



center for governance, evidence, ethics, policy, practice

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

The Sentinel

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

Week ending 19 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:

David R. Curry

Editor &

Founding Director

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

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

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

Contents *[click on link below to move to associated content]*

:: [Week in Review](#)

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

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

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

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

:: Week in Review

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



EU Turkey Agreement

Editor's Note:

The "EU-Turkey Agreement" reached yesterday is quickly generating a high volume of analysis and challenges from across media, human rights groups, governments and more. Since the agreement is complex and raises a number of questions about its compliance with refugee conventions and international law, we include the Q&A published by the EU today, and selected additional comment on the Plan below.

EU-Turkey Agreement: Questions and Answers

Brussels, 19 March 2016

Factsheet on the EU-Turkey Agreement

What has been agreed?

On 18 March, following on from the EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan activated on 29 November 2015 and the 7 March EU-Turkey statement, the European Union and Turkey decided to end the irregular migration from Turkey to the EU. Yesterday's agreement targets the people smugglers' business model and removes the incentive to seek irregular routes to the EU, in full accordance with EU and international law.

The EU and Turkey agreed that:

- 1) All new irregular migrants crossing from Turkey to the Greek islands as of 20 March 2016 will be returned to Turkey;
- 2) For every Syrian being returned to Turkey from the Greek islands, another Syrian will be resettled to the EU;
- 3) Turkey will take any necessary measures to prevent new sea or land routes for irregular migration opening from Turkey to the EU;
- 4) Once irregular crossings between Turkey and the EU are ending or have been substantially reduced, a Voluntary Humanitarian Admission Scheme will be activated;
- 5) The fulfilment of the visa liberalisation roadmap will be accelerated with a view to lifting the visa requirements for Turkish citizens at the latest by the end of June 2016. Turkey will take all the necessary steps to fulfil the remaining requirements;
- 6) The EU will, in close cooperation with Turkey, further speed up the disbursement of the initially allocated €3 billion under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey. Once these resources are about to be used in full, the EU will mobilise additional funding for the Facility up to an additional €3 billion to the end of 2018;
- 7) The EU and Turkey welcomed the ongoing work on the upgrading of the Customs Union.
- 8) The accession process will be re-energised, with Chapter 33 to be opened during the Dutch Presidency of the Council of the European Union and preparatory work on the opening of other chapters to continue at an accelerated pace;
- 9) The EU and Turkey will work to improve humanitarian conditions inside Syria.

On what legal basis will irregular migrants be returned from the Greek islands to Turkey?

People who do not have a right to international protection will be immediately returned to Turkey. The legal framework for these returns is the bilateral readmission agreement between Greece and Turkey. From 1 June 2016, this will be succeeded by the EU-Turkey Readmission Agreement, following the entry into force of the provisions on readmission of third country nationals of this agreement.

On what legal basis will asylum seekers be returned from the Greek islands of Turkey?

People who apply for asylum in Greece will have their applications treated on a case by case basis, in line with EU and international law requirements and the principle of non-refoulement. There will be individual interviews, individual assessments and rights of appeal. There will be no blanket and no automatic returns of asylum seekers.

The [EU asylum rules](#) allow Member States in certain clearly defined circumstances to declare an application "inadmissible", that is to say, to reject the application without examining the substance.

There are two legal possibilities that could be envisaged for declaring asylum applications inadmissible, in relation to Turkey:

- 1) first country of asylum (Article 35 of the Asylum Procedures Directive): where the person has been already recognised as a refugee in that country or otherwise enjoys sufficient protection there;
- 2) safe third country (Article 38 of the Asylum Procedures Directive): where the person has not already received protection in the third country but the third country can guarantee effective access to protection to the readmitted person.

What safeguards exist for asylum seekers?

All applications need to be treated individually and due account must be paid to the situation of vulnerable groups, in particular unaccompanied minors for whom all decisions must be in their best interests.

Moreover, specific attention should be given also to persons who have members of their close family in other Member States and for whom the Dublin rules should be applied.

All applicants will also be able to appeal their decision.

Will asylum seekers remain in Greece during the appeal procedure?

When applying the "safe third country" concept, any return decision is suspended automatically while the appeal is being treated.

When applying the "first country of asylum" concept, there is a possibility to make a request to suspend the transfer while the appeal is being treated.

Where will migrants be accommodated whilst they await return?

Irregular migrants may be held in closed reception centres on the Greek islands, subject to EU legislation – in particular the [EU Return Directive](#). Asylum seekers will be accommodated in open reception centres on the Greek islands.

How can you be sure that people will be given protection in Turkey?

Only asylum seekers that will be protected in accordance with the relevant international standards and in respect of the principle of non-refoulement will be returned to Turkey.

The EU will speed up the disbursement of funds from the €3 billion Facility for Refugees in Turkey. This funding will support Syrians in Turkey by providing access to food, shelter, education and healthcare. An additional €3 billion will be made available after this money is used to the full, up to the end of 2018. The UNHCR will be a key actor in the readmission and resettlement processes to provide additional support and supervision.

What operational support will Greece need in order to implement the scheme?

The implementation of the agreement will require huge operational efforts from all involved, and most of all from Greece. EU Member States agreed to provide Greece at short notice with the necessary means, including border guards, asylum experts and interpreters.

The Commission estimates that Greece will need:

Around 4,000 staff from Greece, Member States, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and FRONTEX

:: For the *asylum process*: 200 Greek asylum service case workers, 400 asylum experts from other Member States deployed by EASO and 400 interpreters

:: For the *appeals process*: 10 Appeals Committees made up of 30 members from Greece as well as 30 judges with expertise in asylum law from other Member States and 30 interpreters

:: For the *return process*: 25 Greek readmission officers, 250 Greek police officers as well as 50 return experts deployed by Frontex. 1,500 police officers seconded on the basis of bilateral police cooperation arrangements (costs covered by FRONTEX)

:: *Security*: 1,000 security staff/army

Material assistance:

:: Transport: return from the islands: 8 FRONTEX vessels with a capacity of 300-400 passengers per vessel) and 28 buses

:: Accommodation: 20,000 short-term capacity on the Greek islands (of which 6,000 already exist)

:: Administration: 190 containers, including 130 for EASO case workers

Who will coordinate this support?

Heads of State or Government meeting in the European Council on 18-19 March 2016 agreed that "the Commission will coordinate and organise together with Member States and Agencies the necessary support structures to implement it effectively."

President Juncker has appointed Maarten Verwey to act as the EU coordinator to implement the EU-Turkey statement. Maarten Verwey is the Director-General of the European Commission's Structural Reform Support Service. He leads a team which has already been on the ground in Greece since October 2015, working hand in hand with the Greek authorities to address the refugee crisis, by accelerating access to emergency funding, improving the coordination between the various actors, addressing administrative bottlenecks and facilitating knowledge sharing on border management and relocation. The EU coordinator has at his disposal significant resources from relevant European Commission services in Brussels (in particular DG HOME) and EU agencies (FRONTEX, EASO, Europol).

The EU coordinator will organise the work and coordinate the dispatching of the 4,000 staff that will be needed from Greece, Member States, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and FRONTEX. Staff needed include case workers, interpreters, judges, return officers and security officers.

What financial support will be provided to Greece?

The Commission estimates the costs of the practical implementation of the agreement to be around €280 million euro over the next six months.

The EU will support Greece to put in place the necessary human resources, infrastructure and reception capacity in order to carry out registrations appeals processes and large scale return operations. In particular, the hotspots in the islands in Greece will need to be adapted – with the current focus on registration and screening before swift transfer to the mainland replaced by the objective of implementing returns to Turkey.

Emergency assistance

Since the beginning of 2015, Greece has been awarded €181 million in emergency assistance. For 2016, the Commission has significantly increased the emergency assistance budget under the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the Internal Security Fund (ISF) - the total amount of emergency funding available in 2016 for the refugee crisis now stands at €464 million. €267 million has been earmarked for Greece, out of which €193,7 million is still available to support the Greek authorities and International Organisations operating in Greece in managing the refugee and humanitarian crisis, provided requests for financing are submitted to the Commission. This funding can be made available for the funding of reception centres on the islands, as well as support for return operations (transport and accompanying measures). This funding can also be used for the temporary deployment of additional Greek staff or Member States' experts deployed to Greece. Yesterday, the Commission awarded an additional €30.5 million from the available emergency funding for Greece to support the Greek Ministry of Defence in providing shelter, accommodation, food and health care to refugees.

Funding available under the Greek multiannual National Programmes

The emergency funding comes on top of the €509 million already allocated to Greece under the national programmes for 2014-2020 (€294.5 million from AMIF and €214.7 million from ISF).

Frontex funding

€60 million euro is available in funding for return operations, including the reimbursement of the costs of Frontex return experts, the reimbursement of transport costs (including vessels made available through Frontex) and the reimbursement of police officers for return escorts (including police officers seconded by other Member States on the basis of bilateral police cooperation agreements).

EASO funding

Under the budget of the European Asylum Support Office, €1,9 million (additional allocations are foreseen) is available to support Member States under particular pressure in 2016 with the funding of for example case worker and judges and part of the mobile containers.

Emergency Assistance mechanism

On 2 March, the Commission proposed an Emergency Assistance instrument, providing €700 million over the next three years, to be used within the European Union to provide a faster, more targeted response to major crises, including helping Member States cope with large numbers of refugees. The estimated needs for 2016 are €300 million with a further €200 million each for use in 2017 and 2018, respectively.

When will the new agreement take effect?

The agreement will take effect from 20 March 2016. What this means in practice is that anyone arriving in the Greek islands from this date will be returned directly to Turkey if they

have no right to international protection or do not claim asylum. Those who claim asylum will have their application processed, in an expedited fashion, with a view to their immediate return to Turkey if the claim is declared inadmissible.

When will resettlements from Turkey start?

Resettlements of Syrians under the 1:1 scheme will commence as of the beginning of April. What happens to migrants who are already in Greece?

The Greek authorities, EU Member States and EU Agencies will accelerate relocations from Greece and provide rapid humanitarian assistance to Greece. In view of the emergency situation on the ground, 6,000 relocations should be achieved within the next month and at least 20,000 relocations completed by mid-May 2016.

.....

UNHCR on EU-Turkey deal: Asylum safeguards must prevail in implementation

Press Release

18 March 2016

UNHCR notes today's agreement between the European Union and Turkey on the situation of refugees and migrants seeking to make their way to Europe.

We recognize the shared need of countries to find properly managed solutions to this situation. Indeed UNHCR has on several occasions in recent months offered its own specific recommendations to Europe in this regard. The chaos that has prevailed in 2015 and till now in 2016 serves neither the interests of people fleeing war and needing safety, nor of Europe itself.

Today's agreement clarifies a number of elements. Importantly, it is explicit that any modalities of implementation of the agreement will respect international and European law. In UNHCR's understanding, in light of relevant jurisprudence, this means that people seeking international protection will have an individual interview on whether their claim can be assessed in Greece, and the right to appeal before any readmission to Turkey. This would also entail that once returned, people in need of international protection will be given the chance to seek and effectively access protection in Turkey. We now need to see how this will be worked out in practice, in keeping with the safeguards set out in the agreement – many of which at present are not in place.

How this plan is to be implemented is thus going to be crucial. Ultimately, the response must be about addressing the compelling needs of individuals fleeing war and persecution. Refugees need protection, not rejection.

Firstly, Greece's reception conditions and its systems for assessing asylum claims and dealing with people accepted as refugees must be rapidly strengthened. The safeguards in the agreement have to be established and implemented. This will be an enormous challenge needing urgent addressing.

Secondly, people being returned to Turkey and needing international protection must have a fair and proper determination of their claims, and within a reasonable time. Assurances against refoulement, or forced return, must be in place. Reception and other arrangements need to be readied in Turkey before anyone is returned from Greece. People determined to be needing

international protection need to be able to enjoy asylum, without discrimination, in accordance with accepted international standards, including effective access to work, health care, education for children, and, as necessary, social assistance.

Thirdly, while UNHCR has noted the commitment in this agreement to increase resettlement opportunities for Syrian refugees out of Turkey, it is crucial that such commitments are meaningful and predictable. Increased EU resettlement from Turkey should not be at the expense of the resettlement of other refugee populations around the world who also have great needs – especially in today's context of record forced displacement worldwide.

.....
.....

Leaders Launch New Humanitarian-Development Partnership to Respond To Forced Displacement and Global Crises

WASHINGTON, March 16, 2016 — Signaling a great urgency to address the crisis of millions of people forcibly displaced from their homes, leaders of multilateral development banks, UN agencies and major NGOs today agreed to strengthen collective action and to work together more effectively.

At an unprecedented meeting on humanitarian-development collaboration -- co-chaired by United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim - about 30 leaders of the international organizations called for a new action-oriented humanitarian-development partnership. The meeting focused on forced displacement as an example of a humanitarian emergency that also presents a significant development challenge, emphasizing the need for more work to address the drivers of fragility and prevention.

The leaders expressed their commitment to build on comparative advantages in three key areas for joint action:

:: Data and evidence:

Work together to launch initiatives such as joint risk assessments, to strengthen and harmonize the data and evidence base to inform policies and programs, and to develop a clear action plan with specific deliverables and milestones.

:: Joint engagements:

Work together and with national counterparts to develop a set of multi-year joint initiatives in select groups of countries facing protracted and recurring crises. This could include the development of joint assessments and planning based on synergies and complementarities that reflect respective comparative advantages.

:: Financing instruments:

Commit to developing innovative financing instruments that “follow the need,” including concessional financing, and in particular leverage private sector resources.

Partners agreed to further develop this agenda and to establish a set of concrete proposals by the time of the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016.

The meeting, held at World Bank Group headquarters, came in response to the Secretary General’s call for action in the report “One Humanity: Shared Responsibility,” and the Agenda

for Humanity. It launched an agenda for collective action leading up to the World Humanitarian Summit and the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, to be held by the UN General Assembly on September 19, 2016.

"We need to shift from a disproportionate focus on crisis management to investing in crisis prevention and building up community resilience. Our planning and financing tools need to identify how to strengthen local capacity and resilience, including through increased cash-based programming. We should set ambitious targets and use the Summit and its follow-up process to monitor and measure achievement," said UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

"These humanitarian crises are among the biggest challenges of our time – we must safeguard the lives and livelihoods of millions of people who are driven from their homes because of conflict or natural disasters," said World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim. "In this meeting, we identified steps for urgent action, which we will set in motion immediately. We have a collective responsibility to work together to build a secure and stable foundation for sustainable development."

Humanitarian development action is already under way: one example is the World Bank Group and UNHCR are rapidly expanding collaboration, deepened through joint analytics and operations in several regions in Africa and in the response to the Syrian crisis.

Organizations represented at this high-level meeting included:

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Islamic Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme, International Monetary Fund, World Food Programme, International Finance Corporation, International Organization for Migration, European Investment Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Children's Emergency Fund, Results, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Inter-American Development Bank, International Rescue Committee, Islamic Relief Worldwide, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of the Red Cross, International Council of Voluntary Agencies, Save the Children, OXFAM America, InterAction, Catholic Relief Services

.....
.....

Syria

More than 100 humanitarian agencies call for immediate and sustained access in Syria

GENEVA/NEW YORK, 15 March 2016 – Today, 102 humanitarian agencies urged sustained and unconditional humanitarian access to all Syrians. The appeal was made on the fifth anniversary of the start of the conflict in Syria. The appeal and signatories below.

Syria Humanitarian Appeal - 5th Anniversary of the Syrian Conflict

As the parties to the conflict in Syria resume talks to end a war that now enters its sixth horrific year, there is renewed hope for peace. For an end to the suffering of millions of the innocent.

Two months ago our organizations appealed for urgent access to all those in desperate need inside Syria: for the lifting of sieges; for the full protection of civilians. Today, there are some encouraging signs of progress.

The cessation of hostilities has allowed humanitarian organizations to rush more food and other relief to communities desperate for help.

But access has to go beyond a temporary lifting of sieges and checkpoints and allowing more aid convoys to move.

Humanitarian access and freedom of movement of civilians in Syria has to be sustained. It has to be unconditional. And it should include access to all people in need by whatever routes necessary.

The parties to this conflict and their international sponsors must from now on guarantee:

- :: Full access for humanitarian and medical workers to assess the wellbeing of civilians in all communities and treat those who are sick and injured without obstacle or restriction.

- :: Allowing all humanitarian aid, as required by international humanitarian law, to reach, unimpeded, those who urgently need it – including medical supplies, surgical equipment, and nutritional necessities.

- :: Support for an urgently needed nationwide immunization campaign for children.

These are practical actions that would mean the difference between life and death. All parties to the conflict can agree on them, now.

And in doing so, they can take another step to peace. Peace for Syria. The peace that Syrians so desperately deserve.

[List of 102 signatories at [UNICEF press release](#)]

.....

WHO: [Syria 5 years on - delivering health against all odds](#)

15 March 2016 - After five years of a brutal and senseless conflict over 250 000 Syrians have been killed and over half the population forced from their homes out of fear and want.

In the past few weeks however, we are seeing signs of momentum, fragile glimmers of hope. As humanitarians we welcome progress where it means real change..

- :: [View the photo story](#)

- :: [Watch the video](#)

- :: [Read the news release](#)

.....

[No Place for Children – The Impact of Five Years of War n Syria’s Children and Their Childhoods](#)

UNICEF

14 March 2016 :: 15 pages

PDF: http://www.unicef.org/media/files/SYRIA5Y_REPORT_12_MARCH.pdf

Press Release

[1 in 3 Syrian children has grown up knowing only crisis as conflict reaches 5 year point – UNICEF](#)

AMMAN/NEW YORK, 14 March 2016 - An estimated 3.7 million Syrian children – 1 in 3 of all Syrian children - have been born since the conflict began five years ago, their lives shaped by violence, fear and displacement, according to a UNICEF report. This figure includes 306,000 children born as refugees since 2011.

In total, UNICEF estimates that some 8.4 million children - more than 80 per cent of Syria's child population - are now affected by the conflict, either inside the country or as refugees in neighbouring countries.

"In Syria, violence has become commonplace, reaching homes, schools, hospitals, clinics, parks, playgrounds and places of worship," said Dr. Peter Salama, UNICEF's Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa. "Nearly 7 million children live in poverty, making their childhood one of loss and deprivation."

According to "No Place for Children", UNICEF verified nearly 1,500 grave violations against children in 2015. More than 60 per cent of these violations were instances of killing and maiming as a result of explosive weapons used in populated areas. More than one-third of these children were killed while in school or on their way to or from school.

In Syria's neighbouring countries, the number of refugees is nearly 10 times higher today than in 2012. Half of all refugees are children. More than 15,000 unaccompanied and separated children have crossed Syria's borders.

"Five years into the war, millions of children have grown up too fast and way ahead of their time," Salama said. "As the war continues, children are fighting an adult war, they are continuing to drop out of school, and many are forced into labour, while girls are marrying early."...

...One of the most significant challenges to the conflict has been providing children with learning. School attendance rates inside Syria have hit rock bottom. UNICEF estimates that more than 2.1 million children inside Syria, and 700,000 in neighbouring countries, are out-of-school. In response, UNICEF and partners launched the "No Lost Generation Initiative", which is committed to restoring learning and providing opportunities to young people.

"It's not too late for Syria's children. They continue to have hope for a life of dignity and possibility. They still cherish dreams of peace and have the chance to fulfill them," Salama said.

The report calls on the global community to undertake five critical steps to protect a vital generation of children.

- :: End violations of children's rights;
- :: Lift sieges and improve humanitarian access inside Syria;
- :: Secure US\$ 1.4 billion in 2016 to provide children with learning opportunities;
- :: Restore children's dignity and strengthen their psychological wellbeing; and

:: Turn funding pledges into commitments. UNICEF has received only 6 per cent of the funding required in 2016 to support Syrian children both inside the country and those living as refugees in neighbouring countries.



Harnessing the collective strengths of the UN system to reach every woman, child, and adolescent

Joint Press Statement

18 March 2016

As part of the global effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), countries around the world reported major gains in the health and wellbeing of women and children between 1990 and 2015. The global rate of maternal mortality fell by 47 per cent and child mortality declined by 49 per cent. However, any celebration of progress is tempered by the reality that millions of women, children, newborns, and adolescents continue to die every year; mostly from preventable causes. As the world transitions from the MDGs to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we must uphold our commitment to keep reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH) at the heart of the global agenda. Fulfilling this promise is both a practical imperative and a moral obligation.

The UN Secretary-General's [*Global Strategy for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health*](#) sets out a plan to give every woman, child, and adolescent the opportunity to not only survive, but to thrive and transform his or her community. Implementing the Global Strategy and achieving the SDG targets requires an unprecedented level of alignment and coordination amongst each and every one of us working in the field of RMNCAH.

On behalf of the six organizations responsible for promoting and implementing the global health agenda across the UN system, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO, and the World Bank Group, we, the undersigned, stand united in our commitment to operationalize the Global Strategy.

Building on our tradition of working together to support countries in achieving the MDGs, we, as members of the H6 (previously known as the H4+), will provide coordinated technical support to country-led efforts to implement the Global Strategy and achieve the ambitious targets of the health-related SDGs. At the same time, we will continue to advocate for evidence-based RMNCAH programmes and policies at the global, regional, and national levels.

As the current H6 chair (2016-2018), UNAIDS will lead the partnership in fulfilling its mandate to leverage the strengths and capacities of each of the six member organizations in order to support high-burden countries in their efforts to improve the survival, health, and well-being of every woman, newborn, child, and adolescent.

As representatives of the H6, we renew our commitment to implement this mandate in support of the Global Strategy. We call on RMNCAH activists and advocates worldwide to join us in fulfilling this shared pledge to women, children, and adolescents everywhere.

Michel Sidibé, Executive Director, UNAIDS

Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director, UNFPA
Anthony Lake, Executive Director, UNICEF
Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director, UN Women
Margaret Chan, Director General, WHO
Tim Evans, Senior Director, Health, Nutrition and Population Global Practice, The World Bank Group

Pdf of Global Strategy for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health:
<http://www.who.int/life-course/partners/global-strategy/globalstrategyreport2016-2030-lowres.pdf?ua=1>

.....
.....

THE COMING PENSIONS CRISIS – Recommendations for Keeping the Global Pensions System Afloat

Citi GPS: Global Perspectives & Solutions

March 2016 :: 127 pages [Pdf](#)

Overview [p.3]

...Improvements in healthcare are increasing life expectancies meaning retirement money needs to last much longer. At the same time demographic shifts — an increase in the retirement age population accompanied by a decrease in the working age population — are starting to put a strain on pay-as-you-go government pension schemes such as social security.

How much of a problem is it? According to our estimates, the total value of unfunded or underfunded government pension liabilities for twenty OECD countries is a staggering \$78 trillion, or almost double the \$44 trillion published national debt number. Corporations have also not consistently met their pension obligation and most US and UK corporate pension plans remain underfunded with an aggregate fund status in the US of just 82%.

In the report that follows, the authors look at the scope of the pension problem both on the public and the private side. But instead of being all doom and gloom, they offer a set of recommendations to policymakers, corporate and public pension plan sponsors and managers, and product providers to deal with the crisis. These include:

- (1) publishing the amount of underfunded government pension obligations so that everyone can see them,
- (2) raising the retirement age,
- (3) creating a new system that utilizes Collective Defined Contribution plans which share both the risks and benefits of the plan between plan sponsors and individuals,
- (4) creating powerful 'soft compulsion' incentives to ensure that private pension savings increase,
- (5) encouraging pension plan sponsors to make their full pension contributions when they are due, and
- (6) encouraging corporates with frozen plans to get out of the insurance business.

Finally, the silver lining of the pensions crisis is for product providers such as insurers and asset managers. Private pension assets are forecast to grow \$5-\$11 trillion over the next 10-30 years

and strong growth is forecast in insurance pension buy-outs, private pension schemes, and asset and guaranteed retirement income solutions.

.....
.....

World Bank, USAID Strengthen Violence Prevention Partnership

WASHINGTON, March 17, 2016 – The gravity of violence and its impact on development in Latin America and the Caribbean was underscored in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) announced by the World Bank and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The MOU, which deepens an ongoing partnership between the World Bank and USAID in the region, elevates violence prevention as a global development challenge, and seeks to help cities and governments develop peaceful, just, and inclusive communities.

“The new agreement gives us the opportunity for even more strategic engagement in this area,” said Ede Ijjasz-Vasquez, Senior Director for the Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Global Practice at the World Bank. “It underscores our two organizations’ ongoing commitment to treat violence as a preventable public health issue with close links to development.”

Violence has tremendous economic costs globally – up to 10 percent of GDP in some countries – and negative long-term consequences on human, social, economic, and sustainable development. Nearly a half million people lose their lives to intrapersonal violence each year, and youth violence is the fourth leading cause of death for young people worldwide.

“None of our development efforts will take root in societies that are plagued by insecurity,” said Beth Hogan, Acting Assistant Administrator for USAID’s Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean. “We look to partnerships like this one with the World Bank to help us address complex and longstanding challenges. Together, we can help improve conditions and enable peaceful and prosperous growth in the region.”

In Latin America and the Caribbean, citizen security is arguably the greatest challenge to the region’s broader development. The region is home to eight of the 10 most violent countries in the world, and 41 of the 50 most dangerous cities. And while only 9 percent of the world’s population live in the region, it comprises 33 percent of the world’s murders.

.....
.....

Social protection for domestic workers: Key policy trends and statistics

ILO - Social Protection Policy Paper. Paper 16

10 March 2016 :: 79 pages

Pdf: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---soc_sec/documents/publication/wcms_458933.pdf

Overview

This working paper: (i) provides an overview of the global situation of social security provisions for domestic workers in 163 countries; (ii) analyses trends, policies and gaps in terms of legal and effective social security coverage for domestic workers; (iii) describes and analyses the configuration of social security schemes for domestic workers, such as their institutional

organization, financing and administration; (iv) informs on challenges to extending coverage; and (v) provides a compilation and description of international practices of social security schemes for the domestic work sector, including comparative information.

This report aims to provide systematized information on the international situation of social protection in the domestic work sector. To this end, it presents recent information on the characteristics of social security schemes that provide coverage to domestic workers. The report compiles and disseminates information on legal practices, institutional organization, financing and registration, collection and payment of contributions. This information and the corresponding analysis can provide useful inputs for policy making.

Key messages

:: Due to the atypical characteristics of domestic work, workers are considered a “difficult-to-cover” group by social security; **it is estimated that globally 90 per cent of domestic workers are legally excluded from social security systems.** These characteristics include the fact that work is performed in a private household which makes it difficult to control and inspect; workers frequently have more than one employer; there is a high job turnover rate; in-kind payment is common; receipt of wage income is highly irregular and labour relations are not usually established through an employment contract. These difficulties are also associated with other factors such as the lack of legal recognition of domestic work as an occupation, the existence of discriminatory social and legal practices, as well as other socio-cultural elements which engender a low social value for domestic work.

:: Information compiled by the ILO highlights an important coverage deficit. It is estimated that of the 67 million domestic workers worldwide, 60 million are excluded from coverage of social security.

:: Of the 163 countries included in this study, at least 70 (43 per cent) have laws mandating legal coverage for domestic workers of one or more of the nine branches of social security established in the ILO’s Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention (No. 102).

:: The largest gaps in social security coverage for the domestic work sector are concentrated in developing countries, where few nations provide legal coverage for this sector. Moreover, developing regions have the largest share of domestic workers worldwide, Asia and Latin America regroup 68 per cent of domestic workers worldwide.

:: Social security coverage deficits for domestic workers also exist in industrialized countries. For example, in Italy approximately 60 per cent of domestic workers are not registered with or contributing to social security systems. In Spain and France, 30 per cent of domestic workers are excluded from social security coverage.

:: The information presented in this report demonstrates that coverage of domestic workers by social security schemes is feasible, including in lower middle and low income countries, such as evidence shows for Mali, Senegal and Viet Nam.

:: There is no single social protection model for the sector. Most countries have opted to provide social protection to domestic workers through general social security schemes, guaranteeing legally the same conditions of coverage as those established for other employees, or with minor variations.

:: Eight countries report having voluntary social security coverage for domestic workers. The low rate of effective coverage existing in those countries indicates that voluntary coverage is a practice that hinders efforts to extend social security to domestic workers, for a variety of reasons. However, effective coverage continues to be low in other countries with mandatory systems, which points to the existence of other barriers and national practices that likewise impede effective coverage.

:: Women comprise the majority of domestic workers, accounting for 80 per cent of all workers in the sector globally; which means that approximately 55 million women participate in this activity. Given that it is predominantly a female workforce subject to conditions of discrimination and social and economic vulnerability, policies to extend social protection to domestic workers are a key component of efforts to fight poverty and promote gender equality.

:: Migrant domestic workers, estimated at approximately 11.5 million persons worldwide, face even greater discrimination than that experienced by domestic workers in general. Approximately 14 per cent of countries whose social security systems provide some type of coverage for domestic workers do not extend the same rights to migrant domestic workers.

:: The main barriers for extending social security coverage to the domestic work sector are associated with the following: legal exclusion; voluntary rather than mandatory coverage; lack of provisions or strategies to cover workers who have more than one employer (multi-employer) or who work part-time; narrow legal definition of domestic work; restrictions on legally protected contingencies; lack of contributory incentives, including the absence of contributory conditions adapted to the low contributory capacity of the sector; complexity or inadequacy of administrative procedures for registration and contribution collection; difficulty in ensuring inspection, lack of information on rights and responsibilities; and low level of organization of domestic workers, among others.

:: Mandatory coverage is identified as a crucial element and a necessary, but insufficient, condition for achieving adequate rates of effective coverage of domestic workers. Mandatory enrolment should be complemented by strategies associated amongst others with institutional organization, financing, registration and promotion of coverage, collection and recovery of contributions, and coverage of migrant domestic workers.

:: Countries with high levels of social protection coverage for the domestic work sector have implemented a combination of strategies that include: the application of mandatory rather than voluntary coverage; differentiated contributory schemes in relation to those applied to other employees; government subsidies; fiscal incentives; registration plans for workers who have more than one employer (multi-employer) or who work part-time; education and awareness-raising programmes targeting domestic workers and their employers; intensive use of information technologies; and implementation of service voucher mechanisms and presumptive schemes.

:: It is important to bear in mind that policies and strategies to extend social security coverage in the domestic work sector form part of a broader set of interventions guided by formalization policies in general. These policies are part of the labour protection system, which includes the

domestic work sector. At the same time, this system has a variety of components that go beyond the specific configuration and strategies of social security systems or their institutions.

Press Release

Discrimination at work

[ILO: 90 per cent of domestic workers excluded from social protection](#)

New ILO study highlights huge decent work deficits for domestic workers throughout the world.

News | 14 March 2016

GENEVA (ILO News) – 60 million of the world's 67 million domestic workers still do not have access to any kind of social security coverage, says a new ILO study.

"The vast majority of domestic workers are women, accounting for 80 per cent of all workers in the sector globally," explained Isabel Ortiz, Director of the ILO Social Protection Department. "Most of their work is undervalued and unprotected, when domestic workers become old or injured, they are fired, without a pension or adequate income support. This can and must be redressed."

Domestic work is considered as a sector that is difficult to cover, partly because work is performed in private households and frequently for more than one employer. The occupation is also characterized by high job turnover, frequent in-kind payments, irregular wages and a lack of formal work contracts.

"Given that it is predominantly a female workforce highly subject to discrimination as well as social and economic vulnerability, policies to extend social protection to domestic workers are key elements in the fight against poverty and the promotion of gender equality," said Philippe Marcadent, Chief of the ILO's Inclusive Labour Markets, Labour Relations and Working Conditions Branch...

.....
.....

[Preventing disease through healthy environments: a global assessment of the burden of disease from environmental risks](#)

WHO - A Prüss-Ustün, J Wolf, C Corvalán, R Bos and M Neira

March 2016 :: 176 pages

ISBN 978 92 4 156519 6

Executive Summary (excerpt)

In 2012, this present study estimates, 12.6 million deaths globally, representing 23% (95% CI: 13-34%) of all deaths, were attributable to the environment. When accounting for both death and disability, the fraction of the global burden of disease due to the environment is 22% (95% CI: 13-32%). In children under five years, up to 26% (95% CI: 16-38%) of all deaths could be prevented, if environmental risks were removed. Of the 12.6 million deaths attributable to the environment, 8.1 million (15%) were estimated using comparative risk assessment (CRA) methods, and the remaining 4.5 million using a combination of methods including expert opinion.

This study provides an approximate estimate of how much disease can be prevented by reducing the environmental risks to health. It includes a meta-synthesis of key evidence relating diseases and injuries to the environment. It brings together quantitative estimates of the disease burden attributable to the environment using a combination of approaches that

includes CRA, epidemiological data, transmission pathways and expert opinion. The synthesis of evidence linking 133 diseases and injuries, or their groupings, to the environment has been reviewed to provide an overall picture of the disease burden that could be prevented through healthier environments.

Environmental risks to health are defined, in this study, as “all the physical, chemical and biological factors external to a person, and all related behaviours, but excluding those natural environments that cannot reasonably be modified.” To increase the policy relevance of this study, its focus is on that part of the environment which can reasonably be modified...

Download: [Preventing disease through healthy environments: a global assessment of the burden of disease from environmental risks](#) pdf, 2.41Mb

.....
.....

Editor's Note:

We include the link to the extraordinary press conference given by Anthony Banbury on allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN peace keeping forces just before he left UN service. We note that this archive video has cut several minutes of the extraordinary closing minutes exchange with press from the live broadcast. We also include the text of an equally extraordinary New York Times opinion piece by Mr. Banbury this week [it has generated over 350 online comments so far]. He is now chief philanthropy officer for Vulcan Inc., a private company.

29 Jan 2016

[Anthony Banbury \(DFS\) on allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse cases in the Central African Republic - Press Conference \(29 January 2016\)](#) (English)

[Video:: 45:58]

Anthony Banbury, the Assistant Secretary-General for Field Support, on allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse cases in the Central African Republic.

New York Times *[Sunday Review](#)*

MARCH 18, 2016

Opinion

[I Love the U.N., but It Is Failing](#)

By ANTHONY BANBURY

Anthony Banbury was a United Nations assistant secretary general for field support until this month.

I HAVE worked for the United Nations for most of the last three decades. I was a human rights officer in Haiti in the 1990s and served in the former Yugoslavia during the Srebrenica genocide. I helped lead the response to the Indian Ocean tsunami and the Haitian earthquake, planned the mission to eliminate Syrian chemical weapons, and most recently led the Ebola mission in West Africa. I care deeply for the principles the United Nations is designed to uphold.

And that's why I have decided to leave.

The world faces a range of terrifying crises, from the threat of climate change to terrorist breeding grounds in places like Syria, Iraq and Somalia. The United Nations is uniquely placed to meet these challenges, and it is doing invaluable work, like protecting civilians and delivering humanitarian aid in South Sudan and elsewhere. But in terms of its overall mission, thanks to colossal mismanagement, the United Nations is failing.

Six years ago, I became an assistant secretary general, posted to the headquarters in New York. I was no stranger to red tape, but I was unprepared for the blur of Orwellian admonitions and Carrollian logic that govern the place. If you locked a team of evil geniuses in a laboratory, they could not design a bureaucracy so maddeningly complex, requiring so much effort but in the end incapable of delivering the intended result. The system is a black hole into which disappear countless tax dollars and human aspirations, never to be seen again.

The first major problem is a sclerotic personnel system. The United Nations needs to be able to attract and quickly deploy the world's best talent. And yet, it takes on average 213 days to recruit someone. In January, to the horror of many, the Department of Management imposed a new recruitment system that is likely to increase the delay to over a year.

During the Ebola epidemic, I was desperate to get qualified people on the ground, and yet I was told that a staff member working in South Sudan could not travel to our headquarters in Accra, Ghana, until she received a new medical clearance. We were fighting a disease that killed many thousands and risked spinning out of control and yet we spent weeks waiting for a healthy colleague to get her forms processed.

Too often, the only way to speed things up is to break the rules. That's what I did in Accra when I hired an anthropologist as an independent contractor. She turned out to be worth her weight in gold. Unsafe burial practices were responsible for about half of new Ebola cases in some areas. We had to understand these traditions before we could persuade people to change them. As far as I know, no United Nations mission had ever had an anthropologist on staff before; shortly after I left the mission, she was let go.

The heads of billion-dollar peace operations, with enormous responsibilities for ending wars, are not able to hire their immediate staff, or to reassign non-performers away from critical roles. It is a sign of how perversely twisted the bureaucracy is that personnel decisions are considered more dangerous than the responsibility to lead a mission on which the fate of a country depends.

One result of this dysfunction is minimal accountability. There is today a chief of staff in a large peacekeeping mission who is manifestly incompetent. Many have tried to get rid of him, but short of a serious crime, it is virtually impossible to fire someone in the United Nations. In the past six years, I am not aware of a single international field staff member's being fired, or even sanctioned, for poor performance.

The second serious problem is that too many decisions are driven by political expediency instead of by the values of the United Nations or the facts on the ground.

Peacekeeping forces often lumber along for years without clear goals or exit plans, crowding out governments, diverting attention from deeper socioeconomic problems and costing billions

of dollars. My first peacekeeping mission was in Cambodia in 1992. We left after less than two years. Now it's a rare exception when a mission lasts fewer than 10.

Look at Haiti: There has been no armed conflict for more than a decade, and yet a United Nations force of more than 4,500 remains. Meanwhile, we are failing at what should be our most important task: assisting in the creation of stable, democratic institutions. Elections have been postponed amid allegations of fraud, and the interim prime minister has said that "the country is facing serious social and economic difficulties." The military deployment makes no contribution at all to solving these problems.

Our most grievous blunder is in Mali. In early 2013, the United Nations decided to send 10,000 soldiers and police officers to Mali in response to a terrorist takeover of parts of the north. Inexplicably, we sent a force that was unprepared for counterterrorism and explicitly told not to engage in it. More than 80 percent of the force's resources are spent on logistics and self-protection. Already 56 people in the United Nations contingent have been killed, and more are certain to die. The United Nations in Mali is day by day marching deeper into its first quagmire.

BUT the thing that has upset me most is what the United Nations has done in the Central African Republic. When we took over peacekeeping responsibilities from the African Union there in 2014, we had the choice of which troops to accept. Without appropriate debate, and for cynical political reasons, a decision was made to include soldiers from the Democratic Republic of Congo and from the Republic of Congo, despite reports of serious human rights violations by these soldiers. Since then, troops from these countries have engaged in a persistent pattern of rape and abuse of the people — often young girls — the United Nations was sent there to protect.

Last year, peacekeepers from the Republic of Congo arrested a group of civilians, with no legal basis whatsoever, and beat them so badly that one died in custody and the other shortly after in a hospital. In response there was hardly a murmur, and certainly no outrage, from the responsible officials in New York.

As the abuse cases piled up, impassioned pleas were made to send the troops home. These were ignored, and more cases of child rape came to light. Last month, we finally kicked out the Democratic Republic of Congo soldiers, but the ones from the Republic of Congo remain

In 1988, my first job with the United Nations was as a human rights officer in Cambodian refugee camps along the Thai-Cambodian border, investigating rapes and murders of the poor and helpless. Never could I have imagined that I would one day have to deal with members of my own organization committing the same crimes or, worse, senior officials tolerating them for reasons of cynical expediency.

I am hardly the first to warn that the United Nations bureaucracy is getting in the way of its peacekeeping efforts. But too often, these criticisms come from people who think the United Nations is doomed to fail. I come at it from a different angle: I believe that for the world's sake we must make the United Nations succeed.

In the run-up to the election of a new secretary general this year, it is essential that governments, and especially the permanent members of the Security Council, think carefully

about what they want out of the United Nations. The organization is a Remington typewriter in a smartphone world. If it is going to advance the causes of peace, human rights, development and the climate, it needs a leader genuinely committed to reform.

The bureaucracy needs to work for the missions; not the other way around. The starting point should be the overhaul of our personnel system. We need an outside panel to examine the system and recommend changes. Second, all administrative expenses should be capped at a fixed percentage of operations costs. Third, decisions on budget allocations should be removed from the Department of Management and placed in the hands of an independent controller reporting to the secretary general. Finally, we need rigorous performance audits of all parts of headquarters operations.

Secretary General Ban Ki-moon is a man of great integrity, and the United Nations is filled with smart, brave and selfless people. Unfortunately, far too many others lack the moral aptitude and professional abilities to serve. We need a United Nations led by people for whom "doing the right thing" is normal and expected.

.....
.....

The Buckingham Palace Declaration

UNITED FOR WILDLIFE TRANSPORT TASKFORCE

15 March 2016 :: 2 pages [pdf](#)

PREAMBLE

We, signatories to the United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce Buckingham Palace Declaration and the members of the United for Wildlife International Taskforce on the transportation of illegal wildlife products¹, recognising the devastating impact of illegal wildlife trade, agree to the Commitments set out below, as they apply to our industry or organisation.

We, as signatories to the Declaration, will not knowingly facilitate or tolerate the carriage of wildlife products, where trade in those products is contrary to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wildlife Fauna and Flora (CITES)², and as such is illegal under international and national laws.

We agree to implement the Commitments relating to our own industry sector or organisational mandate, as part of our intention to tackle this issue and bring an end to illegal wildlife trade³. We agree to evaluate the impact of the Commitments regularly, to assess what has worked and identify and address any challenges.

We ask the entire transport industry to follow our lead and help bring an end to the illegal trade in wildlife by signing this Declaration and supporting implementation of the Commitments.

COMMITMENTS

EXPRESSION AND DEMONSTRATION OF AGREEMENT TO TACKLE THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

1. Adopt or encourage the adoption of a zero tolerance policy regarding illegal wildlife trade.

2. Increase passenger, customer, client, and staff awareness about the nature, scale, and consequences of illegal wildlife trade.

3. Promote the Declaration and its Commitments across the entire transport sector and encourage all in the sector to sign up to the Declaration.

INFORMATION SHARING AND DETECTION

4. Develop mechanisms to enable the transport sector to receive timely information about the transport of suspected illegal wildlife and their products, including methods of transportation, key routes, ports and other locations.

5. Enhance data systems, including due diligence and risk assessment, to allow the transport sector and/or enforcement agencies to screen data and/or cargo, to identify potential shipments of suspected illegal wildlife and their products.

6. Identify and promote systems for staff and the public to report suspicions in relation to the transportation of illegal wildlife and their products.

7. Improve the training of staff within the transport sector to enable them to detect, identify and report suspected illegal wildlife trade, and acknowledge staff who champion this cause.

PRACTICAL MEASURES TO STOP THE TRANSPORTATION OF ILLEGAL WILDLIFE PRODUCTS

8. Develop a secure, harmonised system for passing information about suspected illegal wildlife trade from the transport sector to relevant customs and law enforcement authorities, where permitted by law.

9. Notify relevant law enforcement authorities of cargoes suspected of containing illegal wildlife and their products and, where able, refuse to accept or ship such cargoes.

10. Establish a cross-disciplinary team working with local customs and law enforcement authorities to develop a system of best practice for combatting illegal wildlife trade in key ports.

NEW MECHANISMS TACKLING ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

11. Support the development of mechanisms by the World Customs Organization and national customs authorities

[Some 30 organizations, agencies and corporations from across the transport sector have signed the Declaration; no summary list of signatories was discovered in web searches]

UNDP Press Release

[Global transport leaders sign historic declaration at Buckingham Palace in fight to shut down Illegal wildlife trafficking routes](#)

Mar 15, 2016

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is proud to be a signatory to an historic declaration at Buckingham Palace committing leaders of the transportation industry globally to taking major steps to fight illicit wildlife trafficking, a move hailed by HRH The Duke of Cambridge as “a game changer in the race against extinction.”

The Buckingham Palace Declaration commits signatories to 11 commitments that will raise standards across the transportation industry to prevent traffickers of wildlife products from exploiting weaknesses as they seek to covertly move their products from killing fields to marketplaces. The commitments focus on information sharing, staff training, technological improvements, and resource sharing across companies and organisations worldwide.

The commitments will also see the world's leading transportation firms assisting those in poorer nations who are in need of expertise and new systems.

Magdy Martínez-Solimán, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of Bureau for Policy and Programme Support stated, "The declaration is a landmark achievement for UNDP because the recent escalation in the illegal wildlife trade not only threatens biodiversity but has the potential to undo hard-won development gains. Illegal wildlife trade undermines national and regional security, democratic governance, prospects for sustainable development and threatens livelihoods."

* * * *

:: Agency/Government/IGO Watch

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

United Nations – Secretary General, Security Council, General Assembly

[to 19 March 2016]

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

Selected Press Releases/Meetings Coverage

18 March 2016

SC/12293-DC/3615

Security Council Press Statement on Democratic People's Republic of Korea Launches

The following Security Council press statement was issued today by Council President Ismael Abraão Gaspar Martins

18 March 2016

GA/11766

Secretary-General Leads Commemoration of International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Alarmed at the sharp and disgraceful rise of xenophobia, anti-Muslim bigotry as well as attacks and violence targeting refugees, the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the President of the General Assembly were among many speakers calling today for unity to ensure dignity, justice and development for all, as the Assembly held a special meeting to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

17 March 2016

SG/SM/17604-OBV/1587

Progress towards Sustainable Development Can Help Spread Joy, Secure Peace, Secretary-General Says in Message for International Happiness Day

17 March 2016

SG/SM/17602-OBV/1585

Secretary-General Urges Greater Resolve to Fight Racism, Celebrate African Culture Worldwide, in Message for International Observance

Following is UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's message for the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, observed on 25 March:

15 March 2016
SG/SM/17596-HRC/22

Secretary-General, at Event Marking Tenth Anniversary of Human Right Council, Reiterates Call for Syria's Referral to International Criminal Court

UN OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 19 March 2016]

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

Selected Press Releases

All dated 18 March 2016

Zeid condemns repeated killing of civilians in Yemen airstrikes

Zeid condemns repeated killing of civilians in Yemen airstrikes

"High time for Turkey to come to terms with past enforced disappearances" – UN expert group

"Action needed to stop Honduras turning into a lawless killing zone for human rights defenders"

Press briefing note on Bahrain

UN expert calls on Bahrain to release woman rights defender and stop persecuting defenders

**"Very little progress in tackling racism and xenophobia around the world"
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - Monday 21 March 2016**

Qatar: UN experts welcome release of poet al-Ajami, but call for deep review of law and judicial system

Deep-rooted human rights challenges must be tackled in Myanmar's new political era – UN expert

Committee on the Rights of the Child [to 19 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 19 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 19 March 2016]

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

15 Mar 2016

MORE THAN 100 HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES CALL FOR IMMEDIATE AND SUSTAINED ACCESS IN SYRIA

15 Mar 2016

A Glimmer of hope for the children of Syria

SRSG/SVC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

UN OCHA [to 19 March 2016]

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

19 Mar 2016

South Sudan: A Mission for Humanity, Day 3: Juba and Malakal in South Sudan: the never-ending challenge of protecting civilians

United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, is travelling on a mission around the world to highlight his Agenda for Humanity. After heading to Ethiopia for the first leg of the mission and the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the second part, he visited South Sudan, a country that has been torn by violence ...

17 Mar 2016

World: Remarks at Commission on the Status of Women Achieving Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Humanitarian Action through the World Humanitarian Summit

17 Mar 2016

Ukraine: UN calls on all parties to ensure access to safe water in Donetsk [EN/UK]

17 March 2016 - The United Nations is concerned about the continuing impact of the armed conflict in Donbas on civilians. Currently, availability of clean water for over 300,000 people living in the Donetsk area is at risk because staff of the Voda Donbassa water treatment plant were evacuated on 13 March due to increased insecurity in the area. The plant normally provides half of the demand...

16 Mar 2016

Iraq: Humanitarian partners race to reach people fleeing Heet and areas west of Ramadi

Baghdad, 16 March 2016: Humanitarian partners are rushing to provide emergency assistance to an estimated 35,000 people who have been newly displaced in hard-to-reach areas west of Ramadi.

14 Mar 2016

Mali: The Sahel: Information Sheet (March 2016)

CONVERGING CHALLENGES, COMPOUNDING RISKS A REGION UNDER HIGH PRESSURE In the Sahel, extreme poverty, fastgrowing populations, climate change, recurrent food and nutrition crises, armed conflicts and insecurity are building up to a perfect storm threatening the lives of communities already living on the brink of crisis.

UNICEF [to 19 March 2016]

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

Selected Press Releases

The Duchess of Cornwall sees how UNICEF protects children from online sexual abuse in Montenegro

PODGORICA, Montenegro, 18 March, 2016 - Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall today visited Montenegro to see how UNICEF is using a new digital application to help children stay safe on the internet and protect themselves from online sexual exploitation.

UNICEF urges EU leaders and Turkey to find common ground for refugee and migrant children

GENEVA, 18 March 2016 – With the lives of more than 20,000 children in Greece and in the Balkans on hold, UNICEF urges leaders of the European Union and Turkey to find common ground for refugee and migrant children when reaching an agreement that could have serious consequences for them.

More than 100 humanitarian agencies call for immediate and sustained access in Syria

GENEVA/NEW YORK, 15 March 2016 – Today, 102 humanitarian agencies urged sustained and unconditional humanitarian access to all Syrians.

Former Australian PM Kevin Rudd, Ethiopian government, UNICEF lead talks on global access to water, sanitation and hygiene

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia, 15 March 2016 – Government ministers and representatives of development agencies, civil society, private sector and NGOs are gathered in Addis to agree on a way to meet targets on universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene as called for in the new Sustainable Development Goals.

Malawi tests first unmanned aerial vehicle flights for HIV early infant diagnosis

LILONGWE, Malawi 14 March 2016 - The Government of Malawi and UNICEF have started testing the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs or drones) to explore cost effective ways of reducing waiting times for HIV testing of infants. The test, which is using simulated samples, will have the potential to cut waiting times dramatically, and if successful, will be integrated into the health system alongside others mechanisms such as road transport and SMS.

1 in 3 Syrian children has grown up knowing only crisis as conflict reaches 5 year point – UNICEF

AMMAN/NEW YORK, 14 March 2016 - An estimated 3.7 million Syrian children – 1 in 3 of all Syrian children - have been born since the conflict began five years ago, their lives shaped by violence, fear and displacement, according to a UNICEF report. This figure includes more than 306,000 children born as refugees since 2011.

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [to 19 March 2016]
<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/search?page=&comid=4a0950336&cid=49aea93a7d&scid=49aea93a40>

Press Releases

18 March 2016

UNHCR on EU-Turkey deal: Asylum safeguards must prevail in implementation

[See Week in Review above for more detail]

15 March 2016

Syria conflict at 5 years: the biggest refugee and displacement crisis of our time demands a huge surge in solidarity

IOM / International Organization for Migration [to 19 March 2016]

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

03/18/16

IOM Launches Survey: Human Trafficking and Exploitation Prevalence on Eastern Mediterranean Migrant Routes

03/18/16

Switzerland - Nearly 1 in 10 respondents answered positively to an indicator of human trafficking and other exploitative practices.

IOM, Sciences Po Paris Launch First Atlas of Environmental Migration

03/18/16

France - IOM and the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po Paris) have launched the French edition of the Atlas of Environmental Migration.

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals in 2016 Near 155,000; Deaths Reach 467

03/18/16

Greece - With winter ending and warmer conditions prevailing, the Central Mediterranean migrant route between North Africa and Sicily has become busier.

Japan Backing for IOM Humanitarian Operations Totals USD 46.8 Million

03/18/16

Japan - The Japanese Government has allocated a total of 46.8 million funding to support IOM's operations in assisting vulnerable migrants, displaced persons, refugees, returnees and affected communities in the midst of conflicts and crises continuing in various parts of the world.

IOM Welcomes Step to Enhance Coordination at Turkey's Shared European Borders

03/18/16

Turkey - IOM Turkey welcomes the 10th March ratification of an agreement enhancing cooperation at Turkey's land borders with Bulgaria and Greece to combat irregular activities at borders (including irregular migration and other types of cross border crime) and facilitate the legitimate movement of persons and goods across the borders.

IOM Strengthens Capacities to Fight Trafficking in Persons in the Caribbean

03/18/16

Jamaica - IOM has brought together key stakeholders from five Caribbean territories at a two-day workshop in Belize in an effort to strengthen coordination to counter trafficking in persons in the Caribbean.

IOM Evacuates 250 Most Vulnerable Ethiopian Migrants from Yemen

03/15/16

Yemen - IOM in Yemen resumed humanitarian evacuations of stranded Ethiopian migrants on 15 March.

IOM Surveys Iraqi Migrants to Europe

03/15/16

Iraq - A new study by IOM, "Migration Flows from Iraq to Europe," explores the experiences of recent Iraqi migrants.

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals in 2016: 152,697; Deaths: 456

03/15/16

Greece - IOM estimates that 152,697 refugees and migrants have crossed into Europe since the beginning of the year, the vast majority of them (143,205) having crossed through the Greek islands, while the remaining (9,492) have reached Europe through Italy.

Infectious Disease Holding Units Installed at Four Border Posts in Ghana

03/15/16

Ghana - IOM Ghana in partnership with the Government of Ghana installed four infectious disease holding units at Sampa and Elubo Points of Entry (border with Cote d'Ivoire), as well as the Hamile and Paga Points of Entry (border with Burkina Faso), to enhance the screening and surveillance capacities for Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and other communicable diseases at these key border posts.

'Milestone in Migrant Health' Reached in Philippines

03/15/16

Philippines - The Philippines Department of Health and IOM have renewed a commitment first made in 2013 to work together in addressing the health and well-being, vulnerabilities and challenges faced by Filipino migrants.

UN Women [to 19 March 2016]

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

Date: 18 March 2016

Gender equality must be at the core of humanitarian action says international community

At CSW60, government representatives, civil society groups and high-level UN officials highlighted the centrality of gender equality in humanitarian action and urged world leaders to make concrete commitments at the World Humanitarian Summit in May.

Building peace in the Arab region, women's groups spotlight progress and challenges

Date: 18 March 2016

On 15 March at the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the UN in New York, a side event to the 60th Commission on the Status of Women featured a rich discussion by Arab women activists about women's contribution to the peacebuilding processes across the region.

UN Women calls for effective protection of refugee women and girls in context of European Council Summit

Date: 17 March 2016

In the context of the European Council meeting held today and tomorrow, UN Women calls for the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls to be addressed in the response to the refugee and migration crisis.

Building resilience for South Sudanese women through humanitarian assistance

Date: 17 March 2016

Following a successful pilot in 2014, UN Women in South Sudan has scaled up the provision of humanitarian assistance to reach 6,000 vulnerable women and girls and 1500 men and boys in displaced settlements in Nimule, Eastern Equatorial State, Mingkaman in Lakes State and Juba in Central Equatoria State.

Executive Director briefs the Security Council on Liberia

Date: 17 March 2016

Statement to the Security Council meeting on Liberia by UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, 17 March 2016, New York.

Morocco hosts one of the largest gatherings of Arab women parliamentarians for a gender-balanced policy agenda

Date: 17 March 2016

Women parliamentarians from the Arab States region unite to make a difference for sustainable development. While the Arab States region is at a crucial point of transition in history, gender equality and inclusion must be on the top of the region's priorities.

Press release: UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment holds inaugural meeting

Date: 15 March 2016

The inaugural meeting of the first-ever High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment kicked off today during the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Operating under the aegis of the UN Secretary-General, it intends to put women's economic empowerment at the top of the international agenda, including by defining actions to speed up progress under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A global consultation will take place during the continuation of the meeting on 16 March.

Ten Member States take stock of their progress towards CSW57 Agreed Conclusions

Date: 15 March 2016

At CSW60, for the first time, 10 Member States submitted voluntary reviews of their progress towards the historic Agreed Conclusions from the fifty-seventh session of the CSW (2013), which focused on ending violence against women.

WHO & Regionals [to 19 March 2016]

[Disease Outbreak News \(DONs\)](#)

:: [Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus \(MERS-CoV\) – Saudi Arabia](#) 16 March 2016

:: [Chikungunya – Argentina](#) 14 March 2016

:: [Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus \(MERS-CoV\) – Saudi Arabia](#) 14 March 2016

[WHO: Syria 5 years on - delivering health against all odds](#)

15 March 2016 - After five years of a brutal and senseless conflict over 250 000 Syrians have been killed and over half the population forced from their homes out of fear and want.

In the past few weeks however, we are seeing signs of momentum, fragile glimmers of hope. As humanitarians we welcome progress where it means real change..

:: [View the photo story](#)

:: [Watch the video](#)

:: [Read the news release](#)

[WHO Regional Offices](#)

[WHO African Region AFRO](#)

:: [Official visit of Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa to China](#)

Brazzaville, 18 March 2016 - The WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti will begin a 4 day official visit to China from 22 to 25 March 2016 at the invitation of the Chinese government. The visit is aimed at further exploring areas of mutual interest in health with a view to having a more structured collaboration between WHO and the Chinese government.

:: [Guinea: Two \(2\) confirmed Ebola cases in Koropara village in Nzérékoré - 18 March 2016](#)

:: [WHO statement on the end of the Ebola flare-up in Sierra Leone - 17 March 2016](#)

[WHO Region of the Americas PAHO](#)

:: [Regional Parliamentary Front against Tuberculosis in the Americas launched in Brazil \(03/16/2016\)](#)

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

:: [Media Statement - Create Healthy Environments to Save Lives](#)

15 March 2016

[WHO European Region EURO](#)

:: [Zika virus vectors and risk of spread in the WHO European Region](#) 18-03-2016

:: [TB elimination at stake unless Europe cares urgently for vulnerable, poor and marginalized populations and migrants](#) 17-03-2016

:: [Antibiotic awareness drives digital conversation in European countries](#) 16-03-2016

:: [Informing policy for young people's health](#) 15-03-2016

:: New WHO study reveals that while smoking by school-aged children has declined significantly, young people's health and well-being is being undermined by gender and social inequalities 15-03-2016

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO

:: New shipment of health supplies arrives in Taiz City

18 March 2016

:: Sudan: monitoring for polio across sub-Saharan sands

14 March 2016

:: Mobile medical clinics connect patients to health care in camps in Iraq

13 March 2016

WHO Western Pacific Region

:: Zika Outbreak Response in Tonga: Providing Special Care for Pregnant Women

TONGA, 16 March 2016 – On 1 February 2016, the Ministry of Health declared a Zika outbreak in the Kingdom of Tonga. Coincidentally, it was on the same day that the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that the recent cluster of microcephaly cases and other neurological disorders reported in Brazil, following a similar cluster in French Polynesia in 2014, constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) as per the International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005). Pregnant women living in or travelling to areas of Zika virus transmission are given special care in Tonga as the Zika virus may cause microcephaly in babies.

UNAIDS [to 19 March 2016]

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

18 March 2016

Harnessing the collective strengths of the UN system to reach every woman, child, and adolescent

[See Week in Review above for more detail]

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNDP United Nations Development Programme [to 19 March 2016]

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

Mar 10, 2016

Helen Clark: Keynote speech on Women's Economic Empowerment for Sustainable Development in Rural Areas

Mar 18, 2016 New York, USA

Helen Clark: Speech on Access to Climate Finance: Ensuring Ownership and Facilitating Access for Exposed Countries

Mar 17, 2016 Westin Grand Hotel - New York, USA

Global transport leaders sign historic declaration at Buckingham Palace in fight to shut down Illegal wildlife trafficking routes

Mar 15, 2016

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is proud to be a signatory to an historic declaration at Buckingham Palace committing leaders of the transportation industry globally to taking major steps to fight illicit wildlife trafficking, a move hailed by HRH The Duke of Cambridge as “a game changer in the race against extinction.”

Magdy Martínez-Solimán: UN70: Rethinking the humanitarian-development nexus: How can the UN achieve a better integration of long-term aid and humanitarian assistance?

Mar 15, 2016 Oslo, Norway

Helen Clark: Speech on Power of Parity: Why and How to Increase the Number of Women in Political Leadership

Mar 14, 2016 UN Commission on the Status of Women Side Event, UN Headquarters - New York, USA

Morocco is fighting climate change with Liquid Gold

Mar 14, 2016

While Argan forests still cover around 820,000 hectares in the mountains of Morocco, one-third of the original tree coverage has already been lost due to pressures from charcoal production and unsustainable agricultural practices in the immediate environment of the trees. The Moroccan government sees high demand for Argan oil on international markets as an opportunity to tie climate change targets to its sustainable development goals through the conservation and expansion of the Argan forest.

UN Division for Sustainable Development [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

UN Statistical Commission :: UN Statistics Division [to 19 March 2016]

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

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

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

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 19 March 2016]

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

18/03/2016

The Secretary-General Message For The International Day Of Happiness

Climate for Change in Sudan

UNEP's projects help to halt the vicious cycle of climate change, resource scarcity and conflict
17/03/2016

Without Land Security Long-Term Peace in Afghanistan Will Remain Elusive, Research Says

One of the main stumbling blocks to reversing Afghanistan's slide into environmental tragedy stems from the failure to look at the links between land and people.

16/03/2016

Floating gardens help lift Bangladeshis out of poverty and stave off worst impacts of climate change

UNEP-UNDP partnership builds resilience to climate change in one of the world's most vulnerable countries

15/03/2016

Legacy of waste from Great East Japan earthquake underscores need for urgent action on marine litter

14/03/2016

UNISDR UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 19 March 2016]

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

18 Mar 2016

World salutes Sendai Framework

The international community today celebrated the first anniversary of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the world's most comprehensive blueprint for curbing the impact of natural and man-made hazards, with 20 million people taking to social media to mark the occasion

14 Mar 2016

East Africa passes landmark disaster risk bill

East African countries have reached a landmark in their efforts to curb the impact of natural and man-made hazards, by enacting regional legislation on the management and reduction of disaster risk.

UN DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 19 March 2016]
<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news.html>
No new digest content identified.

UNESCO [to 19 March 2016]
<http://en.unesco.org/news>
Selected Press Releases/News
18 March 2016

[With Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Irina Bokova reiterates UNESCO's commitment to UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism](#)

17 March 2016

[At the World Bank, Irina Bokova on enhanced collaboration between humanitarian and development work](#)

On 16 March, Ms Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General, took part in a High-Level Private Meeting on Humanitarian and Development Collaboration, jointly chaired by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and World Bank President Jim Yong Kim. During this meeting, principals of UN agencies, multilateral financial institutions, as well as major international non-governmental organizations, explored ways to operationalize Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's call for global concerted action to "leave no one behind", stated in his recent report to the World Humanitarian Summit (May 2016), "One Humanity: Shared Responsibility".

The meeting was an opportunity to exchange views on a new "business model" for humanitarian and development actors to join efforts in reducing need and vulnerability in a durable and sustainable manner, rather than exclusively focusing on meeting short-term humanitarian needs. Participants discussed modalities to bridge the humanitarian-development divide, through strengthened collaboration in data collection and longer-term planning; as well as opportunities to establish new innovative funding mechanisms to support integrated humanitarian-development responses notably to situations of protracted crises and massive forced displacement.

14 March 2016

[Recognizing the strong interaction between ocean health and human health](#)

The interactions between the ocean on one side and human health and well-being on the other are multiple and complex. Until recently the social sciences and the public health communities focused primarily on the negative impacts of the oceans and seas on human health (e.g. weather events and coastal disasters), while the marine biology/marine science communities traditionally focused on the many potential benefits (e.g. healthy foods, novel drugs, etc.) and potentially negative environmental impacts (e.g. red tides, exotic species, etc.) of ocean-human interaction.

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 19 March 2016]
<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/allpress.html?ref=fp>
No new digest content identified.

UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme [to 19 March 2016]

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

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

Posted March 17, 2016

UN Habitat publishes Persian version of Int'l Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning

Tehran, 17 March 2016 (UNIC) – United Nations Habitat Office in Tehran has translated into Persian and published the 2015 edition of International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning.

UN-Habitat launches the second Kabul Metropolitan Conference

Kabul 18 March 2016— UN- Habitat last week launched the second Kabul Metropolitan Conference aimed at assisting key partners to foster spatial metropolitan planning and governance for the greater Kabul area.

First results of Mexico's City Prosperity Index (CPI)

Mexico, 18 March 2016 – The first results of the City Prosperity Index (CPI) carried out in 136 municipalities across Mexico were presented in Mexico City earlier this March.

UN-Habitat and partner convene meeting on 'Financing Urban Sustainable Development in Latin America'

Bogotá, 16 March 2016—Over 40 international experts on finance and urban development last week converged in Bogota, Columbia for the first regional meeting on financing urban sustainable development in Latin America.

FAO Food & Agriculture Organization [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

ILO International Labour Organization [to 19 March 2016]

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

17 March 2016

Youth employment

ILO to increase evidence on what works for youth employment in the Middle East and North Africa

14 March 2016

Forced labour

Mauritania becomes the second African country to commit to ending modern slavery

The country is among the first to formally implement the 2014 Protocol to the ILO's Forced Labour Convention No.29.

14 March 2016

Discrimination at work

ILO: 90 per cent of domestic workers excluded from social protection

New ILO study highlights huge decent work deficits for domestic workers throughout the world.

[See Week in Review above for more detail]

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization [to 19 March 2016]

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

16/3/16

ICAO Symposium Continues Momentum toward Safe Integration of Space Transportation

MONTREAL, 15 March 2016 – To ensure that momentum of innovation and development of space transportation is not hindered, Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu, President of the ICAO Council, has declared that states, international organizations and other stakeholders should work together to ensure that regulations and policies necessary to support space transportation are in place in due time and to include the schedule for these provisions in the 2019 revisions of the ICAO Global Aviation Safety and Air Navigation Plans...

IMO International Maritime Organization [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

WMO World Meteorological Organization [to 19 March 2016]

<https://www.wmo.int/media/news>

17 March 2016

Jason-3 Begins Mapping Oceans, Sees Ongoing El Niño

Just over a month after launch, Jason-3, a U.S.-European oceanography satellite mission with NASA participation, has produced its first complete science map of global sea surface height, capturing the current signal of the 2015-16 El Niño.

The map was generated from the first 10 days of data collected once Jason-3 reached its operational orbit of 1,336 kilometers on Feb. 12. It shows the continuing evolution of the ongoing El Niño event that began early last year.

16 March 2016

Polar Challenge Launched

Wanted: Autonomous vehicle for 2,000 kilometer mission under sea-ice

Reward: 500 000 Swiss francs

Fairbanks 16 March 2016 (WCRP) The World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation have launched a new Polar Challenge to develop an Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) capable of a 2 000 km mission under the sea-ice in the Arctic or Antarctic.

The aim is to stimulate innovation into new monitoring tools for the Polar oceans, to complement satellite observations and ultimately expand scientific research capabilities and climate services in both the Arctic and Antarctic....

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 19 March 2016]

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

Tuesday, 15 March 2016

UNIDO officially opens Investment and Technology Promotion Office in Nigeria

ABUJA, 15 March 2016 – The Federal Government of Nigeria and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) today officially opened an Investment and Technology Promotion Office (ITPO) in the capital,...

International Organization for Standardization (ISO) [to 19 March 2016]

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

18 March 2016

Three billion people at risk from cooking emissions

There is a dark side to cooking that half the world population knows only too well as it costs the lives of four million people every year - that's three times the number of deaths from HIV/AIDS. Most are women and children.

UNWTO World Tourism Organization [to 19 March 2016]

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

18 March 2016

Swedish private sector commits to the UNWTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

Visita and Svensk Turism AB have become the latest private sector signatories to the UNWTO Global Code of Ethics. The signature of the commitment to the Code took place on the occasion of Sweden's Hospitality Industry Congress, held in Gothenburg (17 March 2016).

15 March 2016

Private sector committed to fight child exploitation in tourism

The 31st Meeting of the World Tourism Network on Child Protection, held on the occasion of ITB Berlin, focused on the role and initiatives of the private sector to fight Child Exploitation in tourism. Awareness raising, training of staff and the implementation of measures along the whole value chain of tourism were pointed out as critical.

...Carol Bellamy, Chair of the Network, recalled the role of the Network as a platform to share research and good practices in the fight against the exploitation of children in tourism.

At the meeting, the Chair of the High Level Global Task Force to End Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism, Najat Maalla M'jid, shared the first findings of the Global Study carried out by the Task Force. Lack of reporting, weak legislation and the anonymity of the Internet were pointed out as some of the main challenges in child protection from sexual exploitation in the sector. The report aims to also address the chronic lack of robust evidence and comparable data on this issue...

...The World Tourism Network on Child Protection is an open-ended network facilitated by UNWTO featuring the multi-stakeholder participation of a range of tourism stakeholders - governments, international organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), tourism

industry groups and media associations. Its mandate is to prevent all forms of youth exploitation in the tourism sector (i.e. sexual exploitation, child labour and child trafficking). The Network's meetings, held annually at the worlds' foremost Travel and Tourism Fairs, serve as a platform to exchange experiences and best practices, present awareness-raising materials and capacity building tools, and promote the adoption of professional codes of conduct or other responsible practices in line with the UNWTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism.

ITU International Telecommunications Union [to 19 March 2016]

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

9 March 2016

UN Broadband Commission to government leaders: broadband can be your most powerful development catalyst

High-speed networks and services essential to meet UN Sustainable Development Goals

Dubai, 14 March 2016 – The Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development's 13th full meeting, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, yesterday, reached consensus on the need for a new set of connectivity targets to help governments more effectively harness broadband networks and services to drive progress towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Commissioners agreed that broadband networks, services and applications have enormous potential to deliver dramatic results in education, health and socio-economic growth. A recent informal meeting of Commissioners at the World Economic Forum in Davos emphasized that connecting the unconnected and generating sufficient investment opportunities for the universal deployment of broadband networks, services and applications will be a key factor in achieving all 17 global goals.

Debate in Dubai around potential new targets focused on the importance of adding targets to measure the utilization of selected broadband-enabled public services, the choice of statistical indicators to accurately gauge broadband access at the country and community levels, as well as the choice of data sources and methodologies for generating accurate, reliable measurement. The Commission also agreed on the importance of developing National Digital Scorecards to measure national progress towards achieving broadband targets....

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization [to 19 March 2016]

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

Mar 17, 2016 PR/2016/789

Cybersquatting Cases Up in 2015, Driven by New gTLDs

Amid the roll-out of hundreds of new generic Top-Level Domains (gTLDs) such as .GURU, .NINJA and .NYC, trademark owners filed 2,754 cases under the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) with WIPO in 2015, an increase of 4.6 % over the previous year.

Mar 16, 2016 PR/2016/788

U.S. Extends Lead in International Patent and Trademark Filings

The United States of America (U.S.) extended its long-standing position as the top source of international patent applications via WIPO amid another strong year of worldwide intellectual property (IP) filing growth, as an electronics manufacturer displaced a watch maker as the leading depositor of international industrial design applications.

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity [to 19 March 2016]

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

2016-03-14

Canada and the United States of America Affirm Partnership on Climate Action, Clean Energy, and the Arctic and its Biodiversity

The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, applauds the Arctic Partnership announced Thursday by United States President Barack Obama and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in Washington, D.C. Although focused on climate action, the partnership has far-reaching consequences for biodiversity in the Arctic, including the role of indigenous peoples and their traditional knowledge.

.....

USAID [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

DFID [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

ECHO [to 19 March 2016]

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

16/03/2016

EU steps up humanitarian assistance for Ukraine by €20 million

Today, the European Commission is increasing its humanitarian response to help people affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine, with a new humanitarian aid package worth €20 million. The announcement comes as European Commissioner for...

Syria crisis: European Commission announces €445 million in humanitarian aid

15/03/2016

Today the European Commission announces €445 million in humanitarian aid for the Syria crisis in 2016. The support is part of the Commission's pledge made at the conference 'Supporting Syria and the Region' held earlier this year in London, where...

Greece receives new deliveries of material support via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism

14/03/2016

Following a recent increase in contributions to support the country via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, Greece will receive additional deliveries of aid this week to support refugees in the country. Greece activated the EU Civil Protection...

.....

African Union [to 19 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 17, 2016

Water is critical to achieving Agenda 2063 Development Goals and Aspirations – AUC Chairperson

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – 16 March 2016: "Water is the source by which Africa's development can be driven," says the African Union Commission Chairperson, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, in her remarks at the closing session of Ministers of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene meeting that held on 15 and 16 March 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia...

March 15, 2016

Girls' education, child protection: UNICEF carves niche in Africa's Agenda 2063

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - 15 March 2016: The Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Mr. Anthony Lake, has expressed UNICEF's full commitment and support to work with the African Union on the education of girls and protection of children within the framework of Africa's Agenda 2063. The UNICEF Executive and the African Union Commission Chairperson, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, agreed on these focus areas when they met at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Tuesday 15 March 2016.

The UNICEF Executive Director said that he was very impressed with Agenda 2063, which he noted was in sync with the Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2030. "Africa's Agenda 2063 provides an opportunity for the transformation of two generations of girls in Africa," Mr. Anthony Lake noted, lauding Dr. Dlamini Zuma's leadership on human rights, particularly on girls' rights, including the right to education.

"Girls' education on the continent is very critical. We know the benefits of educated children to families and societies at large. Girls education is paramount, and therefore needs a lot of emphasis." The AU Commission Chairperson said, adding that, girls should also be assisted beyond basic education so that they can proceed to higher education. "Primary education is important, but no country has developed with primary education alone," she noted.

Aside from girls' education, they also discussed the need to focus on nutrition to ensure proper early child growth, as well as give more attention to the protection of children in conflicts. Concurring with the UNICEF Executive Director, the AUC Chairperson highlighted the importance of focusing on the protection of both children and their mothers. This will protect girls from being made wives and boys from being soldiers when they are meant to be just children...

ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations [to 19 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 19 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]

EU-Turkey Agreement: Questions and Answers

Date: 19/03/2016

European Commission - Fact Sheet Brussels, 19 March 2016 Factsheet on the EU-Turkey Agreement What has been agreed? On 18 March, following on from the EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan activated on 29 November 2015 and the 7 March EU-Turkey statement, the European Union and Turkey decided to end the irregular...

President Juncker appoints EU Coordinator to organise operational implementation in Greece

Date: 18/03/2016

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 18 March 2016 President Juncker appoints EU Coordinator to organise operational implementation in Greece President Juncker has today appointed Maarten Verwey to act as the EU Coordinator to implement the EU-Turkey statement.

EU steps up humanitarian assistance for Ukraine by €20 million

Date: 16/03/2016

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 16 March 2016 €20 million in humanitarian assistance for people in need in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. Today the European Commission is increasing its humanitarian response to help people affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine, with a new humanitarian aid package worth €20...

Six Principles for further developing EU-Turkey Cooperation in tackling the Migration Crisis

Date: 16/03/2016

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 16 March 2016 Six Principles for further developing EU-Turkey Cooperation in tackling the Migration Crisis On 7 March, EU leaders agreed that bold moves were needed to close down people smuggling routes, to break the business model of the smugglers, to protect the EU...

Relocation and Resettlement: EU Member States urgently need to deliver

Date: 16/03/2016

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 16 March 2016 Relocation and Resettlement: EU Member States urgently need to deliver In 2015 the Commission took decisive action to help address the refugee crisis that EU Member States and neighbouring countries are facing.

Syria Crisis: European Commission announces €445 million in humanitarian aid

Date: 15/03/2016

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 15 March 2016 Today the European Commission announces €445 million in humanitarian aid for the Syria crisis in 2016. The support is part of the Commission's pledge made at the conference 'Supporting Syria and the Region' held earlier this year in London, where the...

European Commission announces €38 million for new development programmes in Sri Lanka

Date: 15/03/2016

- Press release European Commission Brussels, 15 March 2016 Today the European Commission will co-sign two new support programmes worth €38 million in total in the field of rural development and trade with Sri Lanka, as EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, arrives for a three day...

EU supports Zika research with €10 million

Date: 15/03/2016

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 15 March 2016 The European Commission is today releasing €10 million for research on the Zika virus, currently affecting large parts of Latin America. The most affected country is Brazil, where the World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared that the recent cluster of severe...

OECD [to 19 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]

16-March-2016

OECD Anti-Bribery Ministerial Declaration

Ministers and representatives from the 41 State Parties to the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention have reaffirmed their commitment to continued implementation of the Convention and called for robust enforcement of their anti-foreign bribery laws.

15-March-2016

Health workers with right skills in right places needed

The number of doctors and nurses has reached record levels in the OECD. Countries should now reform their training and employment strategies to better respond to people's changing health needs and also reduce their reliance on foreign-trained health workers from developing countries, according to a new OECD report.

14-March-2016

New Global Forum peer reviews highlight ever-increasing compliance with tax transparency standards

The world's leading forum on tax transparency published 10 new peer review reports today, pointing to ever-increasing compliance with the internationally-recognised standards to curb tax evasion through the exchange of information.

Organization of American States (OAS) [to 19 March 2016]

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

March 14 2016

IDB and OAS urge Latin America and the Caribbean to strengthen efforts on cybersecurity

- Report shows the region has "potentially devastating" vulnerabilities
- Four out of five countries lack a strategy for cybersecurity

WASHINGTON – Leaders of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Organization of American States (OAS) today called on the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to step up their efforts on cybersecurity after releasing a new study, carried out by the two institutions with the support of Oxford University, that shows the region is highly vulnerable to potentially devastating cyber-attacks.

The 2016 Cybersecurity Report, Are we ready in Latin America and the Caribbean, shows that four out of every five countries in the region do not have a cybersecurity strategy or plans for protecting critical infrastructure. Two out of three countries do not have a command and control

center for cybersecurity. And a large majority of prosecutors lack the capacity to punish cybercrimes and face other problems as well.

The report analyzes the state of preparedness of 32 countries based on 49 indicators. It is the first significant examination of the level of preparedness in Latin America and the Caribbean against the growing threat of cybercrime.

Uruguay, Brazil, México, Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Trinidad and Tobago have achieved an intermediate level of preparedness, but remain far from advanced countries like the United States, Israel, Estonia and the Republic of Korea...

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) [to 19 March 2016]

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

[Selected Press Releases, Announcements]

17/03/2016

OIC Welcomes Moscow's Decision of Partial Withdrawal from Syria

The Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, Iyad Ameen Madani, said that the OIC welcomes the Russian Federation's decision, on Monday 14 March 2016, to pull out part of its troops in Syria. He deemed the Russian decision a positive development that would solidify Geneva peace talks, under the auspices of the United Nations, towards a political solution to the Syrian crisis and ending the plight of the Syrian people...

Group of 77 [to 19 March 2016]

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

(New York, 14 March 2016)

"Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by His Excellency Mr. Adul Sangsingkeo, Minister of Social Development and Human Security of the Kingdom of Thailand, at the Sixtieth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women on Agenda Item 3: Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

UNCTAD [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

World Trade Organisation [to 19 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]

18 March 2016

TRIPS

Nepal, Tanzania and Ukraine accept protocol amending the TRIPS Agreement

Acceptance of the protocol amending the WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) is gaining further momentum. Two least developed countries, Nepal and Tanzania, as well as Ukraine deposited their instruments of acceptance on

11 March, 14 March and 16 March respectively. ...

IPU Inter-Parliamentary Union [to 19 March 2016]

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

14 MARCH 2016

IPU team completes Egypt parliament mission

An IPU team has completed a mission to Egypt, assessing the needs of the country's parliament for the next phase of its development. The team explored a wide number of areas, including how to strengthen MPs in all aspects of their work, how to empower female and young members and the establishment of a parliamentary training institute. The institute would boost good procedure by improving staff efficiency and increasing MPs' knowledge of parliamentary techniques and topical themes, as well as improving cooperation with other parliaments. While in Egypt, the mission also looked at how to further improve key parliamentary services such as library facilities, documentation and Information and Communications Technology (ICT), as well as the parliament's structure and its relationships with the executive, citizens and outside organizations.

The team members, who included Australian, British, Egyptian and French experts, will discuss their findings at the forthcoming IPU Assembly in Zambia, before releasing a full report in April. A fully-fledged programme of assistance will then be developed. Last month the Egyptian Speaker, Ali Abd Elall Sayed Ahmed, signed an agreement with IPU Secretary General Martin Chungong, under which IPU will continue to provide assistance to the Egyptian Parliament. IPU has been working with Egypt since 2014, delivering priority assistance during the run-up to the establishment of a fully-fledged parliament. Activities have included training for parliamentary staff, advisory support and recently an induction programme for the new MPs after their election. The new parliament has nearly 600 members, 15 per cent of them women and 29 per cent aged between 25-45 years.

International Criminal Court (ICC) [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

.....

World Bank [to 19 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, USAID Strengthen Violence Prevention Partnership

WASHINGTON, March 17, 2016 – The gravity of violence and its impact on development in Latin America and the Caribbean was underscored in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) announced by the World Bank...

Date: March 17, 2016 Type: Press Release

[See Week in Review above for more detail]

Leaders Launch New Humanitarian-Development Partnership to Respond To Forced Displacement and Global Crises

WASHINGTON, March 16, 2016 — Signaling a great urgency to address the crisis of millions of people forcibly displaced from their homes, leaders of multilateral development banks, UN agencies and major...

Date: March 16, 2016 Type: Press Release

PRESS RELEASE

[See Week in Review above for more detail]

IMF [to 19 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 13, 2016

[Press Release: Statement by IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde at the Conclusion of the Conference on "Advancing Asia: Investing for the Future"](#)

African Development Bank Group [to 19 March 2016]

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

17/03/2016

[AfDB approves loan for Rwanda's first regional hydropower public-private partnership project](#)

The African Development Bank Group announced on 16 March a US\$ 24 million loan to support Rwanda's contribution to the development of the Multinational Ruzizi III Hydropower Project. The project is a joint initiative of the three Great Lakes Region countries – Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda – and will increase electricity trading within the region and beyond.

15/03/2016

[AfDB President commits to support Liberia's transformation agenda](#)

The President of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB), Akinwumi Adesina, has pledged to support Liberia's effort to diversify its economy, with a particular emphasis on the agriculture and power sectors.

Asian Development Bank [to 19 March 2016]

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

News Release | 11 March 2016

17 Mar 2016 | News Release

[Bold Actions Required in Developing Asia to Overcome Impact of PRC'S Growth – ADB Study](#)

MANILA, PHILIPPINES – The continued moderation of growth in the People's Republic of China (PRC) could knock off a third of a percentage point a year in growth for the rest of developing Asia over the next 2 years. Bold actions from policymakers in the region, including structural reforms to attract new investment, are needed to counteract the slowdown, a new Asian Development Bank (ADB) policy brief says.

17 Mar 2016 | News Release

Emerging East Asian Bond Yields Lower Amid Slowdown in Global Growth

16 Mar 2016 | News Release

ADB Sanctioned 90 Entities For Integrity Violations in 2015 - OAI

MANILA, PHILIPPINES – The Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Office of Anticorruption and Integrity (OAI) sanctioned 90 companies and individuals for integrity violations in 2015, more than double the 40 sanctioned the previous year, reflecting expanded efforts to encourage staff and partners to report corrupt activities, a new report says.

OAI's 2015 Annual Report notes that 106 entities were also cross-debarred in 2015 in line with a cross-debarment agreement with four other multilateral development banks. This is a slight increase from the 99 firms and individuals cross-debarred in 2014. Complaints received in 2015 climbed 18% year-on-year to a record 285.

"Corruption is a direct threat to better lives for millions of poor citizens in our region. It can only be combated by all development stakeholders taking an unequivocal stand that any transgression, no matter how big or small, is unacceptable," said OAI Head Clare Wee. "OAI stepped up efforts and resources in 2015 to raise awareness on corruption in all its forms, and the rise in complaints reflects increased willingness to report actions that cross the line."...

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank [to 19 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 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Aravind Eye Care System [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

BRAC [to 19 March 2016]

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

Friday, 18 March 2016 00:00

Two BRAC officials abducted in Afghanistan

18 March 2016, Dhaka. It is with great regret that we announce that Engineer Mohammad Showkat Ali, Chief Engineer, National Solidarities Programme and KM Sirazul Islam, Regional Accountant, Girls Education Challenge (GEC) project were abducted on 17 March 2016 from Shenowari of Baghlan e Markazi district under Baghlan province in Afghanistan. The incident happened when they were returning to Kunduz province BRAC office from a scheduled field visit.

BRAC is fully engaged in dealing with this crisis. BRAC Afghanistan authorities are in constant communication with the law enforcement agencies and the local administration and also has dispatched a team to Baghlan to coordinate the rescue efforts.

In immediate response, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh and Ministry of Interior of Afghanistan have assured their full cooperation...

CARE International [to 19 March 2016]

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

15th Mar 2016 *Syria*

Syrian women taking lead roles to survive despite risks

War forcing Syrian women to take a lead role to survive, despite numerous risks, says new CARE report.

Casa Alianza [to 19 March 2016]

Covenant House [to 19 March 2016]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

Clubhouse International [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Danish Refugee Council [to 19 March 2016]

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

17.03.2016

EU border closures worsen humanitarian crisis with people used as bargaining chips

A decision to shift the EU's responsibility for refugees to Turkey would see the bloc bargaining its core values and abandoning fundamental legal obligations. Such a decision, which leaders may make this week, would set a danger...

Syria humanitarian appeal

16.03.16

Together with more than 100 humanitarian agencies, the Danish Refugee Council calls for immediate and sustained access in Syria.

Syria is now a protracted refugee crisis and efforts should reflect this reality

15.03.16

Syrian refugees and displaced must be able to live with dignity rather than just to survive.

ECPAT [to 19 March 2016]

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

Posted on 03/14/2016, 09:24

High Level Meeting on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals Relating to Violence against Children in South Asia

Colombo, 14 March 2016 – High-level representatives from eight countries in South Asia are meeting in Sri Lanka from 14 to 15 March to renew and strengthen their commitment to end violence against children in the region. In light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by world leaders in September 2015, the meeting will be the first step towards building a common understanding and regional strategy to reach the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets related to violence against children. In an unprecedented move, the new global development agenda prioritises the prevention of violence against children and recognizes that sustainable development cannot be achieved unless all children live free from fear and violence, leaving no one behind. The participants will review these goals and targets through South Asian lens and pave the way for realization of the vision for an end to violence against children at regional and national levels...

Fountain House [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Handicap International [to 19 March 2016]

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

Posted on March 15, 2016 3:00 AM

Syria: Handicap International condemns air attacks on civilians

...The protection of civilians and access to humanitarian assistance are central to any future conflict resolution initiatives. "International humanitarian law and humanitarian principles are constantly violated in Syria," says Anne Héry, Handicap International's Advocacy and Institutional Relations director. "Explosive weapons are used in populated areas with total disregard for civilian lives, including illegal weapons such as cluster munitions and anti-personnel mines. The international community must firmly and systematically condemn these practices."

Handicap International calls on the United Nations and States to step up their efforts to protect civilians from the effects of the war and to ensure their access to humanitarian assistance on a scale required to meet their need...

Heifer International [to 19 March 2016]

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

Tuesday, Mar 15, 2016

Heifer International Weekly

HelpAge International [to 19 March 2016]

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

Posted: 16 March 2016

Lack of data renders older women invisible in the face of violence and discrimination, says HelpAge International

HelpAge International is calling for more to be done to end violence and abuse against older women, saying that a lack of data is leaving them at risk.

Posted: 14 March 2016

HelpAge International launching healthcare programme for older Syrian refugees

Effective humanitarian responses to the Syria crisis must recognise older people's vulnerabilities, says HelpAge International, as it launches a project to support their healthcare needs on the fifth anniversary of the conflict.

ICRC [to 19 March 2016]

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

Selected News Releases and Articles

News release

Gaza: Paving the way for more humanity in times of war

At a time when humanitarian action is facing mounting challenges across the Middle East, international humanitarian law (IHL) urgently needs to be better known, understood and respected.

18-03-2016 | Article

Afghanistan: "Humanitarian concerns are growing, yet international attention is dwindling" says ICRC president

The president of the ICRC, Peter Maurer, has said he is increasingly concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.

18-03-2016 | News release

Updated Commentaries bring fresh insights on continued relevance of Geneva Conventions

What is acceptable and what is prohibited in armed conflict? The four Geneva Conventions of 1949 form the foundation of International Humanitarian Law and provide a framework setting out the answers to that question.

17-03-2016 | Article

Honduras: Facilitating health care in detention

Honduras's National Penitentiary Institute (INP) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) today inaugurated a medical clinic in Gracias prison in the region of Lempira.

15-03-2016 | News release

Australia: The ICRC in Asia and the Pacific

In contexts as diverse as Afghanistan and Papua New Guinea, the International Committee of the Red Cross undertakes a variety of work to provide assistance and protection to those affected by armed conflict and other forms of violence throughout Asia
15-03-2016 | Article

ICRC organizational chart

A graphic overview of how the ICRC is structured at headquarters and relates to its delegations and missions in over 80 countries around the world.
14-03-2016 | Infographic

IFRC [to 19 March 2016]

<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/press-releases/>
21 March 2016

[DIHAD: innovation at the heart of humanitarian action](#)

19 March 2016

[Syria: How much longer?](#)

IRC International Rescue Committee [to 19 March 2016]

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

18 Mar 2016

The International Rescue Committee Announces Plans to Return to Missoula, Montana

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) said today that it is laying the groundwork to re-open an office in Missoula, Montana. From 1979-1991, the IRC worked with the Missoula community to welcome and support Hmong refugees.

"As we face the largest global refugee crisis since WWII, it is imperative that we work together to help mitigate suffering abroad," said Missoula Mayor John Engen. "Missoulians take our humanitarian obligations seriously. We are proud to help in this endeavor and support the opening of a refugee resettlement office in Missoula."

"Missoulians have shown the country – and the world – what it means to welcome the tired and poor, and to support them as they integrate and regain control of their lives," said the IRC's Bob Johnson. "We are looking forward to once again working with this community to help refugees integrate, become self-sufficient and add to the cultural and economic fabric of Montana."...

IRCT [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Islamic Relief [to 19 March 2016]

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

Report

Syria 5 year crisis: Islamic Relief response

March 2017 :: 17 pages

Pdf: <http://www.islamic-relief.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Five-Years-Syria-Crisis1.pdf>

...We are running or supporting camps and providing livelihood programmes, education psychological and social support for refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. In Europe our teams are assisting Syrian refugees in Greece, Italy, Macedonia and Germany.

Our operation inside Syria is difficult and dangerous and we have faced many challenges over the last five years. Our staff and volunteers have suffered a lot, with some killed or seriously injured in the line of duty as they deliver aid.

This report looks at our work in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq over the past five years, as well our plans for the future and the challenges that we face.

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières [to 19 March 2016]

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

Press Releases

MSF Treats Over 40 Wounded Following Deadly Airstrike on Marketplace in Yemen

March 16, 2016

SANAA/BARCELONA, MARCH 16, 2016—Medical teams working for Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Abs Hospital, [Yemen](#), treated more than 40 patients injured in two deadly airstrikes on a marketplace in Khamis village, Mustaba District, northern Hajja Governorate March 15. Two people died in transit to the hospital, and four patients arrived in critical condition, including an eight-year-old child who was referred to a specialist for neurosurgical care.

Press release

South Sudan: People Take Shelter from Violence in MSF's Leer Compound

March 16, 2016

JUBA—The people of Leer, [South Sudan](#), continue to live in fear, with at least four incidents of rape, looting, and violence recorded this month alone.

In the most recent incident on March 14, 27 civilians—mostly women and children—fled to the Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) compound seeking shelter as their houses were looted by a group of men carrying guns.

Field news

Syria: Five Years of War, Five Years of Exodus

March 17, 2016

Civilians are under relentless attack in Syria's five-year-old conflict, with 1.9 million people under siege, borders closed to refugees, and rampant bombings of medical facilities and heavily populated areas. MSF calls on permanent UN Security Council member states involved in the Syrian conflict—specifically France, Russia, the UK, and the US—to ensure that they and their allies abide by the resolutions they have passed to halt the carnage.

Field news

MSF Publications on Women's Health

March 16, 2016

Pregnancy

Ebola viral disease and pregnancy

During past Ebola outbreaks the chances that a pregnant women would survive the disease were nearly zero, according to the very limited data available. Moreover, clinical management of

these women brought ethical challenges for medical staff, including fears of infection due to the large amount of infectious body fluids at delivery.

Field news

Yemen: Dramatic Influx of Wounded Amid Fierce Fighting in Taiz

March 16, 2016

More than 400 war-wounded people, many of them civilians, have arrived at hospitals supported by Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Taiz, [Yemen](#), over the past week as intense fighting continues in the city. MSF warns that urban warfare in densely populated areas is having devastating consequences for civilians trapped between front lines.

Mercy Corps [to 19 March 2016]

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

March 18, 2016

Mongolia: Mercy Corps Helps Mongolians Survive “Dzud” Weather Crisis

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia – With heavy snows and temperatures in some parts of the country reaching as low as minus 67 Fahrenheit (minus 55 Celsius), the global organization Mercy Corps' is supporting Mongolians who are enduring extreme winter conditions – known locally as “dzud”.

March 16, 2016

Syria: Sesame Street’s Elmo Visits Syrian Children at Mercy Corps’ Dream Land in Za’atari Refugee Camp

Za’atari Refugee Camp, Jordan – The muppet Elmo and characters from Hikayat Simsim, the locally produced Jordanian version of the children’s television program “Sesame Street,” entertained some 500 children today with an educational program at Mercy Corps' Dream Land, a child-friendly space in Za’atari refugee camp in Jordan.

March 15, 2016

Syria: Syrian Teenagers Motivated to Build a Better Future

PORTLAND, ORE. – As Syria enters a sixth year of devastating conflict, a generation of youth is reaching adulthood having spent their formative years in limbo, according to the global organization Mercy Corps. Nearly one in four of the 2.4 million Syrian refugees under the age of 18 is a teenager, and the multi-billion-dollar aid effort has largely overlooked this demographic.

Operation Smile [to 19 March 2016]

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

Program Schedule

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

OXFAM [to 19 March 2016]

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

17 March 2016

EU border closures worsen humanitarian crisis with people used as bargaining chips

European border closures and restrictions are dramatically worsening the humanitarian crisis for refugees and migrants and a decision to shift the EU's responsibility for refugees to Turkey would see the bloc bargaining its core values and abandoning fundamental legal obligations.

Oxfam condemns murder of second Honduran land activist; demands justice and companies' withdrawal

16 March 2016

Oxfam strongly condemns the assassination of Nelson García, the second indigenous rights activist to be killed in Honduras in less than two weeks. The ongoing violence against this community is shocking, inexcusable, and must end.

Oxfam, Save the Children and CARE call for donor intervention, as Southern Africa region endorses action plan to tackle El Nino food crisis

16 March 2016

Donors and Southern African governments must act swiftly, collaboratively, and generously in responding to the South African Development Community's (SADC) announcement of a regional drought emergency triggered by El Nino, warn Oxfam, Save the Children and CARE.

New report reveals prominent role of tax havens for banks

16 March 2016

Banks in France are relying heavily on tax havens to increase their profits, according to a study based on new data that for the first time allows a proper analysis of the role that tax havens play in European business.

Oxfam launches public campaign demanding company backers pull out of Honduran dam project

13 March 2016

Oxfam supporters around the world are pressuring the backers of the Agua Zarca dam project in Honduras to withdraw, and are urging for an independent investigation into the murder of a local Indigenous leader who opposed the project.

Norwegian Refugee Council [to 19 March 2016]

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

(17.03.2016)

Europe

People used as bargaining chips

A decision to shift the EU's responsibility for refugees to Turkey would see the bloc bargaining its core values and abandoning fundamental legal obligations.

Syria

Ending 1,500 days of horror

By Jan Egeland (15.03.2016)

World leaders have blatantly allowed the total decimation of Syria over the past five years. What was once the cultural jewel of the Middle East is now a theatre of carnage, greed and regional power rivalry. Nations that claimed to be working for peace have instead desecrated cities through reckless military action. Today Syria lies in ruins.

Pact [to 19 March 2016]
<http://www.pactworld.org/news>
March 14, 2016

Pact's Yves Bawa nominated as leader against conflict minerals

Pact is pleased to announce that Yves Bawa has been nominated for this year's Top 100 Conflict Mineral Influence Leaders list. Bawa serves as Pact's regional director in Africa's Great Lakes region, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi...

Partners In Health [to 19 March 2016]
<http://www.pih.org/blog>
Mar 18, 2016

New Reference Laboratory to Open In Haiti

The Mirebalais Reference Laboratory for Diagnostic and Research will house a range of services and become a hub for PIH's network of clinics throughout Haiti's Central Plateau and the lower Artibonite.

Mar 15, 2016

Fighting Epidemics Before They Start

We fight illness and the poverty that causes it.

Mar 11, 2016

Working in Global Health: Advice from PIH's Adam Bernstein

Adam Bernstein, PIH's web production manager, writes about when he realized global health is about more than medicine.

PATH [to 19 March 2016]
<http://www.path.org/news/index.php>
Announcement | March 16, 2016

PATH welcomes two new members to its board of directors

PATH's board of directors has voted to appoint two new members: Dr. Laurie Michaels and Dr. Peter G. Smith. Drs. Michaels and Smith will deepen the expertise of the board, particularly in the areas of vaccine research and safety, create greater flexibility between donors and grantees, and strengthen relationships among nonprofit, academic, multilateral, and philanthropic groups...

Press release | March 14, 2016

PATH launches Center for Vaccine Innovation and Access

New center will combine PATH's expertise across early discovery, preclinical and clinical testing, regulatory affairs, manufacturing, and vaccine introduction and delivery

Plan International [to 19 March 2016]
<http://plan-international.org/about-plan/resources/media-centre>
No new digest content identified.

Save The Children [to 19 March 2016]

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

March 15, 2016

Idomeni- Families With Nothing to Lose Risk River Crossing

March 13, 2016

Cristiano Ronaldo Shows Support for Syrian Refugee Children as Five-Year Mark of Syrian War Looms

SOS-Kinderdorf International [to 19 March 2016]

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

15.03.2016

A quiet plea for humanity from an SOS volunteer

A Syrian-Macedonian who helps SOS Children's Villages Macedonia shares his thoughts on the European refugee crisis.

15.03.2016

Drought leaves an SOS Children's Village community in distress

Swaziland is one of more than 20 African countries struggling with drought. We visit one community to see how SOS Children's Villages families are coping with food and water shortages.

Tostan [to 19 March 2016]

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

March 16, 2016

Demba and Oureye: Unlikely Allies in the Movement to End FGC

The most recent installment in our Breakthrough Generation series, "Demba and Oureye: Unlikely Allies in the Movement to End FGC," tells the story of Demba Diawara and Oureye Sall who, as an Imam and a former cutter, became unexpected champions for the abandonment of female genital cutting (FGC) in their communities and beyond.

This film honors the past 20+ years of work Demba, Oureye, and others whose lives they have touched, have done to end FGC in Senegal...

Women for Women International [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

.....

ChildFund Alliance [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

CONCORD [to 19 March 2016]

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

[European NGO confederation for relief and development]

Mar 18, 2016

Protected: Beyond 2015 legacy: Converging views from Seamus Jeffreson and Leo Williams

Disasters Emergency Committee [to 19 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 19 March 2016]

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

Opinion 16 March 2016 Ela Bhatt

Grassroots solutions: the most powerful tools to fight poverty and inequality

Ela Bhatt explains why the the poor and marginalised must be considered as both agents and the beneficiaries of change if the Sustainable Development Goals are to be achieved. First published in UNA-UK's "SDGs: the people's agenda" publication.

News Lesley-Anne Knight 15 March 2016

Farewell from The Elders' CEO

Lesley-Anne Knight reflects on her time as CEO of The Elders, celebrating its successes, and highlighting the challenges ahead.

END Fund [to 19 March 2016]

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

Press Releases and Major Announcements

World's Most Dangerous Journey: The Fecal-Oral Route

Mar 17, 2016

By: Warren Lancaster, Senior Vice President, Programs

The fecal oral route, not a journey to read about over a meal time, not romantic like stories of the ancient silk route, and not spectacular like driving along the Amalfi Coast of Italy. But it is a route taken every day by pathogens affecting millions of children from very low-income families. It's the route followed by germs that are passed when people defecate in the open. The fecal matter is touched and contaminates food and water that is then ingested by other people.

Every year more than 700,000 children die from diarrhea. Millions more contract intestinal worms that cause poor health especially in school children. Yet washing hands with soap (the optimal word is soap) can interrupt this route, place a roadblock stopping the transmission of infection.

My work is to fight intestinal worms in children, to offer a parasite- free childhood. These worms are both vulnerable and resilient. Individually they can be killed by a very simply

administered dose of deworming medicine once a year. But as a species, they are resilient because they survive in unhygienic environments and re-infect the same children within months. So we treat annually, children by the millions – to me a fantastic and valuable end in itself when I don't have the resources to tackle the fecal oral route or the even wider geographical environment from which the disease caused by worms gets its name, geohelminthiasis.

But at the beginning of 2014, thanks to the Helmsley Charitable Trust, the END Fund had the opportunity to invest funds in a program to, in addition to treatment, provide hand washing facilities and tools to help clean the environment and dig pit latrines in 2,317 schools in three provinces in Angola. It seems a bit strange to try and communicate the excitement a development practitioner like me has when offered such an opportunity...

Gavi [to 19 March 2016]

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

17 March 2016

Gavi welcomes new record low price for pneumococcal vaccine

GSK commitment is latest step towards improving access to PCV but challenges remain

17 March 2016 – A new commitment from GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) to provide pneumococcal vaccine at the lowest ever price was today welcomed by Dr Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. The new price will be set at US\$ 3.05 for doses being provided from 2017, a reduction of 10% from the current price of \$3.40.

The commitment was announced by GSK's Chief Executive, Sir Andrew Witty, at an event in Washington DC. The price will be available through the pilot Advance Market Commitment (AMC) to all Gavi countries and, for countries using the vaccine when they transition from Gavi support, it will continue to be available at this price for 10 years after transition.

"This price reduction is good news for everyone who wants to see children protected against the leading cause of pneumonia," said Dr Berkley. "Sustainable pricing is one important objective of Gavi's supply and procurement strategy, along with secure supply and product innovation. Healthy long term vaccine markets are critical to ensuring that the immunisation systems being built in developing countries today will benefit children for generations to come."

Pneumococcal vaccines protect against pneumococcal disease, which is the leading cause of pneumonia. In 2015, pneumonia claimed the lives of 922,000 children under the age of five, accounting for around 15% of deaths worldwide of children in this age group, making it the largest vaccine-preventable killer of children.

Gavi began supporting developing countries to introduce pneumococcal vaccines in 2010. Since then, more than 50 countries have introduced the vaccine into their routine immunisation schedule with close to 50 million children now fully immunised against the disease...

Global Fund [to 19 March 2016]

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

[website not responding at inquiry]

Hilton Prize Coalition [to 19 March 2016]

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

An Alliance of Hilton Prize Recipients

Part 4 of the Storytelling Series in Nepal: The Beauty of Our Journey

Posted March 18, 2016

Rasmi Dangol currently serves as the Accountability Assistant for HelpAge International Nepal, where she has worked since 2014. She has been an instrumental player in the Hilton Prize Coalition Storytelling Program in Nepal, supporting Steve Connors, the Master Storyteller, and working alongside the In-Country Coordination team. In this piece, Rasmi reflects on her experience as [...]

InterAction [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Locus

<http://locusworld.org/>

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

No new digest content identified.

Start Network [to 19 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 19 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.

.....

Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

CHS Alliance [to 19 March 2016]

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

15/03/2016

What makes an effective leadership team in a charity?

What are the characteristics of an outstanding leadership team? Charities are complex organisations that often work in challenging situations and rely heavily on their leadership teams to fulfil their mandates and missions. However, there isn't a lot of documented research on senior leadership teams in charities.

The publication [Building outstanding leadership teams – insights from charity chief executives](#), sheds light on the issue and key findings from it were shared by Compass Partnerships Director Mike Hudson at [Agenda Consulting's](#) Third Sector Strategic People Conference in London last week..

The study sought to understand what it is that makes senior leadership teams effective by looking at the prevalence of 75 characteristics in the leadership teams of 100 large UK charities. These findings led Compass Partnerships to identify a number of key drivers of effective leadership teams.

Drivers of outstanding senior leadership teams:

:: *Effective leadership of behaviour* – this was defined as the leadership team modeling desired behaviour, acting as a team outside meetings, communicating well with managers, and managing stakeholder relations.

:: *Great team working* by valuing style and personality differences, maintaining a cohesive team, being open about mistakes and weaknesses, and good at compromising.

:: *Effective team meetings* characterised by listening to each other, using each other's talent during meetings, following through agreed actions, taking good decisions.

:: *Clear leadership of strategy and impact* by tracking achievement of strategic objectives, focusing on strategic issues, focusing on achievement of impact, and bringing innovative and new ideas.

:: *Investment in team development* such as by days spent on working together better as a team, reviewing team performance, external support, and planning to improve team effectiveness. This was found to be the area that charities are currently not performing well in and need to improve...

EHLRA/R2HC [to 19 March 2016]

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

Published on 18/03/2016

[Event – Innovating humanitarian action: more than just luck](#)

21 April 2016, 16:00 – 17:30 Public event | Streamed live online Overseas Development Institute, 203 Blackfriars Road, London

ALNAP and ELRHA's Humanitarian Innovation Fund's new research is the first study to untangle how to innovate successfully in humanitarian action, and the upcoming edition of HPN's Humanitarian Exchange magazine showcases a range of cutting edge initiatives. This event will bring together grassroots innovators and leading humanitarian officials, to discuss how to channel the momentum gathering behind humanitarian innovation and shape the future of the sector going into the World Humanitarian Summit – and beyond.

Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

The Sphere Project [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP) [to 19 March 2016]

<https://phap.org/>

18 March 2016

Podcasts of consultations in support of the WHS now available

Over the past two years, PHAP has organized more than 30 live online events in support of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). These events have brought close to 5 000 participants in the live events and another 9 000 have already accessed recordings of them. To make the recordings of these..

.....

Center for Global Development [to 19 March 2016]

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

Selected Press Releases, Blog Posts, Publications

Six Questions African Policymakers Must Answer Now

3/14/16

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

The "Africa rising" story of the past decade, fueled by 5 percent average annual growth, is in danger of faltering. To change the narrative, and — more importantly — the reality it describes, African policymakers must urgently answer these six questions.

ODI [to 19 March 2016]

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

Publications

Shock responsive social protection systems research report

Bibliography and literature reviews | March 2016 | Francesca Bastagli, Simon Brook, Joanna Buckley, Cécile Cherrier, Jenny Congrave, Andrew Kardan, Simon Levine, Katie McIntosh, Clare O'Brien, Clara Richards, Gabrielle Smith and Zoë Scott.

A review of recent literature on the theory and practice of shock-responsive social protection initiatives and their effectiveness.

A study on organisational development

Research reports and studies | March 2016 | Jessica Mackenzie and Rebecca Gordon

This report explains what 'organisational development' is and provides good practice examples, frameworks and recommendations for getting started.

Innovating for pro-poor services: why politics matter

Research reports and studies | March 2016 | Nathaniel Mason; Clare Cummings; Julian Doczi

This report addresses how politics matter for innovations. How politically smart approaches can help deliver access to services.

Urban Institute [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

World Economic Forum [to 19 March 2016]

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

News 16 Mar 2016

Meet Africa's Young Global Leaders Driving The Fourth Industrial Revolution

:: 12 men and women from Africa are among the 121 people, aged under 40, have been invited to join the Young Global Leaders (YGL) community of the World Economic Forum

:: New YGLs are at the forefront of the Fourth Industrial Revolution: one of the most powerful women in financial technology in Africa; an entrepreneur whose non-profit that builds mobile health units; and a woman who is one of the most pioneering tech voices in African.

:: The new class of YGLs show what the future of global leadership could be: more women, more leaders from emerging economies, more innovators from tech and the public sector.

*

*

*

*

:: 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 19 March 2016]

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

17 March 2016

Aga Khan Extols a Free and Responsible Media while Opening New Printing Plant in Kenya

His Highness the Aga Khan today emphasized the importance of reliable and trustworthy media at the opening of the Nation Media Group's new, state-of-the art printing plant in Kenya.

BMGF - Gates Foundation [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Annie E. Casey Foundation [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Clinton Foundation [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Ford Foundation [to 19 March 2016]
<http://www.fordfoundation.org/?filter=News>
No new digest content identified.

GHIT Fund [to 19 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 19 March 2016]
<http://www.hewlett.org/newsroom/search>
No new digest content identified.

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation [to 19 March 2016]
<http://www.hiltonfoundation.org/news>
Our News

Cognitive Development Interventions Gain Momentum in Health Delivery Settings in East and Southern Africa

By Lisa Bohmer, March 17, 2016

Brain development is at its most rapid during the first 1,000 days of life, when early experiences fundamentally shape brain architecture and future potential. By age three, 85% of the brain architecture has already been built. Despite this, the concept that learning begins at birth has not yet caught on and the majority of early childhood development (ECD) programs focus on pre-school age children from age three and up. Fortunately, health systems provide an opportunity to reach the youngest children and their caregivers—beginning in pregnancy—with services that promote healthy growth and development. UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) have developed a package for health systems that is designed to teach caregivers about responsive care and stimulation practices for their infants and young children, from birth through age two.

The package, called Care for Child Development (CCD), has been successfully implemented in both community and clinical settings. The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation provides support for training using this package given that skills building for parents and caregivers is a focus of our Children Affected by HIV and AIDS Strategic Initiative. We have partnered with organizations working in East and Southern Africa—including [PATH](#), the [Aga Khan Development Network](#) and [UNICEF](#)—to initially pilot and (more recently) begin to scale-up this package...

Our News
President and CEO Peter Laugharn Interviewed by Alliance Magazine
March 17, 2016

On March 11, our President and CEO Peter Laugharn was featured as part of an interview with Charles Keidan of *Alliance Magazine*.

Grameen Foundation [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

IKEA Foundation [to 19 March 2016]

<https://www.ikeafoundation.org/category/press-releases/>

March 15, 2016

[IKEA Foundation gives grants worth €9.4 million to Médecins Sans Frontières \(MSF\) and Save the Children to help children and families caught up in Syria conflict](#)

As the conflict in Syria enters its fifth year, the IKEA Foundation has donated €9.4 million to help children and their families, both within Syria and in neighbouring countries. The money is supporting the lifesaving work of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and Save the Children...

HHMI - Howard Hughes Medical Institute [to 19 March 2016]

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

Research [March 15, 2016]

[Neuronal Cell Biology Research Program Added at Janelia Research Campus](#)

Janelia announces the establishment of the neuronal cell biology program and recruitment of the first group leaders.

Kellogg Foundation [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

MacArthur Foundation [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

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 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Open Society Foundation [to 19 March 2016]

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

March 16, 2016

[Filmmakers in Syria Humanize a Conflict Overwhelmed by Media Images](#)

by Ali Atassi

To counterbalance endless images of violence and rubble, a group in Syria is training filmmakers to excavate personal stories from the conflict.

David and Lucile Packard Foundation [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Pew Charitable Trusts [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Rockefeller Foundation [to 19 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [to 19 March 2016]

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

March 16, 2016

[County Health Rankings Show Stark Differences in Premature Death Rates](#)

The 2016 County Health Rankings, an important tool for communities working to improve health, includes several new health-related measures including residential segregation, drug overdose deaths and insufficient sleep.

Wellcome Trust [to 19 March 2016]

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

14 March 2016

[Wellcome Book Prize 2016 Shortlist](#)

Celebrating the best new books that engage with any aspect of medicine, health or illness, the shortlist for the Wellcome Book Prize 2016 showcases the breadth and depth of our encounters with medicine through six exceptional works of fiction and non-fiction...

...The full shortlist is as follows:

- :: *The Outrun* by Amy Liptrot (Canongate)
- :: *Signs for Lost Children* by Sarah Moss (Granta)
- :: *It's All in Your Head* by Suzanne O'Sullivan (Chatto & Windus)
- :: *Playthings* by Alex Pheby (Galley Beggar Press)
- :: *The Last Act of Love* by Cathy Rentzenbrink (Picador)
- :: *Neurotribes* by Steve Silberman (Allen & Unwin)

Worth £30,000, the 2016 prize is judged by a panel comprising chair Joan Bakewell; Frances Balkwill OBE, Professor of Cancer Biology at Barts Cancer Institute and an author of science books for children; writer, columnist and salonnière Damian Barr; award-winning novelist Tessa Hadley; and award-winning journalist and author...

*

*

*

*

:: Journal Watch

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

American Journal of Disaster Medicine

Summer 2015, Volume 10, Number 3

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Preventive Medicine

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Public Health

Volume 106, Issue 3 (March 2016)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

March 2016; 94 (3)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Annals of Internal Medicine

15 March 2016, Vol. 164. No. 6

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

BMC Health Services Research

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

(Accessed 19 March 2016)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Infectious Diseases

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

(Accessed 19 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 Pleit  s Sandoval, Gabriela Maria Mar  n 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 19 March 2016)

[No new content]

BMC Medicine

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

(Accessed 19 March 2016)

Commentary

Open Access

[Reporting transparency: making the ethical mandate explicit](#)

Stuart G. Nicholls, Sin  ad M. Langan, Eric I. Benchimol and David Moher

BMC Medicine 2016 14:44

DOI: 10.1186/s12916-016-0587-5

Published: 16 March 2016

Abstract

Improving the transparency and quality of reporting in biomedical research is considered ethically important; yet, this is often based on practical reasons such as the facilitation of peer review. Surprisingly, there has been little explicit discussion regarding the ethical obligations that underpin reporting guidelines. In this commentary, we suggest a number of ethical drivers for the improved reporting of research. These ethical drivers relate to researcher integrity as well as to the benefits derived from improved reporting such as the fair use of resources, minimizing risk of harms, and maximizing benefits. Despite their undoubted benefit to reporting completeness, questions remain regarding the extent to which reporting guidelines can

influence processes beyond publication, including researcher integrity or the uptake of scientific research findings into policy or practice. Thus, we consider investigation on the effects of reporting guidelines an important step in providing evidence of their benefits.

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

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

(Accessed 19 March 2016)

Research article

[A systematic review to examine the evidence regarding discussions by midwives, with women, around their options for where to give birth](#)

Discussion of place of birth is important for women and maternity services, yet the detail, content and delivery of these discussions are unclear.

Catherine Henshall, Beck Taylor and Sara Kenyon

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth 2016 16:53

Published on: 14 March 2016

BMC Public Health

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

(Accessed 19 March 2016)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Research Notes

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

(Accessed 19 March 2016)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation

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

(Accessed 19 March 2016)

[No new content]

BMJ Open

2016, Volume 6, Issue 3

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

[Reviewed earlier]

British Medical Journal

19 March 2016 (vol 352, issue 8049)

<http://www.bmj.com/content/352/8049>

Research Update

[Refugee migration and risk of schizophrenia and other non-affective psychoses: cohort study of 1.3 million people in Sweden](#)

BMJ 2016; 352 :i1030 (Published 15 March 2016)

Anna-Clara Hollander, postdoctoral researcher¹, Henrik Dal, statistician², Glyn Lewis, professor of psychiatric epidemiology³, Cecilia Magnusson, professor of public health epidemiology^{1,2}, James B Kirkbride, Sir Henry Dale fellow³, Christina Dalman, professor of psychiatric epidemiology^{1,2}

Abstract

Objective To determine whether refugees are at elevated risk of schizophrenia and other non-affective psychotic disorders, relative to non-refugee migrants from similar regions of origin and the Swedish-born population.

Design Cohort study of people living in Sweden, born after 1 January 1984 and followed from their 14th birthday or arrival in Sweden, if later, until diagnosis of a non-affective psychotic disorder, emigration, death, or 31 December 2011.

Setting Linked Swedish national register data.

Participants 1 347 790 people, including people born in Sweden to two Swedish-born parents (1 191 004; 88.4%), refugees (24 123; 1.8%), and non-refugee migrants (132 663; 9.8%) from four major refugee generating regions: the Middle East and north Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe and Russia.

Main outcome measures Cox regression analysis was used to estimate adjusted hazard ratios for non-affective psychotic disorders by refugee status and region of origin, controlling for age at risk, sex, disposable income, and population density.

Results 3704 cases of non-affective psychotic disorder were identified during 8.9 million person years of follow-up. The crude incidence rate was 38.5 (95% confidence interval 37.2 to 39.9) per 100 000 person years in the Swedish-born population, 80.4 (72.7 to 88.9) per 100 000 person years in non-refugee migrants, and 126.4 (103.1 to 154.8) per 100 000 person years in refugees. Refugees were at increased risk of psychosis compared with both the Swedish-born population (adjusted hazard ratio 2.9, 95% confidence interval 2.3 to 3.6) and non-refugee migrants (1.7, 1.3 to 2.1) after adjustment for confounders. The increased rate in refugees compared with non-refugee migrants was more pronounced in men (likelihood ratio test for interaction χ^2 (df=2) $z=13.5$; $P=0.001$) and was present for refugees from all regions except sub-Saharan Africa. Both refugees and non-refugee migrants from sub-Saharan Africa had similarly high rates relative to the Swedish-born population.

Conclusions Refugees face an increased risk of schizophrenia and other non-affective psychotic disorders compared with non-refugee migrants from similar regions of origin and the native-born Swedish population. Clinicians and health service planners in refugee receiving countries should be aware of a raised risk of psychosis in addition to other mental and physical health inequalities experienced by refugees.

Editorials

Non-affective psychosis in refugees

BMJ 2016; 352 :i1279 (Published 15 March 2016)

Cornelius Katona, medical director

Risk is exacerbated by adverse experiences after arrival, including detention, unemployment, and racism

[Initial text]

In 2015, 244 million people (3.3% of the world's population) lived outside their country of origin. This represents an increase of 39% since 2000.^{1,2} The decision to migrate may be made for economic betterment or (in the case of "refugees") to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster. Such motives are not of course mutually exclusive. Substantial evidence shows that

the risk of non-affective psychosis is increased (by a factor of about 2.5) in migrants compared with the indigenous population.³

In a linked paper (doi:[10.1136/bmj.i1030](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.i1030)), Hollander and colleagues argue that this increase is due predominantly to exposure to psychosocial adversities.⁴ They used national register data to carry out a cohort study of more than 1.3 million people in Sweden, in which risk of non-affective psychosis was compared not only between people born in Sweden and migrants to Sweden but also between refugees and non-refugees within the migrant group. They hypothesised that, because of their increased vulnerability to psychosocial adversity, incidence of non-affective psychosis would be particularly high in the refugee group. The study was restricted to relatively young people (born in 1984 or later). Follow-up was to the end of 2011 or to emigration, death, or a diagnosis of non-affective psychosis. The authors' primary hypothesis was confirmed: incidence rates for non-affective psychosis were 385 per million in those born in Sweden, 804 per million in non-refugee migrants, and 1264 per million in refugees...

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

March/April 2016 Volume 21, Issue 4 Pages 1–93

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/cplx.v21.3/issuetoc>

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Conflict and Health

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

[Accessed 19 March 2016]

[No new content]

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>

[Reviewed earlier]

Emergency Medicine Journal

March 2016, Volume 33, Issue 3

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Epidemics

Volume 15, In Progress (June 2016)

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

[No new relevant content]

End of Life Journal

2016, Volume 6, Issue 1

<http://eolj.bmj.com/content/current>
[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 11, 17 March 2016

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

Rapid Communications

[Measles outbreak in a refugee settlement in Calais, France: January to February 2016](#)

by G Jones, S Haeghebaert, B Merlin, D Antona, N Simon, M Elmouden, F Battist, M Janssens, K Wyndels, P Chaud

Abstract

We report a measles outbreak in a refugee settlement in Calais, France, between 5 January and 11 February 2016. In total, 13 confirmed measles cases were identified among migrants, healthcare workers in hospital and volunteers working on site. A large scale vaccination campaign was carried out in the settlement within two weeks of outbreak notification. In total, 60% of the estimated target population of 3,500 refugees was vaccinated during the week-long campaign.

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 10, Issue 1, Spring 2016

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

Articles

State Strength, Non-State Actors, and the Guatemalan Genocide: Comparative Lessons

Frederick M. Shepherd

Frederick M. Shepherd is professor at Samford University, and is the author of *Christianity and Human Rights: Christians and the Struggle for Global Justice* (Lexington, 2009). He has been affiliated with the Holocaust Education Foundation, the US Holocaust Memorial and Museum, and was part of the Resisting the Path to Genocide Research Cluster at the University of Southern California.

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3138/gsi.10.1.06>

Abstract

This article focuses on the Guatemalan genocide—which has been labeled “acts of genocide” by the United Nations—in the context of the Guatemalan state’s weakness in mobilizing people and resources for its genocidal project. State planners were able to brutalize the indigenous population, especially during the early 1980s. But at the same time, the state showed extraordinary weakness in basic state functions such as taxing and military mobilization. The article links these failures to a more general state absence of “infrastructural capacity,” and to the strength of powerful non-state forces originating inside and outside of Guatemalan national borders. The article concludes with comparative lessons from other genocides—notably the Holocaust and Rwanda—marked by state strength in the areas of mobilizing people and resources.

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 19 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 19 March 2016]

[No new relevant content]

Health Affairs

March 2016; Volume 35, Issue 3

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

Issue Focus: Physicians, Prescription Drugs, ACOs & More

Global Health

Evaluation Of A Maternal Health Program In Uganda And Zambia Finds Mixed Results On Quality Of Care And Satisfaction

Margaret E. Kruk, Daniel Vail, Katherine Austin-Evelyn, Lynn Atuyambe, Dana Greeson, Karen Ann Grépin, Simon P. S. Kibira, Mubiana Macwan'gi, Tsitsi B. Masvawure, Miriam Rabkin, Emma Sacks, Joseph Simbaya, and Sandro Galea

Health Aff March 2016 35:510-519; doi:10.1377/hlthaff.2015.0902

Abstract

Saving Mothers, Giving Life is a multidonor program designed to reduce maternal mortality in Uganda and Zambia. We used a quasi-random research design to evaluate its effects on provider obstetric knowledge, clinical confidence, and job satisfaction, and on patients' receipt of services, perceived quality, and satisfaction. Study participants were 1,267 health workers and 2,488 female patients. Providers' knowledge was significantly higher in Ugandan and Zambian intervention districts than in comparison districts, and in Uganda there were similar positive differences for providers' clinical confidence and job satisfaction. Patients in Ugandan intervention facilities were more likely to give high ratings for equipment availability, providers' knowledge and communication skills, and care quality, among other factors, than patients in comparison facilities. There were fewer differences between Zambian intervention and comparison facilities. Country differences likely reflect differing intensity of program implementation and the more favorable geography of intervention districts in Uganda than in Zambia. National investments in the health system and provider training and the identification of intervention components most associated with improved performance will be required for scaling up and sustaining the program.

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 19 March 2016]

Review

[How to meet the demand for good quality renal dialysis as part of universal health coverage in resource-limited settings?](#)

It is very challenging for resource-limited settings to introduce universal health coverage (UHC), particularly regarding the inclusion of high-cost renal dialysis as part of the UHC benefit package. This paper...

Yot Teerawattananon, Alia Luz, Songyot Pilasant, Suteenoot Tangsathitkulchai, Sarocha Chootipongchaivat, Nattha Tritasavit, Inthira Yamabhai and Sripen Tantivess

Health Research Policy and Systems 2016 14:21

Published on: 18 March 2016

Review

[Evidence for Health I: Producing evidence for improving health and reducing inequities](#)

In an ideal world, researchers and decision-makers would be involved from the outset in co-producing evidence, with local health needs assessments informing the research agenda and research evidence informing ...

Anne Andermann, Tikki Pang, John N Newton, Adrian Davis and Ulysses Panisset

Health Research Policy and Systems 2016 14:18

Published on: 14 March 2016

Review

[Evidence for Health II: Overcoming barriers to using evidence in policy and practice](#)

Even the highest quality evidence will have little impact unless it is incorporated into decision-making for health. It is therefore critical to overcome the many barriers to using evidence in decision-making,...

Anne Andermann, Tikki Pang, John N. Newton, Adrian Davis and Ulysses Panisset

Health Research Policy and Systems 2016 14:17

Published on: 14 March 2016

Review

[Evidence for Health III: Making evidence-informed decisions that integrate values and context](#)

Making evidence-informed decisions with the aim of improving the health of individuals or populations can be facilitated by using a systematic approach. While a number of algorithms already exist,

Anne Andermann, Tikki Pang, John N Newton, Adrian Davis and Ulysses Panisset

Health Research Policy and Systems 2016 14:16

Published on: 14 March 2016

Human Rights Quarterly

Volume 38, Number 1, February 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Human Service Organizations Management, Leadership & Governance

Volume 40, Issue 1, 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Humanitarian Exchange Magazine

Number 65 November 2015

<http://odihpn.org/>

Special Feature: The Crisis in Iraq

[Reviewed earlier]

Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics (formerly Human Vaccines)

Volume 12, Issue 2, 2016

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/khvi20/current>

Reviews

[The potential impact of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine in Africa: Considerations and early lessons learned from the South African experience](#)

DOI:10.1080/21645515.2015.1084450

Shabir A Madhi & Marta C Nunes

pages 314-325

Abstract

The introduction of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) into the South African public immunization program since 2009 adopted a novel vaccination schedule of 3 doses at 6, 14 and 40 weeks of age. Over the past 5 y it has been shown that infant PCV immunization in South Africa is effective in reducing the burden of invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) among HIV-infected and HIV-uninfected children. Furthermore, indirect protection of unvaccinated age-groups (including high risk groups such as HIV-infected adults) against IPD was demonstrated despite the absence of any substantial catch-up campaign of older children. This indirect effect against IPD is corroborated by the temporal reduction in vaccine-serotype colonization among age-groups targeted for PCV immunization as well as unvaccinated HIV-infected and HIV-uninfected adults, which was evident within 2 y of PCV introduction into the immunization program. Vaccine effectiveness has also been demonstrated in children against presumed bacterial pneumonia. The evaluation of the impact of PCV in South Africa, however, remains incomplete. The knowledge gaps remaining include the evaluation of PCV on the incidence of all-cause pneumonia hospitalization among vaccinated and unvaccinated age-groups. Furthermore, ongoing surveillance is required to determine whether there is ongoing

replacement disease by non-vaccine serotypes, which could offset the early gains associated with the immunization program in the country.

Review

[Prevention of pneumococcal infections during mass gathering](#)

DOI:10.1080/21645515.2015.1058456

[Jaffar A Al-Tawfiq](#) & [Ziad A Memish](#)

pages 326-330

Abstract

The interest in mass gathering and its implications has been increasing due to globalization and international travel. The potential occurrence of infectious disease outbreaks during mass gathering is most feared. In this context, respiratory tract infections are of great concern due to crowding in a limited space which facilitates and magnifies the potential of disease spread among attendees. Pneumococcal disease is best described among pilgrims to Makkah and vaccination is one of the methods for the prevention of this disease. Pneumonia was described in a mass gathering with a prevalence of 4.8/100,000 pilgrims and contributes to 15–39% of hospitalizations. Various studies showed that 7–37% of pilgrims are 65 y of age or older. The uptake of pneumococcal vaccine among pilgrims is low at 5%. There is no available data to make strong recommendations for *S. pneumoniae* vaccination of all pilgrims, it is important that a high risk population receive the indicated vaccination. We reviewed the available literature on the burden of pneumococcal infections during mass gathering and evaluate the available literature on pneumococcal vaccinations for attendees of mass gathering

Review

[Theory and strategy for Pneumococcal vaccines in the elderly](#)

DOI:10.1080/21645515.2015.1075678

[Ho Namkoong](#), [Makoto Ishii](#), [Yohei Funatsu](#), [Yoshifumi Kimizuka](#), [Kazuma Yagi](#), [Takahiro Asami](#), [Takanori Asakura](#), [Shoji Suzuki](#), [Testuro Kamo](#), [Hiroshi Fujiwara](#), [Sadatomo Tasaka](#), [Tomoko Betsuyaku](#) & [Naoki Hasegawa](#)

pages 336-343

Open access

Abstract

Pneumonia is the fourth-leading cause of death globally, and *Streptococcus pneumoniae* is the most important causative pathogen. Because the incidence of pneumococcal diseases is likely to increase with the aging society, we should determine an optimal strategy for pneumococcal vaccination. While consensus indicates that 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine prevents invasive pneumococcal diseases (IPD), its effects on community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) remain controversial. Recently, a 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) was released. The latest clinical study (CAPIITA study) showed that PCV13 reduced vaccine-type CAP and IPD. Based on these results, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommended initial vaccination with PCV13 for the elderly. Scientific evidence regarding immunosenescence is needed to determine a more ideal vaccination strategy for the elderly with impaired innate and adaptive immunity. Continuing research on the cost effectiveness of new vaccine strategies considering constantly changing epidemiology is also warranted.

Short Report

[Low vaccine coverage among children born to HIV infected women in Niamey, Niger](#)

DOI:10.1080/21645515.2015.1069451

Hyppolite Kuekou Tchidjou, Maria Fenicia Vescio, Martin Sanou Sobze, Animata Souleyman, Paola Stefanelli, Adalbert Mbabia, Ide Moussa, Bruno Gentile, Vittorio Colizzi & Giovanni Rezza
pages 540-544

Abstract

Background: The effect of mother's HIV-status on child vaccination is an important public health issue in countries with high HIV prevalence. We conducted a study in a primary healthcare center located in Niamey, the capital of Niger, which offers free of charge services to HIV positive and/or underprivileged mothers, with the aim of assessing: 1) vaccination coverage for children 0–36 months old, born to HIV-infected mothers, and 2) the impact of maternal HIV status on child vaccination. Methods: Mothers of children less than 36 months old attending the center were interviewed, to collect information on vaccines administered to their child, and family's socio-demographic characteristics. Results: Overall, 502 children were investigated. Children of HIV-seropositive mothers were less likely to receive follow up vaccinations for Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (DTP) than those of HIV-seronegative mothers, with a prevalence ratio (PR) of 2.03 (95%CI: 1.58–2.61). Children born to HIV-seropositive mothers were less likely to miss vaccination for MMR than those born to HIV negative mothers, with a RR of 0.46 (95%CI: 0.30–0.72). Conclusions: Vaccine coverage among children born to HIV infected mothers was rather low. It is important to favor access to vaccination programs in this population.

IDRiM Journal

Vol 5, No 2 (2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Infectious Diseases of Poverty

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

[Accessed 19 March 2016]

[No new content]

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>

[Reviewed earlier]

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 15, 2016, Vol 315, No. 11

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

Viewpoint

Innovations in Health Care Delivery

[Does the Country of Origin Matter in Health Care Innovation Diffusion?](#)

Matthew Harris, DPhil, MBBS, FFPH; Yasser Bhatti, DPhil, MSc, MoT, MSc, BEng; Ara Darzi, OM, KBE, PC, FRS, FMedSci

This Viewpoint discusses the need to examine how perceptions of the country of origin may of health care innovations proposed for US settings may influence diffusion of these innovations.

There is no shortage of US health care research centers advocating the adoption of innovations from other countries. The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (Boston, MA), the Commonwealth Fund (New York, NY), Innovations in Health at Duke University (Durham, NC), and the Network for Excellence in Healthcare Innovation (Cambridge, MA) are all promoting innovations from low-, middle-, and high-income countries for potential adoption into the United States. However, does it matter to patients if a proposed innovation is from India, rather than from, say, Sweden; or from Rwanda, rather than from, say, the United Kingdom? Very little is known about whether and how the country of origin of a proposed innovation matters in its diffusion...

JAMA Pediatrics

March 2016, Vol 170, No. 3

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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-Elf4L0l#.VAJEj2N4WF8>

Forum: The Sustainable Development Goals

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Global Infectious Diseases (JGID)

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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

Volume 27, Number 1, February 2016 Supplement

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

Editorial Special Issue Journal of Health Care for Poor and Underserved, Indigenous Oral Health

Lisa M Jamieson

[Excerpt]

It is a privilege to introduce the Journal of Health Care for Poor and Underserved's first issue focussing on Indigenous Oral Health. Papers for this special issue were selected from a suite of presentations made at the first International Indigenous Oral Health Conference held in Adelaide, Australia, in August 2014. This conference (and in turn, the papers in this issue) emerged from the many requests over the years for there to be a specific research meeting focussing on the oral health of Indigenous populations at an international level. The conference hosted over 100 representatives from 25 organizations and nine countries worldwide.

The World Health Organisation estimates that 370 million people at an international level identify as being Indigenous, coming from over 70 different countries. Indigenous people have rich cultures and a wide range of religions, languages, traditions, and histories. According to the WHO definition, a group is considered Indigenous if they have a historical continuity pre- and post-colonisation; strong ties to land; separate social, economic, and political systems; their own languages, culture, and spiritual connections; are a minority population in their own country; and if they aim to continue the way of their ancestors as a distinctive community. Many Indigenous people have a holistic understanding of health—one where health encompasses individuals, communities, and spirituality. However, across the globe, Indigenous populations are some of the most disadvantaged populations in terms of health.

An overarching theme of both the conference and papers in this special issue is that oral health is a fundamental human right. Regrettably, Indigenous populations throughout the world, almost without exception, experience worse oral health than their non-Indigenous counterparts. Both the inequities and inequalities in oral health between Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups appear to be widening, with the disparities most apparent among children. The principles of the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved (for which the Journal of Health Care for Poor and Underserved is the official journal) are well-aligned with Indigenous Oral Health Conference principles, namely:

:: All members of society, Indigenous and non-Indigenous should have access to affordable quality dental health care.

:: Valuing and supporting trans-disciplinary oral health care. [End Page vi]

:: Dental health care delivered by culturally-competent, community-responsive professionals.

:: Oral health clinicians who care for underserved populations, including Indigenous populations, need to be nurtured and supported in their efforts, because of the unique stresses and personal challenges involved in their work.

:: Competent oral clinical practice requires a specialised body of knowledge and skills when working with underserved groups such as Indigenous populations (skills not traditionally addressed in professional dental school curricula).

:: Population-based research is essential for the improvement of the oral health status of all underserved populations, including Indigenous populations.

[Special Issue consists of 3 Commentaries; 3 Reports from the Field; 11 Original Papers]

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 14, Issue 1, 2016

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

Articles

[Mental Health of Undocumented Immigrant Adults in the United States: A Systematic Review of Methodology and Findings](#)

DOI:10.1080/15562948.2014.998849

L. M. Garcini, K. E. Murray, A. Zhou, E. A. Klonoff, M. G. Myers & J. P. Elder

pages 1-25

Abstract

This study systematically reviewed the methodology and findings of 24 peer-reviewed studies on psychosocial risk factors associated with the mental health of undocumented immigrants (UIs) in the United States. Of these studies, 14 included quantitative data and 13 were qualitative. The most common recruitment methods were snowball techniques, and most studies used convenience samples of recent UI Latinos. The method of assessing legal status varied, including current versus retrospective undocumented status. Psychological distress, depression, anxiety, and substance use/abuse were identified as prevalent themes. Studies with enhanced methodological rigor are needed.

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.bmj.com/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 19, 2016 Volume 387 Number 10024 p1133-1250 e23

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

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 7594 pp275-408 17 March 2016

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

Supplement

Outlook: Urban health and well-being

With more than half of the world's population already living in cities and further growth expected, the health of urban dwellers is crucial to global well-being. This Nature Outlook explores some of the obstacles to a healthy, happy urban life – and the development of strategies to overcome them.

Free full access [Sponsored]

Urban health and well-being

Richard Hodson

The rise of the urbanite

Stephanie Pain

Mobility: The urban downshift

Sarah DeWeerd

Flooding: Water potential

James M. Gaines

Green space: A natural high

Natasha Gilbert

Stress: The privilege of health

Amy Maxmen

Perspective: City farming needs monitoring

Andrew A. Meharg

Disease: Poverty and pathogens

Michael Eisenstein

Policy: Urban physics

Kevin Pollock

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 17, 2016 Vol. 374 No. 11

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly

April 2016; 45 (2)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration

OxMo – Vol. 5, No. 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Pediatrics

March 2016, VOLUME 137 / ISSUE

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

[Reviewed earlier]

PharmacoEconomics

Volume 34, Issue 3, March 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

PLOS Currents: Disasters

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

[Accessed 19 March 2016]

[A Comparative Analysis of Disaster Risk, Vulnerability and Resilience Composite Indicators](#)

March 14, 2016 · *Research Article*

Abstract

Introduction: In the past decade significant attention has been given to the development of tools that attempt to measure the vulnerability, risk or resilience of communities to disasters. Particular attention has been given to the development of composite indices to quantify these

concepts mirroring their deployment in other fields such as sustainable development. Whilst some authors have published reviews of disaster vulnerability, risk and resilience composite indicator methodologies, these have been of a limited nature. This paper seeks to dramatically expand these efforts by analysing 106 composite indicator methodologies to understand the breadth and depth of practice.

Methods: An extensive search of the academic and grey literature was undertaken for composite indicator and scorecard methodologies that addressed multiple/all hazards; included social and economic aspects of risk, vulnerability or resilience; were sub-national in scope; explained the method and variables used; focussed on the present-day; and, had been tested or implemented. Information on the index construction, geographic areas of application, variables used and other relevant data was collected and analysed.

Results: Substantial variety in construction practices of composite indicators of risk, vulnerability and resilience were found. Five key approaches were identified in the literature, with the use of hierarchical or deductive indices being the most common. Typically variables were chosen by experts, came from existing statistical datasets and were combined by simple addition with equal weights. A minimum of 2 variables and a maximum of 235 were used, although approximately two thirds of methodologies used less than 40 variables. The 106 methodologies used 2298 unique variables, the most frequently used being common statistical variables such as population density and unemployment rate. Classification of variables found that on average 34% of the variables used in each methodology related to the social environment, 25% to the disaster environment, 20% to the economic environment, 13% to the built environment, 6% to the natural environment and 3% were other indices. However variables specifically measuring action to mitigate or prepare for disasters only comprised 12%, on average, of the total number of variables in each index. Only 19% of methodologies employed any sensitivity or uncertainty analysis and in only a single case was this comprehensive.

Discussion: A number of potential limitations of the present state of practice and how these might impact on decision makers are discussed. In particular the limited deployment of sensitivity and uncertainty analysis and the low use of direct measures of disaster risk, vulnerability and resilience could significantly limit the quality and reliability of existing methodologies. Recommendations for improvements to indicator development and use are made, as well as suggested future research directions to enhance the theoretical and empirical knowledge base for composite indicator development.

PLoS Currents: Outbreaks

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

(Accessed 19 March 2016)

[On the Seasonal Occurrence and Abundance of the Zika Virus Vector Mosquito *Aedes Aegypti* in the Contiguous United States](#)

March 16, 2016 · *Research Article*

Abstract

Introduction: An ongoing Zika virus pandemic in Latin America and the Caribbean has raised concerns that travel-related introduction of Zika virus could initiate local transmission in the United States (U.S.) by its primary vector, the mosquito *Aedes aegypti*.

Methods: We employed meteorologically driven models for 2006-2015 to simulate the potential seasonal abundance of adult *Aedes aegypti* for fifty cities within or near the margins of its known U.S. range. Mosquito abundance results were analyzed alongside travel and

socioeconomic factors that are proxies of viral introduction and vulnerability to human-vector contact.

Results: Meteorological conditions are largely unsuitable for *Aedes aegypti* over the U.S. during winter months (December-March), except in southern Florida and south Texas where comparatively warm conditions can sustain low-to-moderate potential mosquito abundance. Meteorological conditions are suitable for *Aedes aegypti* across all fifty cities during peak summer months (July-September), though the mosquito has not been documented in all cities. Simulations indicate the highest mosquito abundance occurs in the Southeast and south Texas where locally acquired cases of Aedes-transmitted viruses have been reported previously. Cities in southern Florida and south Texas are at the nexus of high seasonal suitability for *Aedes aegypti* and strong potential for travel-related virus introduction. Higher poverty rates in cities along the U.S.-Mexico border may correlate with factors that increase human exposure to *Aedes aegypti*.

Discussion: Our results can inform baseline risk for local Zika virus transmission in the U.S. and the optimal timing of vector control activities, and underscore the need for enhanced surveillance for *Aedes* mosquitoes and Aedes-transmitted viruses.

Unintended Pregnancies in Brazil – A Challenge for the Recommendation to Delay Pregnancy Due to Zika

March 16, 2016 · *Discussion*

Abstract

Because of the potential link between the ongoing Zika virus outbreak and a surge in the number of cases of congenital microcephaly, officials in Latin America have recommended that women postpone pregnancy until this association is firmly established or the outbreak subsides. However, in all these countries a large proportion of babies are still born out of unplanned pregnancies. Teenage girls are particularly at high risk, as they often lack access to preventive contraception methods, or the knowledge to use them appropriately. To gauge the magnitude of the barriers preventing the implementation of such a recommendation in Brazil, the country so far most affected by the Zika epidemic, we evaluated pregnancy rates in teenage girls, and their spatial heterogeneity in the country, in recent years (2012-2014). Nearly 20% of children born in Brazil today (~560,000 live births) are by teenage mothers. Birth incidence is far higher in the tropical and poorer northern states. However, in absolute terms most births occur in the populous southeastern states, matching to a large extent the geographic distribution of dengue (an indicator of suitable climatic and sociodemographic conditions for the circulation of *Aedes* mosquitoes). These findings indicate that recommendation to delay pregnancy will leave over half a million pregnant adolescents in Brazil vulnerable to infection every year if not accompanied by effective education and real access to prevention.

PLoS Medicine

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

(Accessed 19 March 2016)

[No new relevant content identified]

PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases

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

(Accessed 19 March 2016)

Editorial

[The Zika Pandemic - A Perfect Storm?](#)

Philip K. Russell

| published 18 Mar 2016 | PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases

10.1371/journal.pntd.0004589

Research Article

[Is Dengue Vector Control Deficient in Effectiveness or Evidence?: Systematic Review and Meta-analysis](#)

Leigh R. Bowman, Sarah Donegan, Philip J. McCall

| published 17 Mar 2016 | PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases

10.1371/journal.pntd.0004551

PLoS One

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

[Accessed 19 March 2016]

[No new relevant content]

PLoS Pathogens

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

(Accessed 19 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 19 March 2016)

[High-seas fish wars generate marine reserves](#)

Guillermo E. Herrera^a, Holly V. Moeller^b, and Michael G. Neubert^{b,1}

Author Affiliations

Edited by Alan Hastings, University of California, Davis, CA, and approved January 29, 2016 (received for review September 17, 2015)

Significance

Marine reserves—areas where fishing is prohibited—have been implemented to conserve fish stocks and their habitats. They have been established in near-shore fisheries, where a single state (or “sole owner”) regulates the distribution of fishing effort. Modeling has shown that, under some conditions, the sole owner may also use closed areas to maximize sustainable profit. Here, we show that reserves may also play a role in fisheries management on the high seas, where a limited number of states compete in a noncooperative fishing game. Our theoretical analysis complements recent empirical studies of high-seas protected areas and is relevant in other management contexts characterized by a limited number of harvesters.

Abstract

The effective management of marine fisheries is an ongoing challenge at the intersection of biology, economics, and policy. One way in which fish stocks—and their habitats—can be protected is through the establishment of marine reserves, areas that are closed to fishing.

Although the potential economic benefits of such reserves have been shown for single-owner fisheries, their implementation quickly becomes complicated when more than one noncooperating harvester is involved in fishery management, which is the case on the high seas. How do multiple self-interested actors distribute their fishing effort to maximize their individual economic gains in the presence of others? Here, we use a game theoretic model to compare the effort distributions of multiple noncooperating harvesters with the effort distributions in the benchmark sole owner and open access cases. In addition to comparing aggregate rent, stock size, and fishing effort, we focus on the occurrence, size, and location of marine reserves. We show that marine reserves are a component of many noncooperative Cournot–Nash equilibria. Furthermore, as the number of harvesters increases, (i) both total unfished area and the size of binding reserves (those that actually constrain behavior) may increase, although the latter eventually asymptotically decreases; (ii) total rents and stock size both decline; and (iii) aggregate effort used (i.e., employment) can either increase or decrease, perhaps nonmonotonically.

Prehospital & Disaster Medicine

Volume 31 - Issue 02 - April 2016

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

Editorial

[Zika Virus Association with Microcephaly: The Power for Population Statistics to Identify Public Health Emergencies](#)

Samuel J. Stratton

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S1049023X16000170>

Published online: 04 March 2016

[No abstract]

Original Research

[An Assessment of Collaboration and Disasters: A Hospital Perspective](#)

Sabrina A. Adelainea1 [c1](#), Kimberly Shoafa2 and Caitlin Harveya1

a1 University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Fielding School of Public Health, Los Angeles, California USA

a2 University of Utah, Division of Public Health, Salt Lake City, Utah USA

Abstract

Introduction There is no standard guidance for strategies for hospitals to use to coordinate with other agencies during a disaster.

Hypothesis/Problem This study analyzes successful strategies and barriers encountered by hospitals across the nation in coordinating and collaborating with other response agencies.

Methods Quantitative and qualitative data were collected from a web-based study from 577 acute care hospitals sampled from the 2013 American Hospital Association (AHA) database. The results were analyzed using descriptive statistics.

Results The most common barriers to collaboration are related to finances, ability to communicate, and personnel.

[Vaccination Against Seasonal or Pandemic Influenza in Emergency Medical Services](#)

Alexandre Moser, Cédric Mabire, Olivier Hugli, Victor Dorribo, Giorgio Zanetti, Catherine Lazor-Blanchet and Pierre-Nicolas Carron

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S1049023X16000121>

Published online: 09 February 2016

Abstract

Introduction Influenza is a major concern for Emergency Medical Services (EMS); EMS workers' (EMS-Ws) vaccination rates remain low despite promotion. Determinants of vaccination for seasonal influenza (SI) or pandemic influenza (PI) are unknown in this setting.

Hypothesis The influence of the H1N1 pandemic on EMS-W vaccination rates, differences between SI and PI vaccination rates, and the vaccination determinants were investigated.

Methods A survey was conducted in 2011 involving 65 Swiss EMS-Ws. Socio-professional data, self-declared SI/PI vaccination status, and motives for vaccine refusal or acceptance were collected.

Results Response rate was 95%. The EMS-Ws were predominantly male (n=45; 73%), in good health (87%), with a mean age of 36 (SD=7.7) years. Seventy-four percent had more than six years of work experience. Self-declared vaccination rates were 40% for both SI and PI (PI+/SI+), 19% for PI only (PI+/SI-), 1.6% for SI only (PI-/SI+), and 39% were not vaccinated against either (PI-/SI-). Women's vaccination rates specifically were lower in all categories but the difference was not statistically significant. During the previous three years, 92% of PI+/SI+ EMS-Ws received at least one SI vaccination; it was 8.3% in the case of PI-/SI- (P=.001) and 25% for PI+/SI- (P=.001). During the pandemic, SI vaccination rate increased from 26% during the preceding year to 42% (P=.001). Thirty percent of the PI+/SI+ EMS-Ws declared that they would not get vaccination next year, while this proportion was null for the PI-/SI- and PI+/SI- groups. Altruism and discomfort induced by the surgical mask required were the main motivations to get vaccinated against PI. Factors limiting PI or SI vaccination included the option to wear a mask, avoidance of medication, fear of adverse effects, and concerns about safety and effectiveness.

Conclusion Average vaccination rate in this study's EMS-Ws was below recommended values, particularly for women. Previous vaccination status was a significant determinant of PI and future vaccinations. The new mask policy seemed to play a dual role, and its net impact is probably limited. This population could be divided in three groups: favorable to all vaccinations; against all, even in a pandemic context; and ambivalent with a "pandemic effect." These results suggest a consistent vaccination pattern, only altered by exceptional circumstances.

Comprehensive Review

Review of Coping in Children Exposed to Mass Trauma: Measurement Tools, Coping Styles, and Clinical Implications

Betty Pfefferbaum, Pascal Nitiéma, Anne K. Jacobs, Mary A. Noffsinger, Leslie H. Wind and Sandra F. Allen

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S1049023X16000169>

Published online: 18 February 201

Abstract

Evidence-based practice requires the use of data grounded in theory with clear conceptualization and reliable and valid measurement. Unfortunately, developing a knowledge base regarding children's coping in the context of disasters, terrorism, and war has been hampered by a lack of theoretical consensus and a virtual absence of rigorous test construction, implementation, and evaluation. This report presents a comprehensive review of measurement tools assessing child and adolescent coping in the aftermath of mass trauma, with a particular emphasis on coping dimensions identified through factor analytic procedures. Coping measurement and issues related to the assessment of coping are reviewed. Concepts important in instrument development and psychometric features of coping measures used in disasters,

terrorism, and war are presented. The relationships between coping dimensions and both youth characteristics and clinical outcomes also are presented. A discussion of the reviewed findings highlights the difficulty clinicians may experience when trying to integrate the inconsistencies in coping dimensions across studies. Incorporating the need for multiple informants and the difference between general and context-specific coping measures suggests the importance of a multilevel, theoretical conceptualization of coping and thus, the use of more advanced statistical measures. Attention also is given to issues deemed important for further exploration in child disaster coping research.

International Consensus on Key Concepts and Data Definitions for Mass-gathering Health: Process and Progress

Sheila A. Turris, Malinda Steenkamp, Adam Lund, Alison Hutton, Jamie Ranse, Ron Bowles, Katherine Arbuthnott, Olga Anikeeva and Paul Arbon

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S1049023X1600011X>

Published online: 04 February 2016

Abstract

Mass gatherings (MGs) occur worldwide on any given day, yet mass-gathering health (MGH) is a relatively new field of scientific inquiry. As the science underpinning the study of MGH continues to develop, there will be increasing opportunities to improve health and safety of those attending events. The emerging body of MG literature demonstrates considerable variation in the collection and reporting of data. This complicates comparison across settings and limits the value and utility of these reported data. Standardization of data points and/or reporting in relation to events would aid in creating a robust evidence base from which governments, researchers, clinicians, and event planners could benefit. Moving towards international consensus on any topic is a complex undertaking. This report describes a collaborative initiative to develop consensus on key concepts and data definitions for a MGH "Minimum Data Set." This report makes transparent the process undertaken, demonstrates a pragmatic way of managing international collaboration, and proposes a number of steps for progressing international consensus. The process included correspondence through a journal, face-to-face meetings at a conference, then a four-day working meeting; virtual meetings over a two-year period supported by online project management tools; consultation with an international group of MGH researchers via an online Delphi process; and a workshop delivered at the 19th World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine held in Cape Town, South Africa in April 2015. This resulted in an agreement by workshop participants that there is a need for international consensus on key concepts and data definitions.

Special Reports

Research and Evaluations of the Health Aspects of Disasters, Part VI: Interventional Research and the Disaster Logic Model

Marvin L. Birnbaum, Elaine K. Daily, Ann P. O'Rourke and Jennifer Kushner

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S1049023X16000017>

Research and Evaluations of the Health Aspects of Disasters, Part VII: The Relief/Recovery Framework

Marvin L. Birnbaum, Elaine K. Daily and Ann P. O'Rourke

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S1049023X16000029>

Preventive Medicine

Volume 84, Pages 1-98 (March 2016)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/00917435/84>

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Public Health Ethics

Volume 9 Issue 1 April 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Public Health Reports

Volume 131 , Issue Number 2 March/April 2016

<http://www.publichealthreports.org/issuecontents.cfm?Volume=131&Issue=2>

Articles

[Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting in the United States: Updated Estimates of Women and Girls at Risk, 2012](#)

Howard Goldberg, PhD / Paul Stupp, PhD / Ekwutosi Okoroh, MD / Ghenet Besera, MPH / David Goodman, PhD, MS / Isabella Danel, MD

ABSTRACT

Objectives. In 1996, the U.S. Congress passed legislation making female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) illegal in the United States. CDC published the first estimates of the number of women and girls at risk for FGM/C in 1997. Since 2012, various constituencies have again raised concerns about the practice in the United States. We updated an earlier estimate of the number of women and girls in the United States who were at risk for FGM/C or its consequences.

Methods. We estimated the number of women and girls who were at risk for undergoing FGM/C or its consequences in 2012 by applying country-specific prevalence of FGM/C to the estimated number of women and girls living in the United States who were born in that country or who lived with a parent born in that country.

Results. Approximately 513,000 women and girls in the United States were at risk for FGM/C or its consequences in 2012, which was more than three times higher than the earlier estimate, based on 1990 data. The increase in the number of women and girls younger than 18 years of age at risk for FGM/C was more than four times that of previous estimates.

Conclusion. The estimated increase was wholly a result of rapid growth in the number of immigrants from FGM/C-practicing countries living in the United States and not from increases in FGM/C prevalence in those countries. Scientifically valid information regarding whether women or their daughters have actually undergone FGM/C and related information that can contribute to efforts to prevent the practice in the United States and provide needed health services to women who have undergone FGM/C are needed.

Qualitative Health Research

April 2016; 26 (5)

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

Special Issue: Qualitative Contributions to Quantitative Inquiry ***Commentary***

[Adding Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research to Health Intervention Studies: Interacting With Differences](#)

R. Burke Johnson and Judith Schoonenboom

Qual Health Res April 2016 26: 587-602, first published on December 9, 2015

doi:10.1177/1049732315617479

Abstract

The purpose of this article is to explain how to improve intervention designs, such as randomized controlled trials (RCTs), in health science research using a process philosophy and theory known as dialectical pluralism (DP). DP views reality as plural and uses dialectical, dialogical, and hermeneutical approaches to knowledge construction. Using DP and its "both/and" logic, and its attempt to produce new creative syntheses, researchers on heterogeneous teams can better dialogue with qualitative and mixed methods approaches, concepts, paradigms, methodologies, and methods to improve their intervention research studies. The concept of reflexivity is utilized but is expanded when it is a component of DP. Examples of strategies for identifying, inviting, and creating divergence and integrative strategies for producing strong mixed methods intervention studies are provided and illustrated using real-life examples.

[Essential Qualitative Inquiry in the Development of a Cancer Literacy Measure for Immigrant Women](#)

Lydia P. Buki, Barbara W. K. Yee, Kari A. Weiterschan, and Emaan N. Lehardy

Qual Health Res April 2016 26: 640-648, first published on December 1, 2015

doi:10.1177/1049732315616621

Abstract

In this article, we describe the development of a comprehensive measure of breast and cervical cancer literacy for immigrant populations. To our knowledge, this is the first attempt to use a health literacy framework in this endeavor. Using qualitative strategies, we (a) developed an understanding of the experiences of Mexican and Filipina immigrant women with low health literacy through individual interviews, (b) conducted focus groups to obtain feedback from experts and participants to determine the adequacy of items included in the measure, and (c) refined the set of items to create an empirically based measure. The final measure included 129 items that assess beliefs, attitudes, knowledge, emotions, and contextual factors related to breast and cervical cancer. Processes for adapting the measure for use with other immigrant groups are discussed.

General Articles

[Subjective Experience and Resources for Coping With Stigma in People With a Diagnosis of Schizophrenia: An Intersectional Approach](#)

Jazmín Mora-Rios, Miriam Ortega-Ortega, and Guillermina Natera

Qual Health Res April 2016 26: 697-711, first published on February 10, 2015

doi:10.1177/1049732315570118

Abstract

In this study, we investigate the subjective experience of a group of individuals, diagnosed with schizophrenia, undergoing outpatient treatment in four psychiatric clinics in Mexico City. Our objective is to use the paradigm of intersectionality to explore the most common forms of stigma and discrimination faced by people with this illness, as well as the coping resources they employ. The major contribution of this study is its use of in-depth interviews and thematic analysis of the information obtained to identify the importance of sociocultural aspects of

participants' experience of their illness. Schizophrenia, for them, was a problem of "nerves," whose origins were linked to magical or religious elements they attributed to their illness and which influenced their response to it. This resignification was useful to participants as a coping resource; it helped them find meaning and significance in their experience of the illness.

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Reproductive Health

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

[Accessed 19 March 2016]

Research

[Engaging with community-based public and private mid-level providers for promoting the use of modern contraceptive methods in rural Pakistan: results from two innovative birth spacing interventions](#)

Syed Khurram Azmat, Waqas Hameed, Hasan Bin Hamza, Ghulam Mustafa, Muhammad Ishaque, Ghazunfer Abbas, Omar Farooq Khan, Jamshaid Asghar, Erik Munroe, Safdar Ali, Wajahat Hussain, Sajid Ali, Aftab Ahmed, Moazzam Ali and Marleen Temmerman

Published on: 17 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

18 March 2016 Vol 351, Issue 6279

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Social Science & Medicine

Volume 152, Pages 1-192 (March 2016)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/02779536/152>

Review Article

Violence against children in humanitarian settings: A literature review of population-based approaches

Pages 125-137

Lindsay Stark, Debbie Landis

Abstract

Children in humanitarian settings are thought to experience increased exposure to violence, which can impair their physical, emotional, and social development. Violence against children has important economic and social consequences for nations as a whole. The purpose of this review is to examine population-based approaches measuring violence against children in humanitarian settings. The authors reviewed prevalence studies of violence against children in humanitarian contexts appearing in peer-reviewed journals within the past twenty years. A Boolean search procedure was conducted in October 2014 of the electronic databases PubMed/Medline and PsychInfo. If abstracts contained evidence of the study's four primary themes – violence, children, humanitarian contexts and population-based measurement – a full document review was undertaken to confirm relevance. Out of 2634 identified articles, 22 met the final inclusion criteria. Across studies, there was varying quality and no standardization in measurement approach. Nine out of 22 studies demonstrated a relationship between conflict exposure and adverse health or mental health outcomes. Among studies that compared rates of violence between boys and girls, boys reported higher rates of physical violence, while girls reported higher rates of sexual violence. Children in infancy and early childhood were found to be among the most under-researched. Ultimately, the body of evidence in this review offers an incomplete picture regarding the prevalence, nature and impact of violence against children in emergencies, demonstrating a weak evidence base for some of the basic assumptions underpinning humanitarian practice. The development of standardized approaches to more rigorously measure violence against children is urgently needed in order to understand trends of violence against children in humanitarian contexts, and to promote children's healthy development and well-being.

Stability: International Journal of Security & Development

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

[accessed 19 March 2016]

Research Article

DDR and the Internal Organization of Non-State Armed Groups

Brian McQuinn

Abstract

This paper argues that demobilization, disarmament and reintegration (DDR) trajectories of non-state armed groups are shaped by a group's internal organization. Extensive research by political scientists has demonstrated a correlation between internal features of armed groups and their behaviour (e.g. extent of violence used against local communities). I extend this analysis to DDR outcomes by illustrating how two features of an armed group's internal organization – command profile and financing architecture – influence post-conflict DDR trajectories. To substantiate the theory, four case studies from Colombia, Nepal and Libya are reviewed. The article concludes with the limitations and opportunities of this approach, including the potential of predicting DDR challenges.

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/2071-1050/8/2>

[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>

[Reviewed earlier]

UN Chronicle

Vol. LII No. 3 2015 December 2015

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

Sustainable Energy

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

Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies

An International Interdisciplinary Journal for Research, Policy and Care

Volume 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.

#

#

The Sentinel is a service of the Center for Governance, Evidence, Ethics, Policy, Practice [\[ge2p2\]](#) which is solely responsible for its content, and is an open access publication, subject to the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/>). Copyright is retained by ge2p2.

#