partnership to stem gender-based cyber violence

08/03/2016 - The African Development Bank (AfDB) has launched a partnership with Facebook, the Kenya ICT Authority, Judiciary and the Kenya Police to increase awareness on cyber-based gender violence.

AfDB releases new report on the impact of Ebola on women

07/03/2016 - On the occasion of International Women's Day, March 8, 2016, the Office of the African Development Bank's Special Envoy on Gender, Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, has launched a report on "Women's Resilience: Integrating Gender in the Response to Ebola."

Asian Development Bank [to 12 March 2016]

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

News Release | 11 March 2016

ADB President Says India to Remain Fastest-Growing Large Economy in 2016

ADB President Takehiko Nakao today met India's Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley, and praised India's strong economic performance in the face of weak global growth and turmoil in commodity and financial markets.

News Release | 9 March 2016

ADB Sells \$3 Billion 5-Year Global Benchmark Bond

MANILA, PHILIPPINES — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has returned to the US dollar bond market with the pricing of a \$3 billion 5-year global benchmark bond, proceeds of which will be part of ADB's ordinary capital resources and used in its non-concessional operations.

"This is another stellar outcome for ADB against a challenging market backdrop that has prevailed since the beginning of 2016. Strong demand for the transaction allowed us to size a \$3 billion new issue in line with our strategy of providing the market with liquid benchmark bonds across the curve," said ADB Treasurer Pierre Van Peteghem. "We were pleased by the broad participation across geographical regions from the investor community, which is itself a testament to the institution's robust credit fundamentals and loyal global following in the capital markets."...

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

* * * *

:: INGO/Consortia/Joint Initiatives Watch

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

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

Amref Health Africa [to 12 March 2016]

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

Published: 10 March 2016 Carolyne Khamala

Amref supports 12th ECSACON Biennial Conference

Amref Health Africa is partnering with the Kenyan Ministry of Health and the ECSACON organising committee to host the 12th ECSACON (East, Central and Southern Africa College of Nursing) Biennial Conference. This is one of the most esteemed forums in the East, Central and South African region for bringing together policy makers and professionals from around the world to promote strategic professional collaboration in nursing and midwifery practice. It will run from September 7-9, 2016, in Nairobi, Kenya at the Safari Park Hotel...

Aravind Eye Care System [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

BRAC [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

CARE International [to 12 March 2016]

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

11th Mar 2016 Syria

World powers must safeguard hope not fan the flames in Syria

Last year was worst for Syrians, world powers must safeguard hope not fan the flames, warn aid agencies.

[See Week in Review above for more detail]

Casa Alianza [to 12 March 2016]

Covenant House [to 12 March 2016]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

Clubhouse International [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Danish Refugee Council [to 12 March 2016]

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

11.03.2016

Severe drought in Somalia and Somaliland

Nearly 4.7 million people (38 per cent of the population) in drought-hit Somalia are acutely food insecure and are at risk of starving if they do not receive urgent support. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is gearing up its efforts to respond and assist the thousands of communities at risk of being severely affected by the drought particularly in Puntland (Somalia) and Somaliland.

ECPAT [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Fountain House [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Handicap International [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Heifer International [to 12 March 2016]

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

Tuesday, Mar 8, 2016

Heifer International Weekly

HelpAge International [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

IRC International Rescue Committee [to 12 March 2016]

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

08 Mar 2016

Refugees Prevented from Crossing Greece's Northern Borders at Increased Risk, Finds IRC

07 Mar 2016

There is a way through the refugee crisis for the EU, but border closures won't work without safe and legal routes to refuge, effective relocation within Europe, and better aid for Syria's neighbours

Posted by The IRC on March 8, 2016

The IRC expands its programs in Greece: latest updates on refugee crisis [Storify]

As countries across Europe shut their doors to desperate refugees seeking safety, the IRC today calls on governments to take action to protect the vulnerable and respect the rights and human dignity of all people arriving at their borders. Get the latest updates from our partners on the ground in Serbia...

ICRC [to 12 March 2016]

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

Selected News Releases and Articles

News release

11 March 2016

Pakistan: Campaign to make Karachi safer for ambulance services

Karachi (ICRC) - Today, a public-service campaign was launched in Karachi to get motorists to give way to ambulances and generally increase respect for ambulance services. Joining forces for this important cause are: the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Edhi Foundation, Aman Foundation, Indus Hospital, Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre and Jinnah Sindh Medical University. Samaa TV and Samaa FM are the media partners for the campaign. The ICRC is also planning to work with government authorities to enact legislation requiring drivers to make way for ambulances on roads.

News release

10 March 2016

Colombia: Insidious violence on the rise in 2015

Bogotá (ICRC) – Although the fighting is abating between government forces and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army (FARC-EP), the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) is continuing to register the same levels of violence in the country as in previous years. In a report released today about the humanitarian challenges facing Colombia in 2016, the ICRC underlined the high incidence of death threats, disappearances and sexual violence in 2015.

Article

10 March 2016

Tuvalu Red Cross Society becomes 190th National Society

Tuvalu was a hive of activity on 1 March as the Tuvalu Red Cross Society (TRCS) celebrated its recognition as part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The celebrations were attended by the governor general, the prime minister, cabinet ministers, staff, volunteers and the public.

Article

08 March 2016

ICRC and EPFL launch Humanitarian Tech Hub

Geneva (ICRC / EPFL) – The Humanitarian Tech Hub is an ambitious research and development programme that is being launched by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL). The plans were unveiled today during ICRC President Peter Maurer's visit to the EPFL campus in Lausanne.

The agreement between the two institutions sets out a four-year programme whose goal is to foster collaboration between the humanitarian and scientific sectors, as well as specialists in other fields, to develop technologies to tackle the humanitarian challenges facing the world today. There is no shortage of avenues to explore: energy, water, construction, logistics, the environment, information and communication technologies, and biomedical technologies, to name just a few. With more than 150 million people worldwide affected by humanitarian crises, the demand and potential applications are enormous...

News release

07-03-2016

Liberia / Côte d'Ivoire: ICRC resumes cross-border family reunifications

Fourteen Ivorian children who had sought refuge in Liberia five years ago were reunited with their families between 4 and 12 February.

Article

04 March 2016

ICRC and Novartis launch partnership to improve access to healthcare in fragile countries

Following the ICRC's Global Partnerships for Impact and Innovation (GPHI2) event in Lausanne, the ICRC and Novartis launched a partnership, focusing on improving care and treatment to the most vulnerable populations in Lebanon (Syrian refugees, underserved Lebanese and Palestinian patients), suffering from non-communicable diseases (NCDs), also known as chronic diseases.

IRCT [to 12 March 2016]

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

News

IRCT Member Red de Apoyo warns against Venezuelan amnesty law

11 March 2016

IRCT Member Red de Apoyo por la Justicia y Paz in Venezuela has issued a declaration warning against the Law on Amnesty and National Reconciliation. According to Red de Apoyo, the Amnesty law may result in impunity for perpetrators of a number of crimes, including human rights violations, and it will deny victims access to redress and full rehabilitation. In addition, the centre says it will be in direct breach of Article 26 of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela...

Statements & declarations

IRCT condemns attack on Joint Mobile Group

11 March 2016

The IRCT is deeply concerned about the latest attacks against the Joint Mobile Group in the border region between Ingushetia and Chechnya where the group continues to document and expose severe human rights abuses. On 9 March, a car carrying two staff of the Joint Mobile Group, six journalists and a driver was attacked by masked men who severely beat them and

set their car on fire. Later that day, the Ingushetia office of the Joint Mobile Group was attacked and damages are yet to be assessed...

Islamic Relief [to 12 March 2016]
<http://www.islamic-relief.org/category/news/>
No new digest content identified.

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières [to 12 March 2016]
<http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/news-stories/press/press-releases>
Press Releases

[Senate HELP Committee Fails to Fix Flawed PRV Program Intended to Promote Innovation for Neglected Diseases](#)

March 09, 2016

New York— A Senate committee voted today to add Zika to the list of diseases eligible for the US Federal Drug Administration (FDA) Priority Review Voucher (PRV) program for neglected diseases, but did not fix major loopholes that make the PRV program for neglected diseases ripe for abuse by pharmaceutical companies.

Press Releases

[European Union and Turkey Reach Inhumane Agreement on Refugees](#)

March 08, 2016

In response to an agreement announced today between the European Union and Turkey on refugees and migration, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) released the following statement from Aurelie Ponthieu, MSF humanitarian affairs advisor on displacement: "European leaders have completely lost track of reality, and the deal currently being negotiated between the EU and Turkey is one of the clearest examples of their cynicism. For each refugee that will risk their life at sea and will be summarily sent back to Turkey, another one may have the chance to reach Europe from Turkey under a proposed resettlement scheme. This crude calculation reduces people to mere numbers, denying them humane treatment and discarding their right to seek protection..."

Field News

[CAR: Calm Returns to Carnot, But Many Remain Displaced](#)

March 07, 2016

Despite a return to calm, the situation in Central African Republic (CAR) remains unstable and over 450,000 people are still displaced within the country. At the Catholic Church in Carnot, a town in western CAR, the displaced are gradually moving out of what has become an enclave.

Mercy Corps [to 12 March 2016]
<http://www.mercycorps.org/press-room/releases>
No new digest content identified.

Operation Smile [to 12 March 2016]
<http://www.operationsmile.org/press-room>

Program Schedule

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

OXFAM [to 12 March 2016]

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

11 March 2016

World powers must safeguard hope - not fan the flames of the Syria conflict: last year was the worst for Syrians

The fifth year of the Syria conflict has been the worst yet for people as warring parties have continued to wreak havoc, increasingly block aid and place more communities under siege.

Last year was worst for Syrians, world powers must safeguard hope not fan the flames, warn aid agencies

11 March 2016

Russia, the United States, France and the United Kingdom must now safeguard the glimmer of hope that the ceasefire has brought to civilians, rather than "adding fuel to the fire", warn 30 aid agencies in a new report.

International investors must withdraw all involvement now from deadly Honduras dam project, says Oxfam

8 March 2016

The assassination last week of Honduran activist Berta Cáceres – who championed the cause of indigenous land rights – shows that international companies have no place now in continuing their support for the Agua Zarca dam she was fighting against.

Norwegian Refugee Council [to 12 March 2016]

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

(11.03.2016)

Five years of war in Syria

World powers must safeguard hope not fan the flames

The fifth year of the Syria conflict was the worst yet for people as warring parties have continued to wreak havoc, increasingly blocked aid and placed more communities under siege. Russia, the United States, France and the United Kingdom must now safeguard the glimmer of hope that the ceasefire has brought to civilians, rather than "adding fuel to the fire", warn 30 aid agencies in a new report.

These four countries - all members of the UN Security Council and the International Syria Support Group - could be key players in helping end the suffering in Syria. Instead they have to varying degrees undermined their own resolutions through inadequate diplomatic pressure, political and military support to their allies or direct military action.

The report, [Fuelling the Fire](#), catalogues the deteriorating conditions in Syria, as the country plunged into further chaos and fragmentation. It has been signed by 30 humanitarian and human rights organisations including Oxfam, Norwegian Refugee Council, CARE International, and Syrian organisations - The Syrian-American Medical Society (SAMS), Big Heart, and Syria Relief and Development...

Pact [to 12 March 2016]
<http://www.pactworld.org/news>
No new digest content identified.

Partners In Health [to 12 March 2016]

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

Mar 07, 2016

International Women's Day: Stories of Inspiration

To recognize International Women's Day, we asked some of the inspirational women at Partners In Health to tell us about a woman in their lives who has inspired them.

PATH [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Plan International [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Save The Children [to 12 March 2016]

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

March 10, 2016

Save the Children Applauds Committee Passage of the Global Food Security Act to Fight Child Hunger and Malnutrition

March 8, 2016

250,000 Children Living in Terror in Syria's Besieged Areas

SOS-Kinderdorf International [to 12 March 2016]

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

09.03.2016

For SOS Children's Villages nurse, a night shift like no other

Ljupka Pavlovic will never forget the night of Friday, 12 February, when she was working the night shift at a Child Friendly Space for refugees operated by SOS Children's Villages. The nurse was there just in time to help deliver a baby.

08.03.2016

Voting opens for SOS Children's Villages exceptional alumni award

Voting is now open to the public for the 2016 Hermann Gmeiner Award. Meet the nominees and cast your vote

07.03.2016

Sweden's Akelius Foundation donates €10.7 million for refugee response

Swedish philanthropist Roger Akelius has donated 100 million Swedish krona, or €10.7 million, to SOS Children's Villages Sweden to assist thousands of vulnerable children affected by the refugee crisis in Europe and the Middle East.

Tostan [to 12 March 2016]

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

March 11, 2016

Celebrating International Women's Day in Solidarity with Detainees in Rufisque

On March 8th, I visited a women's prison in Rufisque, Senegal to celebrate International Women's Day with Tostan's Prison Project.

Women for Women International [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

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ChildFund Alliance [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

CONCORD [to 12 March 2016]

<http://concordeurope.org/news-and-events/>

[European NGO confederation for relief and development]

Deconstructing 10 myths about migration and development – publication

Mar 9, 2016 | Migration and development, Publications

The FORIM, ICMC together with CONCORD launch a series of publications named the "10 myths about migration". The publications aim to deconstruct the stereotypes and prejudices around migration and development issues.

Encouraging results for the European Year for Development, according to recent EuroBarometer

Mar 7, 2016 | Development Cooperation, Effective Civil Society, Newsroom

Our board members Marius Wanders and Johannes Trimmel attended on February 29th the launch seminar of the 'EuroBarometer 441' about the European Year for Development 2015. The conference organised by the European Commission revealed the results of the year as well as the perception of European citizens on development issues.

Disasters Emergency Committee [to 12 March 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 12 March 2016]

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

Opinion 6 March 2016

Gender equality and climate change: the vital link for success beyond Paris

From assessing the "people-centred" COP21 Paris Agreement and how those on the frontlines can help the world in tackling climate change, to ensuring that women are empowered to make their voices heard, Mary Robinson marks International Women's Day by highlighting the link between gender equality and climate justice.

Guest blog Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner 6 March 2016

Rising sea levels: "Our islands will one day be wiped off the map: what will happen to our women?"

Climate activist and poet Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner marks International Women's Day by celebrating the strength and resilience of Marshall Islands' women and highlights the importance of including women in tackling climate change.

END Fund [to 12 March 2016]

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

Press Releases and Major Announcements

No new digest content identified.

Gavi [to 12 March 2016]

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

09 March 2016

Pakistan progressing on immunisation efforts

High level mission praises country's efforts and calls for increased commitment to reach every child

Islamabad, 9 March 2016 – Pakistan is making progress in improving its childhood immunisation programme, but sustained commitment at federal and provincial level is required to increase the coverage of services and reach children who today miss out on life-saving vaccines.

More than 1,000 Pakistani children under the age of five die every day, many of them from diseases that could have been prevented by vaccines. According to WHO and UNICEF estimates, Pakistan's coverage rate with one of the most basic vaccines (DTP3) stood at 73% in 2014 with large variations between the provinces, districts and communities. The most recent Pakistan Demographic Health Survey, from 2013, showed Punjab had 76% coverage while in Baluchistan the figure was just 27%.

This week, a high level mission to Pakistan was led by Anuradha Gupta, Deputy CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, together with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the UK's Department for International Development, USAID, the Norwegian Agency for Development and

Cooperation, UNICEF and WHO. The visit was a follow up to a similar mission conducted in February 2015. The delegation visited Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi to see the progress made in the last 12 months, understand the challenges that lie ahead, and encourage leaders to reinforce their commitment to end childhood vaccine preventable deaths.

"I have been deeply encouraged by much of what I have seen during this visit," said Ms Gupta. "Coordination at federal and provincial level has clearly improved and I have seen for myself some of the innovative work at local level to reach children with vaccines. This week's approval of the budget for the new provincial plans, which will kick-start the National Immunisation Support Project, is welcome news as it paves the way for intensified action on routine immunisation. Timely release of funding at all levels will be a critical next step."

Among the initiatives witnessed by the mission was a recently-expanded approach using mobile phone technology and real-time data to monitor vaccinators, identify children missing out on vaccinations, and strengthen accountability. In Punjab this has significantly increased immunisation coverage. Similar approaches are now being initiated in KP and Sindh....

Global Fund [to 12 March 2016]

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

News

Removing Human Rights Barriers to End the HIV Epidemic

11 March 2016

GENEVA - The Global Fund made a strong appeal to address human rights issues as a key component of efforts to end epidemics such as AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria..

[See Week in Review above for more detail]

Better Education Will Mean Better Health for Young Women & Girls

By Julia Gillard

in *Voices* on 07 March 2016

Hilton Prize Coalition [to 12 March 2016]

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

An Alliance of Hilton Prize Recipients

Empowering Women through Collaboration

Posted March 11, 2016 ·

International Women's Day, inaugurated in the early 1900s, celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. This year's theme, #PledgeforParity, stems from the World Economic Forum's 2015 Global Gender Gap Report, which states that the gender gap won't close entirely until the year 2133. International Women's Day has grown into a movement (#IWD2016) that brings men and women together annually on March 8th to discuss women's achievements and the progress that still needs to be made.

Below we highlight three of the Hilton Prize Coalition member organizations working to advance women's rights through their programs and partnerships around the world [Amref Health Africa, BRAC, Landesa]...

InterAction [to 12 March 2016]

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

Mar 10, 2016

Global Food Security Act Passes Senate Committee Markup

WASHINGTON – On Thursday, March 10 the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations approved the Global Food Security Act of 2016 (S. 1252). Speaking in response, InterAction President Lindsay Coates said: "InterAction applauds the passage of the Global Food Security Act of 2016 (S. 1252) by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today.

"Globally, one in nine people are still hungry. The Global Food Security Act provides an opportunity for U.S. leadership in the fight against global hunger, malnutrition, and extreme poverty. The Senate's action today sends a clear signal that fight against global hunger is and remains a key U.S. policy priority..."

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 12 March 2016]

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

[Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies]

No new digest content identified.

Muslim Charities Forum [to 12 March 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 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

CHS Alliance [to 12 March 2016]

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

08/03/2016

The CHS Alliance takes the Pledge for Parity this International Women's Day 2016

The CHS Alliance would like to wish all humanitarian and development actors and those they aim to assist around the world a happy International Women's Day.

EHLRA/R2HC [to 12 March 2016]
<http://www.elrha.org/resource-hub/news/>

Published on 11/03/2016

[Opportunity to work with the HIF: Research Partner](#)

ELRHA's Humanitarian Innovation Fund (the HIF) are looking for a strategic research partnership to support them in improving the evidence produced through its grant-making activities.

Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

The Sphere Project [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP) [to 12 March 2016]

<https://phap.org/>

No new digest content identified.

::::::

Center for Global Development [to 12 March 2016]

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

Selected Press Releases, Blog Posts, Publications

[Anti-Corruption Strategies in Foreign Aid: From Controls to Results](#)

3/7/16

William Savedoff

Corruption is an obstacle to social and economic progress in developing countries yet we still know very little about the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts and their impact on development impact. This essay looks at 25 years of efforts by foreign aid agencies to combat corruption and proposes a new strategy which could leverage existing approaches by directly incorporating information on development results.

[Do the Results Match the Rhetoric? An Examination of World Bank Gender Projects](#)

3/7/16

Charles Kenny and Megan O'Donnell

This paper seeks to determine the degree to which a gender lens has been incorporated into World Bank projects and the success of individual projects according to gender equality-related indicators.

ODI [to 12 March 2016]
<http://www.odi.org/media>
No new digest content identified.

Urban Institute [to 12 March 2016]
<http://www.urban.org/about/media>
No new digest content identified.

World Economic Forum [to 12 March 2016]
<https://agenda.weforum.org/news/>

News 8 Mar 2016

[Helping Africa to Unleash its Digital Potential](#)

:: High-level meeting held in Morocco to discuss ways to develop Africa's digital economy
:: Access to internet, skill development and lower hurdles for entrepreneurship seen as key
:: Future meetings to boost Africa's digital economy to be held in Mombasa, Kenya, and Kigali, Rwanda

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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 12 March 2016]
<http://www.akdn.org/pr.asp>
No new digest content identified.

BMGF - Gates Foundation [to 12 March 2016]
<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/Media-Center/Press-Releases>
No new digest content identified.

Annie E. Casey Foundation [to 12 March 2016]
<http://www.aecf.org/contact/newsroom/>
No new digest content identified.

Clinton Foundation [to 12 March 2016]
<https://www.clintonfoundation.org/press-releases-and-statements>
Press Release
[ADVISORY: Girl Scouts Can Code Event at Clinton Presidential Center](#)

March 10, 2016

The Clinton Center, in partnership with Girl Scouts - Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas, and #ARKidsCanCode, will host a special computer coding event for girls on Saturday, March 12, 2016 in celebration of Women's History Month and the 104th birthday of Girl Scouts...

Ford Foundation [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

GHIT Fund [to 12 March 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 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation [to 12 March 2016]

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

Our News

[A Tribute to William H. Foege, M.D., M.P.H.](#)

March 10, 2016

After eight years of service, William H. Foege, M.D., M.P.H., has retired from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation board of directors. Dr. Foege previously served for seven years on the prestigious international jury of the Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize, the world's largest humanitarian award.

Dr. Foege is a world renowned epidemiologist who worked in the successful campaign to eradicate smallpox in the 1970s. Dr. Foege became Chief of the CDC Smallpox Eradication Program and was appointed Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control in 1977.

In 1984, Dr. Foege and several colleagues formed the Task Force for Child Survival, a working group for the World Health Organization, UNICEF, The World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, and the Rockefeller Foundation. Its success in accelerating childhood immunization led to an expansion of its mandate in 1991 to include other issues which diminish the quality of life for children.

Dr. Foege has championed many issues, but child survival and development, injury prevention, population, preventive medicine, and public health leadership are of special interest, particularly in the developing world. He is a strong proponent of disease eradication and control, and has

taken an active role in the eradication of Guinea worm, polio and measles, and the elimination of River Blindness. By writing and lecturing extensively, Dr. Foege has succeeded in broadening public awareness of these issues and bringing them to the forefront of domestic and international health policies.

Dr. Foege received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012, in addition to many other awards during the course of his career. He also holds honorary degrees from numerous institutions, and was named a Fellow of the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in 1997. He is the author of more than 125 professional publications.

It is with profound gratitude that we thank Dr. Foege for his exemplary service on the Hilton Foundation board. We were fortunate to benefit from both his broad vision of life as well as his deep knowledge of the health field. His personal style motivated others to want to engage and explore issues further. While we are sad to be losing an influential and prominent member of our board, we remain grateful that Dr. Foege raised the bar of our deliberations. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Steven M. Hilton

Chairman of the Board

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

Grameen Foundation [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

IKEA Foundation [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

HHMI - Howard Hughes Medical Institute [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Kellogg Foundation [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

MacArthur Foundation [to 12 March 2016]

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

Publication

[Assessing the Impacts of State Immigration Policies](#)

Published March 9, 2016

Nearly all states have implemented immigration-related reform in the past 15 years, according to a [report](#) by the [RAND Corporation](#), a MacArthur grantee. The report takes stock of

states' immigration legislation – ranging from employment on unauthorized immigrants to making drivers licenses available regardless of immigration status – and provides a cost-benefit framework to help policymakers assess the impacts of those policies.

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 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Open Society Foundation [to 12 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

David and Lucile Packard Foundation [to 12 March 2016]

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

March 1, 2016

[The Packard Foundation Announces New Visiting Scholar Matt James](#)

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation announced today that Matt James will join the Foundation as a Visiting Scholar effective March 2016 through September 2017.... bringing awareness to the role philanthropy can play in mitigating climate change..."

Pew Charitable Trusts [to 12 March 2016]

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

Press Release

[Pew: Major Deficiencies in Monitoring of Chemical Residues in Meat, Poultry](#)

March 08, 2016 *Safe Food Project*

WASHINGTON—A federal program meant to protect consumers from tainted meat, poultry, and egg products needs greater scientific rigor and transparency, according to a report from The Pew Charitable Trusts released today. The analysis shows that the National Residue Program (NRP) does not routinely test for several compounds, such as dioxins and certain heavy metals, that are widely recognized as posing a significant public health risk. The analysis also finds that the NRP lacks clear processes for incorporating new research and responding to emerging contamination threats.

The report, *The National Residue Program for Meat, Poultry, and Egg Products: An Evaluation*, details how the program selects the drugs, pesticides, and environmental contaminants to monitor and how it documents the results of its sampling and testing...

Rockefeller Foundation [to 12 March 2016]

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

March 8, 2016

The Rockefeller Foundation and OMC Power Reach a US\$4.5 Million Deal to Finance 100 mini-grids in Rural India

NEW YORK, UNITED STATES/DELHI, INDIA—The Rockefeller Foundation and OMC Power have reached a US\$4.5 million deal to finance OMC Power's construction and retrofitting of 100 solar power plants with mini-grids, in rural Uttar Pradesh...

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [to 12 March 2016]

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

March 11, 2016

RWJF Launches Leadership Development Programs

RWJF has launched four new leadership development programs that engage people who work across a variety of sectors to challenge the status quo and build a Culture of Health in the United States.

March 11, 2016

Statement from RWJF on CVS Health's Anti-Tobacco Campaign

RWJF commends CVS Health for its decision to spend \$50 million over the next five years to help create a tobacco-free nation.

March 10, 2016

RWJF Statement on the Passing of Ralph Larsen, Former Foundation Trustee

RWJF mourns Ralph Larsen, former Foundation Trustee and Former Chairman of the Board and CEO of Johnson and Johnson who died on March 9, 2016, in Florida. He was 77 years old.

Wellcome Trust [to 12 March 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.ajponline.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

March 2016; 94 (3)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Annals of Internal Medicine

1 March 2016, Vol. 164. No. 5

<http://annals.org/issue.aspx>

[Reviewed earlier]

BMC Health Services Research

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

(Accessed 12 March 2016)

Research article

[Scoping review of complexity theory in health services research](#)

There are calls for better application of theory in health services research. Research exploring knowledge translation and interprofessional collaboration are two examples, and in both areas, complexity theory...

David S. Thompson, Xavier Fazio, Erika Kustra, Linda Patrick and Darren Stanley

BMC Health Services Research 2016 16:87

Published on: 12 March 2016

BMC Infectious Diseases

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

(Accessed 12 March 2016)

Review

[Does tuberculosis threaten our ageing populations?](#)

The global population is ageing quickly and our understanding of age-related changes in the immune system suggest that the elderly will have less immunological protection from active tuberculosis (TB).

Rachel Byng-Maddick and Mahdad Noursadeghi

BMC Infectious Diseases 2016 16:119

Published on: 11 March 2016

Study protocol

Clinical evaluation of dengue and identification of risk factors for severe disease: protocol for a multicentre study in 8 countries

The burden of dengue continues to increase globally, with an estimated 100 million clinically apparent infections occurring each year...

Thomas Jaenisch, Dong Thi Hoai Tam, Nguyen Tan Thanh Kieu, Tran Van Ngoc, Nguyen Tran Nam, Nguyen Van Kinh, Sophie Yacoub, Ngoun Chanpheaktra, Varun Kumar, Lucy Lum Chai See, Jameela Sathar, Ernesto Pleités Sandoval, Gabriela Maria Marón Alfaro, Ida Safitri Laksono, Yodi Mahendradhata, Malabika Sarker...

BMC Infectious Diseases 2016 16:120

Published on: 11 March 2016

BMC Medical Ethics

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

(Accessed 12 March 2016)

[No new content]

BMC Medicine

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

(Accessed 12 March 2016)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

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

(Accessed 12 March 2016)

Debate

Millennium development Goal 5: progress and challenges in reducing maternal deaths in Ghana

Minerva Kyei-Nimakoh, Mary Carolan-Olah and Terence V. McCann

Published on: 9 March 2016

Research article

Factors influencing women's preference for health facility deliveries in Jharkhand state, India: a cross sectional analysis

Sanghita Bhattacharyya, Aradhana Srivastava, Reetabrata Roy and Bilal I. Avan

Published on: 7 March 2016

BMC Public Health

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

(Accessed 12 March 2016)

Research article

A survey of the governance capacity of national public health associations to enhance population health

National public health associations (PHAs) are key partners with governments and communities to improve, protect and promote the public's health. Governance and organizational capacity are among the key determ...

James Chauvin, Mahesh Shukla, James Rice and Laetitia Rispel

BMC Public Health 2016 16:251

Published on: 11 March 2016

Abstract

Background

National public health associations (PHAs) are key partners with governments and communities to improve, protect and promote the public's health. Governance and organizational capacity are among the key determinants of a PHA's effectiveness as an advocate for appropriate public health policies and practice.

Methods

During 2014, the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) conducted an on-line survey of its 82 PHA members, to identify the state of organizational governance of national public health associations, as well as the factors that influence optimal organizational governance. The survey consisted of 13 questions and focused on the main elements of organizational governance: cultivating accountability; engaging stakeholders; setting shared direction; stewarding resources; and, continuous governance enhancement. Four questions included a qualitative open-ended response for additional comments. The survey data were analyzed using Microsoft Excel. The qualitative data was analyzed using thematic content analysis

Results

Responses were received from 62 PHAs, constituting a 75.6 % response rate. The two most important factors that support governance effectiveness were a high degree of integrity and ethical behavior of the PHA's leaders (77 %) and the competence of people serving on the PHA's governing body (76 %). The lack of financial resources was considered as the most important factor that negatively affected organizational governance effectiveness (73 %). The lack of mentoring for future PHA leaders; ineffective or incompetent leadership; lack of understanding about good governance practices; and lack of accurate information for strategic planning were identified as factors influencing PHA governance effectiveness. Critical elements for PHA sustainability included diversity, gender-responsiveness and inclusive governance practices, and strategies to build the future generation of public health leaders.

Conclusion

National PHA have a responsibility to put into place the practices and infrastructure that enhance organizational governance. This will enhance their ability to be effective advocates for policies and practices that enhance, protect and promote the public's health. The WFPHA has an important role to play in providing the technical assistance and financial resources to assist PHAs in attaining and sustaining a higher level of governance capacity.

Research article

Integrating acute malnutrition interventions into national health systems: lessons from Niger

Since 2007, integrated care of acute malnutrition has been promoted in Niger, a country affected by high burden of disease. This policy change aimed at strengthening capacity and ownership to manage the condition...

Hedwig Deconinck, Mahaman Hallarou, Bart Criel, Philippe Donnen and Jean Macq

BMC Public Health 2016 16:249

Published on: 10 March 2016

Research article

Influence of internal migration on reproductive health in Myanmar: results from a recent cross-sectional survey

Maternal and reproductive health remains a significant public health issue in Myanmar. Little data exists on women's health issues, including social and demographic influences.

May Sudhinaraset, Nadia Diamond-Smith, May Me Thet and Tin Aung

BMC Public Health 2016 16:246

Published on: 9 March 2016

Research article

Maternal knowledge, outcome expectancies and normative beliefs as determinants of cessation of exclusive breastfeeding: a cross-sectional study in rural Kenya

Despite the importance of multiple psychosocial factors on nutrition-related behavior, very few studies have explored beyond the role of mothers' knowledge and perception of child-focused outcomes on the duration...

Constance A. Gwanga and Joan Chepkemboi

BMC Public Health 2016 16:243

Published on: 9 March 2016

BMC Research Notes

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

(Accessed 12 March 2016)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation

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

(Accessed 12 March 2016)

[No new content]

BMJ Open

2016, Volume 6, Issue 3

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

[Reviewed earlier]

British Medical Journal

12 March 2016 (vol 352, issue 8048)

<http://www.bmjjournals.org/lookup/doi/10.1136/bmjjournals.101371>

[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 3, March 2016, 157-232

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/94/3/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 12 March 2016]

Research

[Retrospective analysis of reproductive health indicators in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees post-emergency camps 2007–2013](#)

Jennifer Whitmill, Curtis Blanton, Sathyanarayanan Doraiswamy, Nadine Cornier, Marian Schilperood, Paul Spiegel and Barbara Tomczyk

Published on: 9 March 2016

Abstract

Background

The United Nations Refugee Agency's Health Information System issues analytical reports on the current camp conditions and trends for priority reproductive health issues. The goal was to assess the status of reproductive health by analyzing seven indicators and comparing them to standards and host country estimates.

Methods

Data on seven indicators were extracted from the database during a seven-year period (2007 through 2013). A standardized country inclusion criterion was created based on the year of country implementation and the percentage of missing reports per camp and year. The unit of analysis was monthly camp reports by year within a country. To account for the lack of independence of monthly camp reports, the variance was computed using Taylor Series Linearization methods in SAS.

Results

Ten of the 23 eligible countries met the inclusion criterion. The mean camp maternal and neonatal mortality rates, except for two country years, were lower than the host country estimates for all countries and years. There was a significant increase in the percent of births attended by a skilled birth attendant ($p <0.0001$), and 8 of 10 countries did not meet the

standard of 100 % for all reporting years. The percent of births performed by Caesarian section ($p<0.001$), were below the recommended minimum standard for nearly half of the countries every year. There was a significant increase in the percent of women screened for syphilis across years ($p<0.0001$) and the percent of women who received post HIV exposure prophylaxis ($p<0.0001$) and 10 % reached the standard for all reporting years, respectively.

Conclusion

Comprehensive, consistent and comparable statistics on reproductive health provides an opportunity to assess progress towards indicator standards. Despite some improvements over time, this analysis confirms that most countries did not meet standards and that there were differences in reproductive health indicators between countries and across years. Consequently, the HIS periodic monitoring of key reproductive health indicators at the camp level should continue. Data should be used to improve intervention strategies.

Current Opinion in Infectious Diseases

April 2016 - Volume 29 - Issue 2 pp: v-v,99-228

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Developing World Bioethics

April 2016 Volume 16, Issue 1 Pages 1–60

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/dewb.2016.16.issue-1/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>

[Reviewed earlier]

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>

[Reviewed earlier]

Disasters

April 2016 Volume 40, Issue 2 Pages 183–383

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/disa.2016.40.issue-2/issuetoc>

Papers

The professional humanitarian and the downsides of professionalisation

Eric James*

Article first published online: 17 AUG 2015

DOI: 10.1111/disa.12140

Abstract

Criticisms lodged at humanitarian relief often include the belief that professionalisation is needed. The problems associated with humanitarianism would end, it is assumed, if the delivery of aid, and relief workers themselves, were more professional and 'business like'. To explore this further, the paper asks what comprises a profession, and offers four criteria: 1) specialisation of knowledge; 2) establishment of the profession as a livelihood; 3) organisation and institutionalisation; and 4) legitimacy and authority. A model for understanding professionalisation, as developed by the author, is then presented. The analysis compares six other professions against the same criteria to argue that the humanitarian community already constitutes a profession. Finally, three potential downsides of professionalisation are offered: the distance of the relief worker from the beneficiary, barriers to entry into the humanitarian sector, and adding to risk aversion and a decline in innovation. Based on these findings, professionalisation should be approached with some caution.

Papers

Livelihoods, conflict and aid programming: is the evidence base good enough? (pages 226–245)

Richard Mallett and Rachel Slater

Article first published online: 17 AUG 2015 | DOI: 10.1111/disa.12142

Abstract

In conflict-affected situations, aid-funded livelihood interventions are often tasked with a dual imperative: to generate material welfare benefits and to contribute to peacebuilding outcomes. There may be some logic to such a transformative agenda, but does the reality square with the rhetoric? Through a review of the effectiveness of a range of livelihood promotion interventions—from job creation to microfinance—this paper finds that high quality empirical evidence is hard to come by in conflict-affected situations. Many evaluations appear to conflate outputs with impacts and numerous studies fail to include adequate information on their methodologies and datasets, making it difficult to appraise the reliability of their conclusions. Given the primary purpose of this literature—to provide policy guidance on effective ways to promote livelihoods—this silence is particularly concerning. As such, there is a strong case to be made for a restrained and nuanced handling of such interventions in conflict-affected settings

Papers

Country logistics performance and disaster impact (pages 262–283)

Alain Vaillancourt and Ira Haavisto

Article first published online: 17 AUG 2015 | DOI: 10.1111/disa.12146

Abstract

The aim of this paper is to deepen the understanding of the relationship between country logistics performance and disaster impact. The relationship is analysed through correlation analysis and regression models for 117 countries for the years 2007 to 2012 with disaster impact variables from the International Disaster Database (EM-DAT) and logistics performance indicators from the World Bank. The results show a significant relationship between country logistics performance and disaster impact overall and for five out of six specific logistic performance indicators. These specific indicators were further used to explore the relationship between country logistic performance and disaster impact for three specific disaster types (epidemic, flood and storm). The findings enhance the understanding of the role of logistics in a humanitarian context with empirical evidence of the importance of country logistics performance in disaster response operations.

Papers

Arts as a vehicle for community building and post-disaster development (pages 284–303)

Ephrat Huss, Roni Kaufman, Amos Avgar and Eitan Shuker

Article first published online: 17 AUG 2015 | DOI: 10.1111/disa.12143

Abstract

Use of the arts in international aid is common in an ad hoc form, but it has not been systematically theorised or evaluated. The arts have the potential to be a culturally contextualised and sustainable intervention for adults and children in the aftermath of war or disaster. On the micro level, the arts are a method to enable the retrieval and reprocessing of traumatic memories that are often encoded in images rather than in words. On a macro level, they can help to reconstruct a group narrative of a disaster as well as mobilise people back into control of their lives. This paper researches a long-term project using arts in Sri Lanka following the civil war and tsunami. A central finding is the need to understand arts within their cultural context, and their usefulness in strengthening the voices and problem-solving capacities of the victims of the disaster.

Emergency Medicine Journal

March 2016, Volume 33, Issue 3

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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]

Eurosurveillance

Volume 21, Issue 10, 10 March 2016

<http://www.eurosurveillance.org/Public/Articles/Archives.aspx?PublicationId=11678>

Rapid communications

[Profile of illness in Syrian refugees: A GeoSentinel analysis, 2013 to 2015](#)

by F Mockenhaupt, K Barbre, M Jensenius, C Larsen, E Barnett, W Stauffer, C Rothe, H Asgeirsson, D Hamer, D Esposito, P Gautret, P Schlagenhauf

Abstract

Screening of 488 Syrian unaccompanied minor refugees (< 18 years-old) in Berlin showed low prevalence of intestinal parasites (Giardia, 7%), positive schistosomiasis serology (1.4%) and absence of hepatitis B. Among 44 ill adult Syrian refugees examined at GeoSentinel clinics worldwide, cutaneous leishmaniasis affected one in three patients; other noteworthy infections were active tuberculosis (11%) and chronic hepatitis B or C (9%). These data can contribute to evidence-based guidelines for infectious disease screening of Syrian refugees.

Research Articles

[Children and young people with perinatal HIV in Europe: epidemiological situation in 2014 and implications for the future](#)

by Writing group for the Kids to Adults Working Group and Data Management and Harmonisation Group in EuroCoord

Food Policy

Volume 61, In Progress (May 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

[Reviewed earlier]

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Genocide Studies International

Volume 9, Issue 2, Fall 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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 12 March 2016]

[No new content]

Global Public Health

Volume 11, Issue 4, 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Globalization and Health

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

[Accessed 12 March 2016]

[No new relevant 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 02 - April 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Policy and Planning

Volume 31 Issue 3 April 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Research Policy and Systems

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

[Accessed 12 March 2016]

[No new content]

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/>

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.idpjournal.com/content>

[Accessed 12 March 2016]

Scoping Review

Current challenges in treatment options for visceral leishmaniasis in India: a public health perspective

Om Prakash Singh, Bhawana Singh, Jaya Chakravarty and Shyam Sundar

Published on: 8 March 2016

Abstract

Visceral leishmaniasis (VL) is a serious parasitic disease causing considerable mortality and major disability in the Indian subcontinent. It is most neglected tropical disease, particularly in terms of new drug development for the lack of financial returns. An elimination campaign has been running in India since 2005 that aim to reduce the incidence of VL to below 1 per 10,000 people at sub-district level. One of the major components in this endeavor is reducing transmission through early case detection followed by complete treatment. Substantial progress has been made during the recent years in the area of VL treatment, and the VL elimination initiatives have already saved many lives by deploying them effectively in the endemic areas. However, many challenges remain to be overcome including availability of drugs, cost of treatment (drugs and hospitalization), efficacy, adverse effects, and growing parasite resistance. Therefore, better emphasis on implementation research is urgently needed to determine how best to deliver existing interventions with available anti-leishmanial drugs. It is essential that the new treatment options become truly accessible, not simply available in endemic areas so that they may promote healing and save lives. In this review, we highlight the recent advancement and challenges in current treatment options for VL in disease endemic area, and discuss the possible strategies to improve the therapeutic outcome.

International Health

Volume 8 Issue 2 February 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Human Rights Law Review

Volume 4, Issue 2, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction

Volume 15, In Progress (March 2016)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Infectious Diseases

March 2016 Volume 44, p1-74

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

Editorial

HIV in the MENA Region: Cultural and Political Challenges

Seif Al-Abri, Jacques E. Mokhbat

p64–65

Published online: February 9 2016

Preview

Over the last few years, our knowledge of the HIV epidemic and its drivers in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region have improved markedly, thanks to many recently conducted studies.¹ While the annual number of new HIV infections in sub-Saharan Africa has declined by 33% since 2005, new HIV infections in the MENA region have increased by 31% since 2001, the greatest increase in all regions in the world. There are growing HIV epidemics in key populations (KPs) including people who inject drugs, men who have sex with men, and to a lesser extent, female sex workers.

Reviews

[Rapid Spread of Zika Virus in The Americas - Implications for Public Health](#)

[Preparedness for Mass Gatherings at the 2016 Brazil Olympic Games](#)

Eskild Petersen, Mary E. Wilson, Sok Touch, Brian McCloskey, Peter Mwaba, Matthew Bates, Osman Dar, Frank Mattes, Mike Kidd, Giuseppe Ippolito, Esam I. Azhar, Alimuddin Zumla

p11–15

Published online: February 4 2016

Highlights

:: We discuss the global spread of the Zika virus (ZIKV) since its first discovery in 1947 in Uganda to the current outbreak in the Americas which has been declared a 'Global emergency' by the World Health Organization.

:: We highlight that ZIKV and other arboviruses may pose a threat to the attendees of the 2016 Rio De Janeiro Olympic and Paralympic games and to residents of Brazil.

:: We review clinical features and highlight the need for more accurate and rapid screening tests for ZIKV

:: We discuss the recent possible linkage of microcephaly in babies exposed to ZIKV in utero, and highlight knowledge gaps in the epidemiology and pathogenesis of ZIKV.

:: We review the public health implications of the current ZIKV outbreak and highlight the need for enhanced preparedness and proactive surveillance for all infectious diseases before, during and after the 2016 Olympic games.

:: We stress that there is no specific treatment available or preventive vaccines and that the emergence of ZIKV soon after the Ebola outbreak, is yet another wake up call for the urgent need for a coordinated global response for prevention and spread of infectious diseases with epidemic potential at mass gatherings events

Summary

Mass gatherings at major international sporting events put millions of international travelers and local host-country residents at risk of acquiring infectious diseases, including locally endemic infectious diseases. The mosquito-borne Zika virus (ZIKV) has recently aroused global attention due to its rapid spread since its first detection in May 2015 in Brazil to 22 other countries and other territories in the Americas. The ZIKV outbreak in Brazil, has also been associated with a significant rise in the number of babies born with microcephaly and neurological disorders, and has been declared a 'Global Emergency' by the World Health Organization. This explosive spread of ZIKV in Brazil poses challenges for public health preparedness and surveillance for the Olympics and Paralympics which are due to be held in Rio De Janeiro in August, 2016. We review the epidemiology and clinical features of the current ZIKV outbreak in Brazil, highlight knowledge gaps, and review the public health implications of the current ZIKV outbreak in the

Americas. We highlight the urgent need for a coordinated collaborative response for prevention and spread of infectious diseases with epidemic potential at mass gatherings events.

Reviews

[HIV/AIDS: trends in the Middle East and North Africa region](#)

Deniz Gökengin, Fardad Doroudi, Johnny Tohme, Ben Collins, Navid Madani

p66–73

Published in issue: March 2016

Highlights

:: New HIV infections have been on the rise in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in recent years.

:: There is substantial heterogeneity in HIV epidemic dynamics across MENA, and different risk contexts are present throughout the region.

:: Overall, the major route of infection in the MENA region seems to be sexual transmission, but a range of challenges limit interventions to determine the actual sexual trends.

:: Despite unfavorable conditions, many countries in the region have put significant efforts into scaling up their response to this growing epidemic.

Summary

Objectives

To give an overview of the HIV epidemic in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

Methods

Articles on the MENA region were reviewed.

Results

The MENA region comprises a geographically defined group of countries including both high-income, well-developed nations and low- and middle-income countries. While the annual number of new HIV infections in Sub-Saharan Africa has declined by 33% since 2005, new HIV infections in the MENA region have increased by 31% since 2001, which is the highest increase among all regions in the world. Moreover, the number of AIDS-related deaths in 2013 was estimated to be 15 000, representing a 66% increase since 2005. However, the current prevalence of 0.1% is still among the lowest rates globally. There is substantial heterogeneity in HIV epidemic dynamics across MENA, and different risk contexts are present throughout the region. Despite unfavorable conditions, many countries in the region have put significant effort into scaling up their response to this growing epidemic, while in others the response to HIV is proving slower due to denial, stigma, and reluctance to address sensitive issues.

Conclusions

The HIV epidemic in the MENA region is still at a controllable level, and this opportunity should not be missed.

International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology

Volume 23, Issue 3, 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

March 2016 - Volume 14 - Issue 1 pp: 2-96

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

[Reviewed earlier]

JAMA

March 8, 2016, Vol 315, No. 10

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

Viewpoint | March 8, 2016

The Ethical Challenges of Compassionate Use

FREE

Arthur L. Caplan, PhD; Amrit Ray, MD, MBA

Viewpoint | March 8, 2016

Immunization Policy and the Importance of Sustainable Vaccine Pricing

H. Cody Meissner, MD¹

[Initial text]

This Viewpoint discusses vaccine costs and policy and explains the importance of balancing these factors to provide optimal care while restricting spending on costly interventions with limited benefit.

The individual, societal, and economic benefits of disease prevention resulting from childhood and adult immunization programs in the United States are without question. A report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) describing the benefits of vaccination of the 2009 birth cohort through 18 years of age estimated that 20 million cases of vaccine-preventable disease will not occur, 42 000 early deaths related to these diseases will be avoided, and \$76 billion in direct and indirect costs will be averted.¹ This economic benefit stands in stark contrast to the comparatively small cost for vaccine purchases. The estimated vaccine purchasing cost for a similar birth cohort based on 2015 pricing is \$7.8 billion, based on CDC costs, and \$11.6 billion at private sector pricing (eTable in the Supplement).²...

JAMA Pediatrics

March 2016, Vol 170, No. 3

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

Editorial | March 2016

The Grand Divergence in Global Child Health Confronting Data Requirements in Areas of Conflict and Chronic Political Instability

FREE

Paul H. Wise, MD, MPH^{1,2}; Gary L. Darmstadt, MD, MS^{1,2}

Author Affiliations

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²Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University, Stanford, California

[Initial text]

There is something deeply troubling about a death that goes unnoticed. Beyond the humane impulse to provide solace through collective acknowledgment and community support lies the recognition that an unnoticed death implies an unnoticed life. There can be no doubt that the accurate counting and causal attribution of morbidity and mortality provide technical information that is essential for public health planning, evaluation, and improvement in program performance. However, there is also a justice imperative inherent in counting and attribution—an imperative that transcends the practical and touches on the moral basis of global health and its commitment to the rights and societal claims of those whose health and well-being have for too long gone unnoticed.

At a global level, available data demonstrate that dramatic reductions in child mortality have occurred in many low- and middle-income countries. Moreover, long-standing disparities in survival between materially wealthy and poorer regions of the world are dissipating. If sustained, this historic record of reduced mortality inequality could drive a “grand convergence” in life expectancy during the next 2 decades.¹ This prospect has been used constructively to advocate for a continued global commitment to economic development and the provision of effective health interventions.

On closer examination, however, it is apparent that the trends toward convergence have not been universal. Some countries are being left behind. These countries have experienced stagnant or, in some arenas, worsening child health outcomes. Indeed, these countries could be described as contributing to a “grand divergence” in life expectancies, in which their health indicators fall increasingly behind those of other low- and middle-income countries.²

The article by the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Pediatrics Collaboration in this issue of *JAMA Pediatrics* represents an important contribution to the field of global health and provides troubling evidence of the diverging trends in child health and well-being.³ What is now evident from even a cursory examination of presented child mortality trends is that the countries making the least progress in child survival and well-being, particularly since 2000, are those most likely to be plagued by chronic civil conflict, political instability, and weak governance. Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which together account for more than a third of all child deaths in sub-Saharan Africa, experienced annual child mortality declines of 2.2% and 1.8%, respectively (eTable 9 in their Supplement). It is useful to note that during this same period among the most rapid annual declines were those recorded in China (6.01%), Iran (5.97%), and Bangladesh (5.24%).

Using data from the GBD 2013 study, the article presents detailed child mortality and morbidity trends for the 50 countries with the largest child and adolescent populations in the world, information that will prove essential for programmatic evaluation and planning...

Special Communication

Global and National Burden of Diseases and Injuries Among Children and Adolescents Between 1990 and 2013: Findings From the Global Burden of Disease 2013 Study

FREE

Global Burden of Disease Pediatrics Collaboration

Includes: Supplemental Content

Abstract

Importance

The literature focuses on mortality among children younger than 5 years. Comparable information on nonfatal health outcomes among these children and the fatal and nonfatal burden of diseases and injuries among older children and adolescents is scarce.

Objective

To determine levels and trends in the fatal and nonfatal burden of diseases and injuries among younger children (aged <5 years), older children (aged 5-9 years), and adolescents (aged 10-19 years) between 1990 and 2013 in 188 countries from the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) 2013 study.

Evidence Review

Data from vital registration, verbal autopsy studies, maternal and child death surveillance, and other sources covering 14,244 site-years (ie, years of cause of death data by geography) from 1980 through 2013 were used to estimate cause-specific mortality. Data from 35,620 epidemiological sources were used to estimate the prevalence of the diseases and sequelae in the GBD 2013 study. Cause-specific mortality for most causes was estimated using the Cause of Death Ensemble Model strategy. For some infectious diseases (eg, HIV infection/AIDS, measles, hepatitis B) where the disease process is complex or the cause of death data were insufficient or unavailable, we used natural history models. For most nonfatal health outcomes, DisMod-MR 2.0, a Bayesian metaregression tool, was used to meta-analyze the epidemiological data to generate prevalence estimates.

Findings

Of the 7.7 (95% uncertainty interval [UI], 7.4-8.1) million deaths among children and adolescents globally in 2013, 6.28 million occurred among younger children, 0.48 million among older children, and 0.97 million among adolescents. In 2013, the leading causes of death were lower respiratory tract infections among younger children (905,059 deaths; 95% UI, 810,304-998,125), diarrheal diseases among older children (38,325 deaths; 95% UI, 30,365-47,678), and road injuries among adolescents (115,186 deaths; 95% UI, 105,185-124,870). Iron deficiency anemia was the leading cause of years lived with disability among children and adolescents, affecting 619 (95% UI, 618-621) million in 2013. Large between-country variations exist in mortality from leading causes among children and adolescents. Countries with rapid declines in all-cause mortality between 1990 and 2013 also experienced large declines in most leading causes of death, whereas countries with the slowest declines had stagnant or increasing trends in the leading causes of death. In 2013, Nigeria had a 12% global share of deaths from lower respiratory tract infections and a 38% global share of deaths from malaria. India had 33% of the world's deaths from neonatal encephalopathy. Half of the world's diarrheal deaths among children and adolescents occurred in just 5 countries: India, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Pakistan, Nigeria, and Ethiopia.

Conclusions and Relevance

Understanding the levels and trends of the leading causes of death and disability among children and adolescents is critical to guide investment and inform policies. Monitoring these trends over time is also key to understanding where interventions are having an impact. Proven interventions exist to prevent or treat the leading causes of unnecessary death and disability among children and adolescents. The findings presented here show that these are underused and give guidance to policy makers in countries where more attention is needed.

Journal of Community Health

Volume 41, Issue 2, April 2016

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10900/41/2/page/1>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Development Economics
Volume 119, Pages 1-138 (March 2016)
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/03043878/119>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Human Trafficking
Volume 2, Issue 1, 2016
<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-Elf4L0I#.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 7 April 1, 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of International Development

March 2016 Volume 28, Issue 2 Pages 159–308

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jid.v28.2/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]

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Medical Ethics

March 2016, Volume 42, Issue 3

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (JPIDS)

Volume 5 Issue 1 March 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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

Mar 12, 2016 Volume 387 Number 10023 p1027-1132

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

Editorial

Editorial

The health crisis of mental health stigma

The Lancet

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(16\)00687-5](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(16)00687-5)

Many people with mental illness experience shame, ostracism, and marginalisation due to their diagnosis, and often describe the consequences of mental health stigma as worse than those of the condition itself. Interventions to address stigma educate about mental illness and overcome the stereotypes that underlie prejudicial reactions. Along with pharmacological and psychological therapies, stigma interventions have emerged as potentially valuable and complementary tools.

In today's Lancet, Graham Thornicroft and colleagues review the evidence for effectiveness of interventions to reduce mental health stigma and discrimination, and conclude that they can work at an individual and population level. The evidence of benefit was strongest for interventions involving an individual with lived experience of mental illness, with sustained commitment to delivery over a long period...

Review

Evidence for effective interventions to reduce mental-health-related stigma and discrimination

Graham Thornicroft, Nisha Mehta, Sarah Clement, Sara Evans-Lacko, Mary Doherty, Diana Rose, Mirja Koschorke, Rahul Shidhaye, Claire O'Reilly, Claire Henderson

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)00298-6](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)00298-6)

Summary

Stigma and discrimination in relation to mental illnesses have been described as having worse consequences than the conditions themselves. Most medical literature in this area of research has been descriptive and has focused on attitudes towards people with mental illness rather than on interventions to reduce stigma. In this narrative Review, we summarise what is known globally from published systematic reviews and primary data on effective interventions intended to reduce mental-illness-related stigma or discrimination. The main findings emerging from this

narrative overview are that: (1) at the population level there is a fairly consistent pattern of short-term benefits for positive attitude change, and some lesser evidence for knowledge improvement; (2) for people with mental illness, some group-level anti-stigma interventions show promise and merit further assessment; (3) for specific target groups, such as students, social-contact-based interventions usually achieve short-term (but less clearly long-term) attitudinal improvements, and less often produce knowledge gains; (4) this is a heterogeneous field of study with few strong study designs with large sample sizes; (5) research from low-income and middle-income countries is conspicuous by its relative absence; (6) caution needs to be exercised in not overgeneralising lessons from one target group to another; (7) there is a clear need for studies with longer-term follow-up to assess whether initial gains are sustained or attenuated, and whether booster doses of the intervention are needed to maintain progress; (8) few studies in any part of the world have focused on either the service user's perspective of stigma and discrimination or on the behaviour domain of behavioural change, either by people with or without mental illness in the complex processes of stigmatisation. We found that social contact is the most effective type of intervention to improve stigma-related knowledge and attitudes in the short term. However, the evidence for longer-term benefit of such social contact to reduce stigma is weak. In view of the magnitude of challenges that result from mental health stigma and discrimination, a concerted effort is needed to fund methodologically strong research that will provide robust evidence to support decisions on investment in interventions to reduce stigma.

Comment

NextGen HIV prevention: new possibilities and questions

Kenneth H Mayer

Published Online: 04 March 2016

Summary

In less than a decade, HIV prevention has evolved from a reliance on education, behavioural interventions, and use of condoms to focusing on the optimum use of antiretrovirals to suppress infectiousness and for primary prophylaxis. Landmark studies have shown the efficacy of the early initiation of treatment for people infected with HIV,¹ and the use of oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for those at highest risk to decrease HIV transmission.² Despite PrEP being shown to be efficacious in most trials in which it was assessed, the paramount importance of consistent use of preventive medication was shown when oral and topical tenofovir-based regimens did not show efficacy in three studies involving young African women, primarily because of suboptimal adherence.

The Lancet Infectious Diseases

Mar 2016 Volume 16 Number 3 p265-384 e11-e33

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Global Health

Mar 2016 Volume 4 Number 3 e137-e214

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Maternal and Child Health Journal

Volume 20, Issue 3, March 2016

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10995/20/3/page/1>

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Medical Decision Making (MDM)

April 2016; 36 (3)

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

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 531 Number 7593 pp139-268 10 March 2016

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Nature Medicine

March 2016, Volume 22 No 3 pp219-323

<http://www.nature.com/nm/journal/v22/n3/index.html>

[Reviewed earlier]

New England Journal of Medicine

March 10, 2016 Vol. 374 No. 10

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

Brief Report**Zika Virus Associated with Microcephaly**

Jernej Mlakar, M.D., Misa Korva, Ph.D., Nataša Tul, M.D., Ph.D., Mara Popović, M.D., Ph.D., Mateja Poljšak-Prijatelj, Ph.D., Jerica Mraz, M.Sc., Marko Kolenc, M.Sc., Katarina Resman Rus, M.Sc., Tina Vesnauer Vipotnik, M.D., Vesna Fabjan Vodušek, M.D., Alenka Vizjak, Ph.D., Jože Pižem, M.D., Ph.D., Miroslav Petrovec, M.D., Ph.D., and Tatjana Avšič Županc, Ph.D.

Abstract

A widespread epidemic of Zika virus (ZIKV) infection was reported in 2015 in South and Central America and the Caribbean. A major concern associated with this infection is the apparent increased incidence of microcephaly in fetuses born to mothers infected with ZIKV. In this report, we describe the case of an expectant mother who had a febrile illness with rash at the end of the first trimester of pregnancy while she was living in Brazil. Ultrasonography performed at 29 weeks of gestation revealed microcephaly with calcifications in the fetal brain and

placenta. After the mother requested termination of the pregnancy, a fetal autopsy was performed. Micrencephaly (an abnormally small brain) was observed, with almost complete agyria, hydrocephalus, and multifocal dystrophic calcifications in the cortex and subcortical white matter, with associated cortical displacement and mild focal inflammation. ZIKV was found in the fetal brain tissue on reverse-transcriptase–polymerase-chain-reaction (RT-PCR) assay, with consistent findings on electron microscopy. The complete genome of ZIKV was recovered from the fetal brain.

Editorial

Zika Virus and Microcephaly

Eric J. Rubin, M.D., Ph.D., Michael F. Greene, M.D., and Lindsey R. Baden, M.D.

DOI: 10.1056/NEJMMe1601862

[Extract]

...Zika virus has spread explosively since its introduction into South America and has now been found throughout Central America and the Caribbean. The full extent of disease is not clear — most infections are asymptomatic and many are associated with only mild disease.⁶ But the apparent risk of microcephaly was enough for the World Health Organization to declare a public health emergency of international concern on February 1.

What more do we need to know to help us manage and control this outbreak? Certainly, understanding the disease better could have long-term benefits, including the development of protective vaccines. However, it is the information that we do not yet have that has potential immediate applications.

Although many authorities are counseling women who are pregnant or could become pregnant to avoid travel to affected areas, the millions of women who live in these places are faced with enormous uncertainty, and as the virus spreads, many more will be affected. For example, assuming the association between Zika virus and microcephaly exists, we do not know whether the timing of the infection during pregnancy has an effect on the risk of fetal abnormalities, nor do we have any idea of the magnitude of that risk. The development of rapid, scalable diagnostic tests is needed, since the current polymerase-chain-reaction assay detects viral RNA and thus should be positive only during the period of viremia, which may be relatively short.

Current serologic assays have considerable cross-reactivity with other flaviviruses, including those that are endemic in the same areas (as in the case now being reported), and serologic assays specific for Zika virus are not easily available. Thus, it may be difficult to determine retrospectively whether a woman has been infected. This will be particularly difficult in areas where dengue virus and other pathogens can cause symptoms similar to those of the Zika virus. In addition, it is unclear whether asymptomatic or minimally symptomatic disease poses a risk to the fetus. It is possible that as is the case with mumps, early infection could result in fetal loss rather than malformations. And, as in this case report, ultrasonography may detect severe fetal abnormalities only very late in gestation — in many cases, too late to terminate the pregnancy. Is there a sensitive test that can be applied earlier? And is previous infection protective?

Although we need a good deal of research to define critical aspects of infection, there is much to do immediately. A vulnerable point for Zika virus transmission is the mosquito vector. Unfortunately, mosquito-control efforts have failed to curtail the spread of many similar

pathogens, including dengue and chikungunya viruses, which are carried by the same aedes species and are spreading in the same communities currently affected by the Zika virus. Perhaps this new threat will help boost such control efforts with the use of both old and new approaches. Women need to have access to relevant health care services, including contraception, diagnostics, and pregnancy-termination services. And the many affected children need to have care. Coming shortly after the global response to the Ebola virus, the rapid spread of the Zika virus reminds us how connected we all are.⁷ Once again, an outbreak is going to challenge our public health infrastructure and require a substantial response.

Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly

April 2016; 45 (2)

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

Articles

[Tip of the Iceberg: The Nonprofit Underpinnings of For-Profit Social Enterprise](#)

Curtis Child

Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly April 2016 45: 217-237, first published on March 8, 2015 doi:10.1177/0899764015572901

Abstract

Market-based solutions to social and environmental problems in the form of for-profit social enterprise ventures have attracted considerable attention in recent years. According to popular discourse, the reason for their appeal is that they are not dependent on government grants or charitable support and are therefore more efficient and sustainable than existing alternatives. Using data collected from two social enterprise industries, this article challenges that discourse. It concludes that even though the recent focus on market-based ventures crowds out the importance of philanthropic ones, social enterprises rely substantially on civil society to accomplish their prosocial missions. By shifting attention away from the nonprofit–government relationship and toward the nonprofit–business one, these findings have implications for theorizing in nonprofit studies.

[High-Stakes Volunteer Commitment - A Qualitative Analysis](#)

Lacy G. McNamee¹, Brittany L. Peterson²

¹Baylor University, Waco, TX, USA

²Ohio University, Athens, OH, USA

Abstract

This study examines the social network ties, motivations, and experiences of high-stakes volunteers (HSVs): individuals who fulfill long-term, consistent, and intense time commitments providing medical, social, and/or psychological assistance. Interview, focus group, and observational data from three settings (volunteer firefighting, victims' services/advocacy, outreach for at-risk youth) were analyzed using qualitative methods. Accordingly, five types of HSVs (stable lifer, imbalanced lifer, conventionalist, professional, crusader) are presented and discussed. These findings advance theoretical insight into the variety of individuals who take on HSV roles and contribute to growing scholarship on diversified approaches to volunteer management.

[Managed Morality - The Rise of Professional Codes of Conduct in the U.S. Nonprofit Sector](#)

Patricia Bromley¹, Charlene D. Orchard¹

1University of Utah, Salt Lake City, USA

Abstract

Calls for accountability in the nonprofit sector have never been stronger, and the rise of various forms of self-regulation represents a profound shift for nonprofits. Existing studies tend to focus on effective design and implementation of accountability policies, with an eye toward improving nonprofit efficiency and reducing instances of misconduct. Against this backdrop, we draw on sociological institutionalism to theorize an alternative view of one form of self-regulation, formal codes of conduct or ethical codes. In this view, formal policies, such as codes, are assumed to be adopted as a response to pressures in an organization's institutional environment, beyond their purported instrumental value. Using a quantitative analysis of code adoption by 24 of 45 state nonprofit associations over the period 1994 to 2011, we provide evidence that codes arise due to general environmental conditions, particularly related to the influences of neoliberalism and professionalization, net of the functional demands of any particular context

A Cross-Cultural Study of Explicit and Implicit Motivation for Long-Term Volunteering

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5City University of Hong Kong, People's Republic of China

Abstract

We propose a model of volunteering and test its validity across four cultural groups. We hypothesize that individuals' explicit prosocial motivation relates positively to sustained volunteering, which is conceptualized as a latent factor comprising activity as a volunteer, service length, service frequency, and hours of volunteering. Moreover, we introduced implicit prosocial motivation and hypothesized that the relationship between explicit prosocial motivation and sustained volunteering would be amplified by implicit prosocial motivation. Data were collected from samples in China, Germany, Turkey, and the United States. Results confirmed our expectation that, across cultures, sustained volunteering was associated with explicit prosocial motivation and that the relationship between explicit prosocial motivation and sustained volunteering was strongest when implicit prosocial motivation was also high. By including implicit prosocial motivation, our study offers a novel approach to identifying sustained volunteer involvement, which can be of particular relevance for recruitment activities of voluntary organizations across various cultural contexts.

Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration

OxMo – Vol. 5, No. 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Pediatrics

March 2016, VOLUME 137 / ISSUE

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/137/3?current-issue=y>

Articles

[Mental Health of Transgender Children Who Are Supported in Their Identities](#)

Kristina R. Olson, Lily Durwood, Madeleine DeMeules, Katie A. McLaughlin
Pediatrics Mar 2016, 137 (3) 1-8; DOI: 10.1542/peds.2015-3223

PharmacoEconomics

Volume 34, Issue 3, March 2016

<http://link.springer.com/journal/40273/34/3/page/1>

[New issue; No new relevant content]

PLOS Currents: Disasters

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

[Accessed 12 March 2016]

[No new content]

PLoS Currents: Outbreaks

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

(Accessed 12 March 2016)

[Parental Vaccine Hesitancy in Quebec \(Canada\)](#)

March 7, 2016 · *Research Article*

Abstract

Introduction: "Vaccine hesitancy" is a concept frequently used in the discourse around vaccine acceptance. This study aims to contribute to the ongoing reflections on tools and indicators of vaccine hesitancy by providing results of a knowledge, attitudes and beliefs (KAB) survey conducted among parents.

Methods: Data were collected in 2014 through a computer-assisted telephone interview survey administered to a sample of parents of children aged between 2 months and 17 years of age.

Results: The majority of the 589 parents included in the analyses agreed on the importance of vaccination to protect their children's health and to prevent the spread of diseases in the community. The majority of the parents (81%) reported that their child had received all doses of recommended vaccines and 40% of parents indicated having hesitated to have their child vaccinated. Fear of adverse events and low perceived vulnerability of the child or severity of the disease were the most frequent reasons mentioned by these vaccine-hesitant parents. In multivariate analyses, KAB items remaining significantly associated both with an incomplete vaccination status of the child and parents' vaccine hesitancy were: not thinking that it is important to have the child vaccinated to prevent the spreading of diseases in the community; not trusting the received vaccination information and having felt pressure to have the child vaccinated.

Discussion: Further researches will be needed to better understand when, how and why these beliefs are formed in order to prevent the onset of vaccine hesitancy.

PLoS Medicine

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

(Accessed 12 March 2016)

Length of Stay After Childbirth in 92 Countries and Associated Factors in 30 Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Compilation of Reported Data and a Cross-sectional Analysis from Nationally Representative Surveys

Oona M. R. Campbell, Luca Cegolon, David Macleod, Lenka Benova

Research Article | published 08 Mar 2016 | PLOS Medicine

10.1371/journal.pmed.1001972

Abstract

Background

Following childbirth, women need to stay sufficiently long in health facilities to receive adequate care. Little is known about length of stay following childbirth in low- and middle-income countries or its determinants.

Methods and Findings

We described length of stay after facility delivery in 92 countries. We then created a conceptual framework of the main drivers of length of stay, and explored factors associated with length of stay in 30 countries using multivariable linear regression. Finally, we used multivariable logistic regression to examine the factors associated with stays that were “too short” (<24 h for vaginal deliveries and <72 h for cesarean-section deliveries).

Across countries, the mean length of stay ranged from 1.3 to 6.6 d: 0.5 to 6.2 d for singleton vaginal deliveries and 2.5 to 9.3 d for cesarean-section deliveries. The percentage of women staying too short ranged from 0.2% to 83% for vaginal deliveries and from 1% to 75% for cesarean-section deliveries.

Our conceptual framework identified three broad categories of factors that influenced length of stay: need-related determinants that required an indicated extension of stay, and health-system and woman/family dimensions that were drivers of inappropriately short or long stays. The factors identified as independently important in our regression analyses included cesarean-section delivery, birthweight, multiple birth, and infant survival status. Older women and women whose infants were delivered by doctors had extended lengths of stay, as did poorer women. Reliance on factors captured in secondary data that were self-reported by women up to 5 y after a live birth was the main limitation.

Conclusions

Length of stay after childbirth is very variable between countries. Substantial proportions of women stay too short to receive adequate postnatal care. We need to ensure that facilities have skilled birth attendants and effective elements of care, but also that women stay long enough to benefit from these. The challenge is to commit to achieving adequate lengths of stay in low- and middle-income countries, while ensuring any additional time is used to provide high-quality and respectful care.

Editors' Summary

Background

The general recommendation to women, especially to women in resource-poor settings (where more than 95% of all maternal and newborn deaths occur), is to give birth in a health facility. How long women and infants should stay after birth, i.e., the appropriate time to discharge, depends on many factors, but it is known that during the first 24 hours after birth mothers and children are at the highest risk of complications and death. During the postpartum stay, the objectives are to monitor maternal and newborn health, and to provide education on breastfeeding and signs for health problems in mothers and infants. WHO recommends that, in resource-poor settings, mothers and newborns stay for a minimum of 24 hours after vaginal birth.

Why Was This Study Done?

Considerable effort has gone into getting women to give birth in health facilities, and some countries have even made it illegal to give birth at home. However, some reports have suggested that women and infants often spend less than the recommended minimum time after birth in the facility. Actual data on duration of postpartum stays are limited, especially for low- and middle-income countries. This study was done to provide an overview of the reality in all countries for which current data exist, and to explore factors that influence the postpartum length of stay...

What Do these Findings Mean?

For many countries, the researchers were unable to find information on postpartum length of stay, and additional research seems warranted. Moreover, in the 30 DHS countries included in the analysis here, the percentage of births in health facilities ranged from 25.1% to 99.2%, suggesting that many countries still need to increase facility births. The postpartum lengths of stay reported vary widely between countries and are likely influenced by national norms and health system features in addition to specific needs of mothers and newborns. The reasons why women leave or are discharged early appear complex and are not well understood.

Nonetheless, it seems that many women stay too short to receive adequate postnatal care. This is alarming, especially in low-income settings, where access to care after discharge is often limited. Countries in which staying too short is common should examine the reasons, clearly define appropriate care in health facilities during and after birth, and ensure both that such care is offered and that mothers and newborns stay long enough to receive it.

Trans-Pacific Partnership Provisions in Intellectual Property, Transparency, and Investment Chapters Threaten Access to Medicines in the US and Elsewhere

Brook K. Baker

Essay | published 08 Mar 2016 | PLOS Medicine

10.1371/journal.pmed.1001970

Summary Points

:: The recently negotiated Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) contains provisions that would dramatically and negatively impact access to affordable medicines in the United States and elsewhere if it is ratified.

:: Provisions in the Intellectual Property (IP) Chapter of TPP lengthen, broaden, and strengthen patent-related monopolies on medicine and erect new monopoly protections on regulatory data as well. IP Chapter enforcement provisions also mandate injunctions preventing medicines sales, increase damage awards, and expand confiscation of medicines at the border.

:: IP rightholders gain new powers in the Investment Chapter to bring private, IP-related investor-state-dispute-settlement (ISDS) damage claims directly against foreign governments before unreviewable, three-person arbitration panels. Unrestricted IP-investor damage claims deter countries' willingness to render adverse IP decisions and to adopt IP policy flexibilities designed to increase access to affordable medicines.

:: The Transparency Chapter contains provisions that allow pharmaceutical companies more access to government decisions listing medicines and medical devices for reimbursement.

At the very least, these multiple TPP provisions that extend pharmaceutical powers should be scaled back to the minimum consensus standards reached in the 1994 World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement. Health advocates should convince the US Congress and opponents in other countries to reject an agreement that could so adversely impact access to medicines.

Successful Control of Ebola Virus Disease: Analysis of Service Based Data from Rural Sierra Leone

Kamalini Lokuge, Grazia Caleo, Jane Greig, Jennifer Duncombe, Nicholas McWilliam, James Squire, Manjo Lamin, Emily Veltus, Anja Wolz, Gary Kobinger, Marc-Antoine de la Vega, Osman Gbabai, Sao Nabieu, Mohammed Lamin, Ronald Kremer, Kostas Danis, Emily Banks, Kathryn Glass

Research Article | published 09 Mar 2016 | PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases

10.1371/journal.pntd.0004498

Abstract

Introduction

The scale and geographical distribution of the current outbreak in West Africa raised doubts as to the effectiveness of established methods of control. Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) was first detected in Sierra Leone in May 2014 in Kailahun district. Despite high case numbers elsewhere in the country, transmission was eliminated in the district by December 2014. We describe interventions underpinning successful EVD control in Kailahun and implications for EVD control in other areas.

Methods

Internal service data and published reports from response agencies were analysed to describe the structure and type of response activities, EVD case numbers and epidemic characteristics. This included daily national situation reports and District-level data and reports of the Sierra Leone Ministry of Health and Sanitation, and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) patient data and internal epidemiological reports. We used EVD case definitions provided by the World Health Organisation over the course of the outbreak. Characteristics assessed included level of response activities and epidemiological features such as reported exposure (funeral-related or not), time interval between onset of illness and admission to the EVD Management Centre (EMC), work-related exposures (health worker or not) and mortality. We compared these characteristics between two time periods—June to July (the early period of response), and August to December (when coverage and quality of response had improved). A stochastic model was used to predict case numbers per generation with different numbers of beds and a varying percentage of community cases detected.

Results

There were 652 probable/confirmed EVD cases from June–December 2014 in Kailahun. An EMC providing patient care opened in June. By August 2014 an integrated detection, treatment, and prevention strategy was in place across the district catchment zone. From June–July to August–December 2014 surveillance and contact tracing staff increased from 1.0 to 8.8 per confirmed EVD case, EMC capacity increased from 32 to 100 beds, the number of burial teams doubled, and health promotion activities increased in coverage. These improvements in response were associated with the following changes between the same periods: the proportion of confirmed/probable cases admitted to the EMC increased from 35% to 83% (χ^2 p-value < 0.001), the proportion of confirmed patients admitted to the EMC < 3 days of symptom onset increased from 19% to 37% (χ^2 p-value < 0.001), and reported funeral contact in those admitted decreased from 33% to 16% (χ^2 p-value < 0.001). Mathematical modelling confirmed the importance of both patient management capacity and surveillance and contact tracing for EVD control.

Discussion

Our findings demonstrate that control of EVD can be achieved using established interventions based on identification and appropriate management of those who are at risk of and develop EVD, including in the context of ongoing transmission in surrounding regions. Key attributes in achieving control were sufficient patient care capacity (including admission to specialist facilities of suspect and probable cases for assessment), integrated with adequate staffing and resourcing of community-based case detection and prevention activities. The response structure and coverage targets we present are of value in informing effective control in current and future EVD outbreaks.

Author Summary

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) is a severe illness that is usually spread from person to person through caring for someone who is sick, or if they die, contact with their body during their funeral. The recent EVD outbreak in West Africa caused illness and death in many thousands in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. It has been the largest and most difficult to control of any EVD outbreak in history, and this led to doubts as to the effectiveness of established control measures. Our study describes the successful control of EVD in a rural district of Sierra Leone. As in previous outbreaks, we found that control was achieved by working with communities to identify people who may have been exposed to EVD; if they then became sick, their early admission for testing and care to specialised centres that have equipment and procedures to prevent EVD passing on to staff or other patients, and safe burial of those who die of EVD by trained workers with appropriate protective equipment. We describe the resources and response structure needed to implement such measures effectively, information that will assist in controlling future outbreaks.

PLoS One

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

[Accessed 12 March 2016]

[Using Seroprevalence and Immunisation Coverage Data to Estimate the Global Burden of Congenital Rubella Syndrome, 1996-2010: A Systematic Review](#)

Emilia Vynnycky, Elisabeth J. Adams, Felicity T. Cutts, Susan E. Reef, Ann Marie Navar, Emily Simons, Lay-Myint Yoshida, David W. J. Brown, Charlotte Jackson, Peter M. Strebel, Alya J. Dabbagh

Research Article | published 10 Mar 2016 | PLOS ONE

10.1371/journal.pone.0149160

[Factors Associated with Nursing Activities in Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief](#)

Norihito Noguchi, Satoshi Inoue, Chisato Shimano, Kaoru Shibayama, Koichi Shinchi

Research Article | published 09 Mar 2016 | PLOS ONE

10.1371/journal.pone.0151170

Abstract

Background

Although nurses play an important role in humanitarian aid and disaster relief (HA/DR), little is known about the nursing activities that are performed in HA/DR. We aimed to clarify the nursing activities performed by Japanese nurses in HA/DR and to examine the factors associated with the frequency of nursing activities.

Methods

A self-administered questionnaire survey was completed by 147 nurses with HA/DR experience. The survey extracted information on demographic characteristics, past experience (e.g.,

disaster medical training experience, HA/DR experience), circumstances surrounding their dispatched to HA/DR (e.g., team size, disaster type, post-disaster phase, mission term), and the frequency of nursing activities performed under HA/DR. The frequency of nursing activities was rated on a 5-point Likert scale. Evaluation of nursing activities was conducted based on the “nursing activity score”, which represents the frequency of each nursing activity. Factors related to the nursing activity score were evaluated by multiple logistic regression analysis.

Results

Nurses were involved in 27 nursing activities in HA/DR, 10 of which were performed frequently. On analysis, factors significantly associated with nursing activity score were nursing license as a registered nurse (OR 7.79, 95% CI 2.95–20.57), two or more experiences with disaster medical training (OR 2.90 95%, CI 1.12–7.49) and a post-disaster phase of three weeks or longer (OR 8.77, 95% CI 2.59–29.67).

Conclusions

These results will contribute to the design of evidence-based disaster medical training that improves the quality of nursing activities.

Crippling Violence: Conflict and Incident Polio in Afghanistan

Alison Norris, Kevin Hachey, Andrew Curtis, Margaret Bourdeaux

Research Article | published 09 Mar 2016 | PLOS ONE

10.1371/journal.pone.0149074

Abstract

Background

Designing effective public health campaigns in areas of armed conflict requires a nuanced understanding of how violence impacts the epidemiology of the disease in question.

Methods

We examine the geographical relationship between violence (represented by the location of detonated Improvised Explosive Devices) and polio incidence by generating maps of IEDs and polio incidence during 2010, and by comparing the mean number of IED detonations in polio high-risk districts with non polio high-risk districts during 2004–2009.

Results

We demonstrate a geographic relationship between IED violence and incident polio. Districts that have high-risk for polio have highly statistically significantly greater mean numbers of IEDs than non polio high-risk districts (p-values 0.0010–0.0404).

Conclusions

The geographic relationship between armed conflict and polio incidence provides valuable insights as to how to plan a vaccination campaign in violent contexts, and allows us to anticipate incident polio in the regions of armed conflict. Such information permits vaccination planners to engage interested armed combatants to co-develop strategies to mitigate the effects of violence on polio

PLoS Pathogens

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

(Accessed 12 March 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 12 March 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/00917435/84>

[Reviewed earlier]

Public Health Ethics

Volume 9 Issue 1 April 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Qualitative Health Research

March 2016; 26 (4)

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

Special Issue: Autoethnography

[Reviewed earlier]

Refugee Survey Quarterly

Volume 35 Issue 1 March 2016

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

Special Issue: The Challenge of Asylum Detention to Refugee Protection

Guest Editors: Philippe De Bruycker and Evangelia (Lilian) Tsourdi

[The Challenge of Asylum Detention to Refugee Protection](#)

Philippe De Bruycker* and Evangelia (Lilian) Tsourdi**

Abstract

Detention poses a specific challenge to refugee protection; detained asylum-seekers risk not being able to file and meaningfully pursue their claim and benefit only from restrained social and economic rights. They pay a steep human cost. Courts, the legislature, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have made efforts to rationalise its use, with the aim to render it a truly exceptional measure of last resort. However, challenges remain and there are pitfalls in asylum detention regulation. One major challenge is non-implementation of legal guarantees in practice and insufficient control by the judge. This can nullify legal guarantees, especially in a highly sophisticated framework like European Union law, where individualisation

and the necessity and proportionality requirements, are the elements that rationalise otherwise broadly phrased detention grounds. The misuse of alternatives to detention that have been established to rationalise the use of asylum detention is another, as they may paradoxically be used to enhance control over asylum-seekers instead. Finally, migration management imperatives pose distinct challenges to refugee protection, where asylum detention is used arbitrarily as a means to their end.

[Six articles in this Special Issue]

Reproductive Health

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

[Accessed 12 March 2016]

Research

Traditional birth attendants (TBAs) as potential agents in promoting male involvement in maternity preparedness: insights from a rural community in Uganda

Since the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, male involvement in reproductive health issues has been advocated as a means to improve maternal and child health outcomes, but to date, h...

Emmaneul Benon Turinawe, Jude T. Rwemisisi, Laban K. Musinguzi, Marije de Groot, Denis Muhangi, Daniel H. de Vries, David K. Mafigiri, Achilles Katamba, Nadine Parker and Robert Pool
Reproductive Health 2016 13:24

Published on: 12 March 2016

Study protocol

PREventing Maternal And Neonatal Deaths (PREMAND): a study protocol for examining social and cultural factors contributing to infant and maternal deaths and near-misses in rural northern Ghana

The Preventing Maternal And Neonatal Deaths (PREMAND) project works to understand the social and cultural factors that may contribute to the deaths and near-misses (people who almost die but end up surviving) ...

Cheryl A. Moyer, Raymond A. Aborigo, Elizabeth B. Kaselitz, Mira L. Gupta, Abraham Oduro and John Williams

Reproductive Health 2016 13:20

Published on: 9 March 2016

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

December 2015 Vol. 38, No. 6

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Risk Analysis

February 2016 Volume 36, Issue 2 Pages 183–430

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Science

11 March 2016 Vol 351, Issue 6278
<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 12 March 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>
[Reviewed earlier]

TORTURE Journal

Volume 25, Nr. 2, 2015
<http://www.irct.org/Default.aspx?ID=5768>
[Reviewed earlier]

Tropical Medicine & International Health

March 2016 Volume 21, Issue 3 Pages 293–453
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/tmi.2016.21.issue-3/issuetoc>
Reviews
[**The use of portable ultrasound devices in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review of the literature \(pages 294–311\)**](#)
Dawn M. Becker, Chelsea A. Tafoya, Sören L. Becker, Grant H. Kruger, Matthew J. Tafoya and Torben K. Becker
Article first published online: 10 JAN 2016 | DOI: 10.1111/tmi.12657
Abstract
Objectives

To review the scientific literature pertaining to the use of hand-carried and hand-held ultrasound devices in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC), with a focus on clinical applications, geographical areas of use, the impact on patient management and technical features of the devices used.

Methods

The electronic databases PubMed and Google Scholar were searched. No language or date restrictions were applied. Case reports and original research describing the use of hand-carried ultrasound devices in LMIC were included if agreed upon as relevant by two-reviewer consensus based on our predefined research questions.

Results

A total of 644 articles were found and screened, and 36 manuscripts were included for final review. Twenty-seven studies were original research articles, and nine were case reports. Several reports describe the successful diagnosis and management of difficult, often life-threatening conditions, using hand-carried and hand-held ultrasound. These portable ultrasound devices have also been studied for cardiac screening exams, as well as a rapid triage tool in rural areas and after natural disaster. Most applications focus on obstetrical and abdominal complaints. Portable ultrasound may have an impact on clinical management in up to 70% of all cases. However, no randomised controlled trials have evaluated the impact of ultrasound-guided diagnosis and treatment in resource-constrained settings. The exclusion of articles published in journals not listed in the large databases may have biased our results. Our findings are limited by the lack of higher quality evidence (e.g. controlled trials).

Conclusions

Hand-carried and hand-held ultrasound is successfully being used to triage, diagnose and treat patients with a variety of complaints in LMIC. However, the quality of the current evidence is low. There is an urgent need to perform larger clinical trials assessing the impact of hand-carried ultrasound in LMIC.

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 11, Issue 1, 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

World Heritage Review

n°78 - February 2016

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/review/78/>

World Heritage and gender equality

It is increasingly recognized that culture has an essential role to play as a driver of sustainable development, contributing to the eradication of poverty and enhancing social inclusion. Culture helps to define people's identities and determines the way they shape their future. Gender equality, which is a UNESCO priority, refers to the roles and responsibilities of men and women and gender dynamics within families, societies and cultures.

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