



center for governance, evidence, ethics, policy, practice

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

The Sentinel

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

Week ending 5 March 2016

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

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

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

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:: 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.

United Nations Human Rights Council
31st regular session of the Human Rights Council

Geneva 29 February to 24 March 2016)\

Website for agenda and documentations:

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

Opening Session - 29 February 2016

Video: Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, High-Level Segment - 1st Meeting, 31st Regular Session Human Rights Council

29 Feb 2016

[Video: 00:21:10]

Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights - Opening of Session and High-Level Segment

Statement of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, at the 31st session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, 29 February 2016

...I am honoured to address this Council on the eve of its second decade. This is an anniversary that calls for more than rhetoric: it cries out for action, and decisive and cooperative leadership in defence of vital principles.

Human rights violations are like a signal, the sharp zig-zag lines of a seismograph flashing out warnings of a coming earthquake. Today, these jagged red lines are shuddering faster and higher. They signal increasing, and severe, violations of fundamental rights and principles.

These shocks are being generated by poor decisions, unprincipled and often criminal actions, and narrow, short-term, over-simplified approaches to complex questions. All now crushing the hopes and lives of countless people. So the compression begins, once again. This resurgent broad-based malice, irresponsibility and sometimes eye-watering stupidity, altogether acting like steam at high pressure being fed into the closed chamber of world events. And unless it is released gradually and soon, through wiser policy making – where the interests of all humans override this strengthening pursuit of the narrowest, purely national, or ideological, agenda. Otherwise - as the reading of human history informs us – its release, when it comes, will be as a colossus of violence and death.

Mr. President,

When the key drafters, representing States, wrote the UN Charter and drew up the protective fortress of treaties and laws making up our international system, they did not do so because they were idealists only. They did it for security, and because they were pragmatists. They had experienced global warfare, dispossession and the oppression of imperialism. They had lived "balance-of-power" politics, and its consequences – thrown violently into imbalance as it was by the feral nationalisms and ideologies of the extreme left and right. They knew, from bitter experience, human rights, the respect for them, the defence of them, would not menace national security – but build more durable nations, and contribute (in their words) to "a final peace". And so, after the cataclysm of global war and the development of nuclear weapons, they created the UN, and wrote international laws, to ward off those threats.

Today we meet against a backdrop of accumulating departures from that body of institutions and laws which States built to codify their behaviour. Gross violations of international human rights law – which clearly will lead to disastrous outcomes – are being greeted with indifference. More and more States appear to believe that the legal architecture of the international system is a menu from which they can pick and choose – trashing what appears to be inconvenient in the short term.

This piecemeal dismantling of a system of law and values that States themselves set up to ward off global threats is deeply alarming. Instead of taking a reasoned and cooperative approach to settling challenges – including the rise of violent extremism, the growing number of armed conflicts, and the movement of people seeking safety – many leaders are pandering to a simplistic nationalism, which mirrors the simplified and destructive 'us' versus 'them' mind-set of the extremists, and fans a rising wind of prejudice and fear. This bid to find unilateral quick fixes for issues that have broad roots is not only unprincipled, it is illusory – and it contributes to great suffering and escalating disarray.

Mr President,

The protection of human life and dignity is crucial at all times. Warfare does not put a stop to these and other fundamental obligations of international human rights law. During armed conflict or occupation, a complementary body of law – international humanitarian law – provides additional protection, to safeguard the rights of those fighting, as well as civilians, the sick and wounded, and people who have laid down their weapons. It must be applied by all parties: States – including all foreign forces, in the case of external intervention – and non-State armed groups.

These two great bodies of law are being violated shockingly, in multiple conflicts, with complete impunity. In Syria, previous to the temporary cessation of hostilities which began last weekend, this has been the case for five long years. Neighbourhoods, schools, and packed marketplaces have been hit by tens of thousands of airstrikes. Thousands of barrel bombs have been thrown out of helicopters onto streets and homes. Mortar and artillery fire, and IEDs, have been used without regard for civilian life.

Hospitals, medical units and healthcare personnel are afforded special protection under international humanitarian law. But at least ten hospitals and other medical units have been damaged or destroyed in Syria since the beginning of January – more than one every week – and on several occasions a second strike has hit rescue operations. The repetition of these murderous attacks suggests that some parties to the conflict are targeting medical units deliberately, or with reckless disregard. They deprive huge numbers of people, many already suffering the effects of intense bombardment, of their right to health, and endanger their right to life.

Similarly, the deliberate starvation of people is unequivocally forbidden as a weapon of warfare. By extension, so are sieges, which deprive civilians of essential goods such as food. And yet over 450,000 people are currently trapped in besieged towns and villages in Syria – and have been, in some cases, for years. Food, medicine and other desperately-needed humanitarian aid is repeatedly obstructed. Thousands risk starving to death.

And yet Syria is far from the only armed conflict in which civilians have endured frightful attacks. Multiple medical facilities, religious sites and schools have been repeatedly attacked and bombed in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, South Sudan, and Yemen. Mindful as we all are of the attack against the Khaleq market in Nahem which left scores of civilians dead only two days ago. The damage done by these violations – in bloodshed, and needless suffering and deaths from treatable illnesses and wounds – is dreadful. I add my voice to that of the distinguished President of Médecins Sans Frontières: the normalization of such attacks is intolerable.

It is extremely alarming that so many conflicts, crises and humanitarian emergencies are currently raging, with repeated violations of the norms that protect people's rights and lives. In Afghanistan, Burundi, the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo; the countries around Lake Chad which have suffered the attacks of Boko Haram; in Iraq; Libya; Mali; the Occupied Palestinian Territory; Somalia; South Sudan; Sudan; Syria; Ukraine and Yemen, millions of lives are threatened, and millions of homes are destroyed. Survivors, particularly the most vulnerable, are forced to flee, and become exposed to further violations. Economies are being broken. Health systems and infrastructure are being destroyed. Children go hungry, unschooled, and many suffer multiple forms of violence.

The effects of these prolonged conflicts and emergencies will be endured for generations. And yet they continue – and even cease, apparently, to shock.

Whether they are the result of deliberate targeting or systemic incompetence, every single attack on civilians and protected civilian objects must be fully, transparently and independently investigated.

Mr President,

Conflicts in Syria, Iraq and elsewhere have unleashed a toxic brew of malevolent forces, including the commission of sickening crimes and atrocities, and the emergence of human trafficking gangs. These are the circumstances that migrants are increasingly fleeing. The trauma they have suffered is appalling; they deserve the international community's sympathy and compassion. To keep building higher walls against the flight of these desperate people is an act of cruelty and a delusion.

Migration is a basic fact of human history, and it requires global sharing of responsibility. The welcome of millions of displaced people after the Second World War was clearly a positive, as well as a principled, move for the States which opened their doors. Agreements to resettle and integrate the refugees and migrants of Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam, and people fleeing war in the former Yugoslavia: these decisions not only brought net benefit to the host States, but also displayed moral leadership and international cooperation.

Today, instead, we see hostility, disarray, and a rising roar of xenophobia.

Mr. President,

Anti-immigrant and anti-minority rhetoric scar societies. They might offer instant political gratification in some quarters, but they result in divisions that cut deep. Racist, discriminatory and xenophobic rhetoric makes it even harder for minorities and outsiders to access equal opportunities and basic goods. And so our societies are cleaved. Communities grow further apart.

"Ignorance leads to fear, fear leads to hate, and hate leads to violence. That is the equation," wrote Abu al-Walid Mohammad ibn Ahmed ibn Rushd, the great Islamic and European philosopher of Spain, 850 years ago. When leaders express, or ignite, waves of hate speech, as we have seen in recent months – hate speech against migrants, and specific ethnic and religious groups – they are setting off shock-waves, whose impact will lead to violence.

Similarly, when Governments clamp down against grassroots activists, journalists and political opponents – or scrap the guarantees of an independent judiciary – they are not acting to halt violent extremism. They are dismantling the integrity of their societies and the people's trust and respect for fundamental institutions. Crushing human freedoms will not protect us from terrorism. It creates dangerous divisions and grievances that will lead to more violence.

We must not throw our principles and our reason overboard because we are petrified by the grotesque abuses of a few thousand fanatics. So-called ISIL is a powerful force for ill. But its behaviour and its mindset are so inhuman that it can only thrive in an atmosphere of deprivation and hate. This is a threat that can be overcome, and indeed our societies have done so in the past.

The ancient Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu is said to have observed, "We join spokes together in a wheel, but it is the centre space that makes the wagon move." That central space is our values. Our principles are the force that create resilience, the capacity to resist threats.

I urge policy-makers to deploy those central values as they work to uproot the underpinning factors of violent extremism. Persistent discrimination, which creates bitter grievances and daily humiliations. Corruption, which stokes resentment, and is at the root of so much poor governance. Inadequate schools, and economic structures which deprive young people of opportunities.

Failures to establish a sense of belonging in a society that is benevolent and respectful.

Restrictions that hamper the full participation of the people in decision-making – so that they no longer believe in their own societies.

Measures which ensure respect for human rights will extinguish violent extremism more effectively, and more sustainably, than any crackdown. Justice and human rights are the essential foundation of loyalty. They are what is needed.

Similarly, sound policies cannot be built on a distorted image of so-called invasion by people who are manifestly fleeing countries no longer safe for human life. Their movement is a search for hope, out of despair. And while I do not belittle the logistical difficulties it may create, they are a threat to no society. A disorderly race to the bottom of policies by States is creating massive and unsustainable strain on countries neighbouring conflict, which cannot continue to manage this task alone. These policies are compounding human suffering, driving increasingly unprincipled decisions, and creating chaos.

We need a new, concerted set of policies which establish the hope that people will be able to live in fair and just societies in their own homes. Meanwhile, there must be a sane, principled

and compassionate welcome given to people who are fleeing for their lives. I urge Member States to rise above the crescendo of xenophobia and gather lessons from the great integrative forces of history. Cities and civilizations have been irrigated by diversity, and have welcomed far greater movements of people in the past.

Mr President,

If global climate change can teach us one thing, it is that on this planet, there is no "them". There is only us.

And yet structural injustice and discrimination continue to deprive millions of people of their right to development. A shocking number of women are denied their fundamental equality, including their reproductive rights. Far too many people are excluded from vital resources by prejudice and by the force of crushing inequalities.

On these and other topics, I and my Office speak out, and act, to the full extent of our capacity – and here I would like to pay tribute to the Secretary-General for his Human Rights Up Front initiative, promoted also by the Deputy Secretary-General, which has given new impetus to the whole system to speak up on human rights. We do this work boldly, although we are dependent on States for resources, because the inherent dignity and worth of the human person; equality between all men and women; the economic and social advancement of all peoples – these human rights principles are the basis of peace.

The combined influence of 47 States is assembled here. We speak with the weight of the United Nations. Both individually and as the representatives of States, I urge you to act with courage and on principle, and to take a strong stand regarding the protection of civilians. The perpetrators of severe violations of this order must know that they will, at the first occasion, be sanctioned to the full extent of the law. I urge you to rise above national self-interest and heal divisions instead of fuelling them. To abide by and protect international humanitarian and human rights law. I urge you to deploy your diplomatic power to uphold peace and advance the protection of human rights for all people, in other States and within your own.

This Council has become an important institution within the United Nations, with growing influence and respect. I believe that the increasing integration of human rights concerns, within development and all other UN activities, makes it essential that the Council develop stronger ties to the Security Council and other bodies. In its second decade, the Human Rights Council must have important impact on world events – and help to ensure that the frightful human rights violations which we are seeing today are not the prologue to even greater suffering and chaos, tomorrow.

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Atul Khare (DFS) on the Secretary-General's report on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse - Press Conference

4 Mar 2016

Video: 42.34

Press Conference by Mr. Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Field Support (Department of Peacekeeping Operations, DPKO) on the Secretary-General's report on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

Report of the Secretary-General

General Assembly

A/70/729 :: 41 pages

16 February 2016

Summary

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/306, the present report provides data on allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse in the United Nations system for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2015 and information on measures being taken to strengthen the Organization's response to sexual exploitation and abuse in the areas of prevention, enforcement and remedial action.

[Excerpt]

VI. Action to be taken by the General Assembly

98. The General Assembly is requested to take note of progress made in advancing the Secretary-General's initiatives set out in his previous report (A/69/779) and of new proposals in the present report.

99. The General Assembly is requested to:

(a) Request that Member States assess existing national legislation to determine its applicability to sex crimes committed by nationals while in the service of United Nations peace operations and, if necessary, assess whether new legislative action is required, including allowing nationality-based extraterritorial jurisdiction;

(b) Encourage Member States to provide information, to be included in future reports, on compliance with the United Nations request to amend national administrative frameworks governing police and military contingents to explicitly include sexual exploitation and abuse as a type of misconduct where this is not the case and to ensure that such cases attract the harshest possible sanctions;

(c) Request that Member States adopt a six-month timeline for completing investigations into alleged sexual exploitation and abuse;

(d) Expand the scope of action open to the United Nations in cases of alleged sexual exploitation and abuse by contingent members in order to allow OIOS and Immediate Response Teams to interview witnesses, including contingent members, where no National Investigation Officer is available;

(e) Request that Member States establish on-site court martial proceedings, supported by any judicial infrastructure necessary, when allegations amount to sex crimes under national legislation;

(f) Request that Member States obtain DNA samples of members of military contingents and formed police units who are alleged to have committed sexual exploitation and abuse;

(g) Approve the transfer of payments withheld in substantiated cases of sexual exploitation and abuse by any United Nations personnel to the trust fund for victims;

(h) Encourage Member States to contribute to the trust fund for victims on a voluntary basis;

[i] Urge Member States to receive claims from victims and consider the required mechanisms for doing so, and advise the Secretariat on this process;

(j) Request that Member States appoint paternity focal points for troop-contributing and police-contributing countries, and notify the Secretariat accordingly;

(k) Request that Member States suspend payments in relation to the unit with which the implicated individual was deployed, or a corresponding replacement unit, where an investigation is not completed within one year of the date of notification and agree that, following consultation with the concerned Member State, all further deployments will be suspended pending notification of completion of the investigation.

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UNHCR: 6 steps towards solving the refugee situation in Europe

Press Releases, 4 March 2016

Ahead of a meeting of heads of state or government of the European Union (EU) with Turkey on 7 March in Brussels, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, has today issued recommendations aimed at helping States solve the refugee situation in Europe.

"We are running out of time, and strong leadership and vision are urgently needed from European leaders to deal with what is, in our view, a situation that can still be managed if properly addressed," said UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi. "This is as much a crisis of European solidarity as it is a refugee crisis. The collective failure to implement the measures agreed by EU Member States in the past has led to the current escalation in the crisis," he added.

The situation is quickly deteriorating with some 30,000 people now in Greece, almost a third of whom are in Idomeni just near the border with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Although the Greek authorities and military have ramped up their response, thousands are sleeping in the open without adequate reception, services, aid or information. With tensions mounting, the situation could escalate quickly into a full-blown crisis. UNHCR is supporting the Greek Government's efforts by deploying staff, helping coordinate the response and providing emergency shelter, technical support and information to refugees and migrants.

"The participation of all EU Member States in a solution is critical to managing it effectively," Mr. Grandi said. "It should not just be left to the entry countries of Greece and Italy, and those such as Austria, Germany and Sweden, who welcomed so many."

High Commissioner Grandi has proposed a plan to EU Member States to manage and stabilize the refugee situation. The plan includes six key points, intended as broad guidance:

1. Implement fully the so-called "hot spot" approach and relocation of asylum seekers out of Greece and Italy and, at the same time, return individuals who don't qualify for refugee protection, including under existing readmission agreements.

2. Step up support to Greece to handle the humanitarian emergency, including for refugee status determination, relocation, and return or readmission.

3. Ensure compliance with all the EU laws and directives on asylum among Member States.

4. Make available more safe, legal ways for refugees to travel to Europe under managed programmes – for example humanitarian admission programmes, private sponsorships, family reunion, student scholarships and labour mobility schemes – so that refugees do not resort to smugglers and traffickers to find safety

5. Safe-guard individuals at risk, including systems to protect unaccompanied and separated children, measures to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence, enhancing search and rescue operations at sea, saving lives by cracking down on smuggling, and countering xenophobia and racism targeted at refugees and migrants.

6. Develop Europe-wide systems of responsibility for asylum-seekers, including the creation of registration centres in main countries of arrival, and setting up a system for asylum requests to be distributed in an equitable way across EU Member States.

UNHCR's proposals make clear that equitable sharing of responsibility is key to bringing about a managed and orderly solution, and that EU Member States would need to agree a system of percentages of asylum-seekers for each Member State to take.

"Europe has successfully dealt with large-scale refugee movements in the past, during the Balkans Wars for example, and can deal with this one, provided it acts in a spirit of solidarity and responsibility sharing," said High Commissioner Grandi. "There is really no other option than working together to solve this."

UNHCR's paper "Stabilizing the situation of refugees and migrants in Europe Proposals to the Meeting of EU Heads of State or Government and Turkey on 7 March 2016", 3 March 2016, can be downloaded here: <http://www.unhcr.org/56d94f7e9.html>

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Joint NGO Statement on the Western Balkan migration route

3 March 2016

[Text bolding from statement original]

To European Leaders:

As national and international organizations working along the Western Balkan migration route in Greece, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, and Croatia, we strongly condemn the latest discriminatory and dangerous measures adopted by European countries as part of a broader package of deterrence policies intended to stem the flow of vulnerable people seeking safety.

On 21 February 2016, several countries in Europe closed their borders to Afghans resulting in a build-up of refugees in Greece and frantic scenes of chaos and confusion in the Western Balkans countries. Border restrictions on the basis of nationality deny each person's right to an individual assessment of their international protection needs – which runs counter to

international and European refugee and human rights law. These latest measures represent a further narrowing of a selective and arbitrary admissions policy which was already in place from late last year, when Europe shut its borders to all but those from the 'war-torn' countries of Syria, Iraq or Afghanistan.

This new policy is part of a package of restrictive measures that impact on the safety, well-being and rights of people on the move in Europe. At a meeting on 18 February 2016, the Heads of Police Services of the Republics of Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, issued a statement introducing new identification and registration measures that could amount to arbitrary and illegal restrictions on a person's right to seek international protection.

For example, entry into these countries on humanitarian grounds will only be authorized to those fleeing "war-torn areas" that "are in need of international protection" on the basis of proven nationality. Such a policy involves a potential violation of the right to claim asylum[1], and the obligation of Council of Europe member states to non-discrimination in immigration controls, including on the basis of national or social origin[2]. Likewise, the Police Statement allows for other limitations taking into account 'any other restrictions of destination countries', such as the daily quotas Austria introduced on 20 February, which the European Commission has stated is clearly incompatible with European and international law. Family reunification is also among the reasons why a person might be refused entry, despite the right to family unity being a core tenet of international law[3], with States encouraged to facilitate the reunification of refugee families.

An announcement made on 20 February at a meeting of the Directors of the Police of Serbia and Bulgaria, stated that refugees would only be allowed to enter Serbia through Preševo (via the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and that Serbia and Bulgaria would take joint measures to prevent the movement of people from Bulgaria to Serbia. Given Serbia's obligation to allow refugees access to its territory at any border crossing,[4] and given the reports of abuse and unlawful treatment of refugees in Bulgaria[5], this development is particularly concerning.

Not only are these procedures out of line with existing international and European law to protect and uphold the rights of persons to seek asylum, they have also served to further exacerbate the level of human suffering on the ground and perpetuate the humanitarian crisis.

Sudden border closures or restrictions can leave people stranded in inadequate and inhumane conditions, as border areas often have insufficient reception capacity to host large numbers of people. Since the borders were closed to Afghans and new screening procedures introduced, thousands of people who had already exhausted their financial resources to make the costly journey into Europe were left stranded, often sleeping outdoors without access to even basic services. Returning home is not an option for many of them, who may instead turn to smugglers and traffickers to facilitate their onward journey – exposing already vulnerable people to increased risks of abuse, violence and exploitation. We are particularly concerned for vulnerable families, women and unaccompanied children travelling through Europe, many of whom are from Afghanistan, as the new measures will only push them further underground and further out of reach of humanitarian actors.

To that end, we call on European governments to take action in order to ensure that the immediate humanitarian needs of people on the move are met, and to live up to their obligations under international law. In particular, we are calling on European states to:

:: Put an end to the selective admission policy currently in place and fulfill legal obligations to ensure fair and thorough refugee status determination procedures for all nationalities. In addition, children seeking asylum have the right to a 'best interest assessment' and an individual screening for their specific protection needs.

:: Make immediate provisions to meet the needs of people no longer able to continue their journey, including urgently scaling up reception and support services which respect people's dignity and human rights. Provisions should be made to find emergency accommodation for children and their families who are especially vulnerable.

:: Stop forceful and involuntary push-backs which deny individual rights to apply for asylum, particularly to countries where people might face persecution, and for those who are found not to be eligible for international protection, ensure the returns process respects their basic human rights.

:: Work together to ensure a co-ordinated approach to deal with the crisis based on information-sharing and collaboration, and avoid unilateral moves which can create dangerous 'domino-effects' that impact on vulnerable people. A collective response is needed immediately to ensure that affected states, particularly Greece, have adequate resources and funding to provide support and protection to people in their borders.

:: Create safe and legal routes into Europe for people seeking asylum, to avoid the loss of life on dangerous journeys and decrease the demand for irregular smuggling and trafficking networks. It is clear that deterrence policies based on razor-wire fences, intimidating police forces, and closed borders, will do little to stop desperate people searching for safety.

European states have a responsibility to protect the vulnerable and respect the rights and human dignity of all people arriving at their borders. Instead, the latest measures reveal the dangerous trajectory that Europe is following towards undermining the foundations of European and international refugee and human rights law. It is not too late for Europe to correct course and enact proper procedures outlined in existing law and take immediate action to protect vulnerable people in its territory.

ActionAid
Albanian Helsinki Committee
Atina Serbia
Belgrade Center for Human Rights
Center for Youth Integration Serbia
Civic Initiatives Belgrade
Civil Rights Program Kosovo
Doctors of the World Greece

European Council on Refugees and Exiles
Građanske inicijative – Civic Initiative
Greek Council of Refugees
Greek Forum of Refugees
Grupa 484
Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia
Humanitarni centar za integraciju i toleranciju (HCIT)
Hrvatski pravni centar
International Rescue Committee
Lawyers Committee for Human Rights
Macedonian Young Lawyers Association
Norwegian Refugee Council
Open Gate - La Strada
Oxfam
Practical Policy Centre Serbia
Praksis
Praxis Serbia
Save the Children
Solidarity Now
VluchtelingenWerk Nederland

Download pdf of [joint statement here](#).

References

- [1] Including on grounds of a well-founded fear of being persecuted because of his or her race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, according to the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.
- [2] See e.g. East African Asians v. the United Kingdom (Eur. Comm, 1973); Abdulaziz, Cabales and Balkandali v. the United Kingdom; Cyprus v. Turkey as well as Kiyutin v. Russia
- [3] Inter alia : Bruxelles demande l’Autriche de revenir sur son quota de demandeurs d’asile » Le Monde, Feb.2016, « Austrian cap on asylum seekers infuriates Commission » Euractiv, 19 February 2016
- [4] Article 22 of the Law on Asylum that says "An alien may, verbally or in writing, express his/her intention to seek asylum to an authorized police officer of the Ministry of the Interior, during a border check in the course of entering the Republic of Serbia, or inside its territory."
- [5] Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, 'Safe Passage' Testimony of people arriving in Dimitrovgrad, Serbia, 20-22 October 2015,

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UNESCO and ICRC partner on the protection of culture heritage in the event of armed conflict

29.02.2016 -

UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova and the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Peter Maurer, signed a partnership agreement paving the way for the two organizations to undertake joint projects to enhance the protection of cultural heritage in the event of armed conflict.

"As the impartial, neutral and independent keeper of international humanitarian law, the International Committee of the Red Cross is a key partner for UNESCO in emergency situations during which it is of utmost importance to protect cultural heritage as the bearer of peoples' identity, dignity and resilience", said Ms Bokova. "This partnership is another testimony to the growing global awareness that protecting cultural heritage is not just a cultural emergency but indeed a humanitarian imperative".

...The recent large-scale and systematic destruction and looting of cultural heritage sites have highlighted the strong connection between the cultural and humanitarian dimensions of cultural heritage protection. Attacks against cultural heritage and diversity are also attacks against people, their rights, and their security. Under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the deliberate destruction of cultural heritage is a war crime. In the face of these unprecedented challenges, there is a need for innovative approaches to build on the existing international legal standards - notably the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, so as to enhance their effective implementation

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Editor's Note:

We understand that the confirmation of charges hearing detailed below represents a milestone in the prosecution of damage and destruction cultural heritage as a war crime. This actual prosecution of the case, involving destruction of various historically significant buildings in Timbuktu, will unfold in the months ahead and will provide a critically important precedent for future prosecution of similar war crimes involving destruction of cultural heritage.

Case Information Sheet:: ICC - The Prosecutor v. Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi

Situation in the Republic of Mali

Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi

Age: Born approximately 1975

Place of birth: Agoune, 100 kilometers west of Timbuktu, Mali,

Warrant of arrest: 18 September 2015

Transferred to The Hague: 26 September 2015

First appearance: 30 September 2015

Confirmation of charges hearing:

1 March 2016

Charges

The Chamber found that the evidence establishes reasonable grounds to believe that Al Mahdi is criminally responsible for having committed, individually and jointly with others, facilitated or otherwise contributed to the commission of war crimes alleged by the Prosecutor regarding intentionally directing attacks against the following buildings: 1) the mausoleum Sidi Mahmoud Ben Omar Mohamed Aquit, 2) the mausoleum Sheikh Mohamed Mahmoud Al Arawani, 3) the mausoleum Sheikh Sidi Mokhtar Ben Sidi Muhammad Ben Sheikh Alkabir, 4) the mausoleum Alpha Moya, 5) the mausoleum Sheikh Sidi Ahmed Ben Amar Arragadi, 6) the mausoleum Sheikh Muhammad El Micky, 7) the mausoleum Cheick Abdoul Kassim Attouaty, 8) the mausoleum Ahamed Fulane, 9) the mausoleum Bahaber Babadié, and 10) Sidi Yahia mosque.

It is alleged that Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi, from the Ansar Tuareg tribe, was an active personality in the context of the occupation of Timbuktu. He allegedly was a member of Ansar Eddine, working closely with the leaders of the two armed groups and in the context of the structures and institutions established by them. It is alleged that, until September 2012, he was at the head of the "Hisbah" (body set up to uphold public morals and prevent vice), operational from May 2012. He was also associated with the work of the Islamic Court of Timbuktu and has participated in executing its decisions. Specifically, it is alleged that he was involved in the destruction of the buildings mentioned in the charges...

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Non-proliferation and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea - Security Council, 7638th meeting (English)

2 Mar 2016

Video:: 01:16:34

The Security Council has adopted unanimously Resolution 2270 (2016) on additional sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Security Council Imposes Fresh Sanctions on Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2270 (2016)

2 March 2016

SC/12267

The Security Council today condemned in the strongest terms the nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 6 January 2016 "in violation and flagrant disregard" of the relevant resolutions, its actions thereby constituting a challenge to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and to peace and stability in the region and beyond...

Speaking after the adoption, the representative of the United States said the resolution went further than any other sanctions regime in two decades, emphasizing that multilateral pressure could be effective in bringing Pyongyang back to the table for serious and credible negotiations on denuclearization. Describing the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as the only State that had conducted nuclear tests in the twenty-first century, routinely threatening other countries with nuclear annihilation, she noted that the chronic suffering of its people was the direct result of the choices made by their Government....

...The United Kingdom's representative noted that the resolution contained some of the toughest measures ever taken by the Council, while emphasizing that it was not intended to have adverse humanitarian consequences, nor to affect those activities not prohibited by Council resolutions, nor to affect international relief efforts....

Editor's Note:

The full text of Resolution 2270(2016) is available at the link in the title above, but we include here paragraph 17 which may be unprecedented in terms of impacts on academic training and scholarly collaboration. Further, we observe that this sanction strategy may establish an unsettling precedent, or widened to apply beyond this sphere [for example, to bioterrorism and its supporting disciplines].

"17. *Decides* that all Member States shall prevent specialized teaching or training of DPRK nationals within their territories or by their nationals of disciplines which could contribute to the DPRK's proliferation [of] sensitive nuclear activities or the development of nuclear weapon delivery systems, including teaching or training in advanced physics, advanced computer simulation and related computer sciences, geospatial navigation, nuclear engineering, aerospace engineering, aeronautical engineering and related disciplines;"

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Secretary-General Appoints Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth

2 March 2016

Secretary-General SG/A/1639

Press Release

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today announced the appointment of a Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth.

The global economy is projected to create around 40 million new health sector jobs by 2030, mostly in middle- and high-income countries. Despite this growth, there is a projected shortage of 18 million health workers in low- and lower-middle-income countries. The Commission is tasked with proposing actions to redress these inequities, and stimulate and guide the creation of health and social sector jobs for inclusive economic growth.

"Having a sufficient number of health workers responsive to population needs and well-distributed across the world will be critical to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and to addressing the growing challenges to global public health security," said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. "I expect this Commission to make an important contribution towards the achievement of Universal Health Coverage, the creation of decent jobs, and to inclusive and transformative economic growth."

The Commission had been established following United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/70/183, which recognized that "investing in new health workforce employment opportunities may also add broader socioeconomic value to the economy and contribute to the implementation for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and requested the Secretary-General to "explore steps to meet the global shortfall of trained health workers". The Commission will be co-chaired by François Hollande, President of France, and Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa.

Approximately 25 Commissioners will soon be appointed to provide a balance of policy, technical and geographical expertise, from the education, employment, health and foreign affairs sectors of government, as well as representation from international organizations, academia, health-care professional associations, civil society and trade unions.

The Commission will hold its first meeting on 23 March, and will deliver its final report in the margin of the seventy-first regular session of the United Nations General Assembly in September.

For more information about the Commission, please visit www.who.int/hrh/com-heeg/.

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IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde Calls for Bold, Broad and Accelerated Policy Actions

Press Release No. 16/83

February 27, 2016

Ms. Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), issued the following statement today at the conclusion of the Group of 20 (G20) Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in Shanghai, China:

"This G20 met at a moment when uncertainty and increasing downside pressures could put at risk the global economic recovery. In response, G20 members expressed a strong sense of urgency to implement the policy actions needed to contain risks and strengthen growth.

"We recognized the many challenges facing the global economy at present: volatile markets and capital flows; economic transition and tightening financial conditions in many countries; the large drop in commodity prices, including oil; and escalated geopolitical tensions, including the large number of refugees in some regions.

"Against this backdrop, I welcome the G20's agreement to do more to achieve our common objectives for global growth. That means using all available policy tools:

:: First, a broad-based response at the national level. In advanced economies, this requires a mix of mutually reinforcing demand and supply policies, including continued accommodative monetary policy and supportive fiscal policies--making the best possible use of fiscal space (for example, through infrastructure spending). In emerging economies, it requires reducing vulnerabilities and rebuilding resilience--strengthening fiscal buffers and diversifying growth models in commodity-exporting countries, for example.

:: Second, bold multilateral actions. This requires following through on past G20 commitments and, in particular, renewed momentum this year to deliver on the goal of achieving 2 percent additional growth by 2018. Reinvigorated structural reforms are a critical element of the necessary policy package, and I welcome the G20's commitment to enhance this agenda by formulating a set of principles to guide prioritization. The IMF is pleased to support this effort.

"The G20 also emphasized the importance of an adequate and effective global financial safety net. The IMF has been tasked with analyzing this issue further and we will report back at the next G20 meeting in April.

"In summary, at this meeting, the G20 recognized that while the global recovery continues, it remains too weak and uneven--and falls short of our collective ambition for strong, sustainable and balanced growth. To confront this challenge, we need action now....

* * * *

:: Agency/Government/IGO Watch

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

United Nations – Secretary General, Security Council, General Assembly

[to 5 March 2016]

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

Selected Press Releases/Meetings Coverage

3 March 2016

SC/12271

Humanitarian Chief Urges More Pressure on Parties in Yemen Conflict to Better Protect Civilians, Resume Peace Talks, during Security Council Briefing

The United Nations humanitarian chief, in a briefing to the Security Council, called today for greater international pressure on the parties to the conflict in Yemen in order to better protect civilians, facilitate relief access to all parts of the country, and encourage the resumption of peace talks and a cessation of hostilities.

2 March 2016

SC/12267

Security Council Imposes Fresh Sanctions on Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2270 (2016)

The Security Council today condemned in the strongest terms the nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 6 January 2016 "in violation and flagrant disregard" of the relevant resolutions, its actions thereby constituting a challenge to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and to peace and stability in the region and beyond.

2 March 2016

SG/A/1639

Secretary-General Appoints Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today announced the appointment of a Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth.

1 March 2016

DSG/SM/946

Deputy Secretary-General, at Forum on Fragility, Conflict, Violence, Stresses Need for Dynamic, Organic Link between Humanitarian Action, Development

Following are UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson's remarks, as prepared for delivery, at the World Bank Group Forum on Fragility, Conflict and Violence, in Washington, D.C.,

UN OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 5 March 2016]

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

Selected Press Releases

Apple-FBI case could have serious global ramifications for human rights: Zeid

GENEVA (4 March 2016) -- The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein on Friday urged the US authorities to proceed with great caution in the ongoing legal process involving the Apple computer company and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), given its potentially negative ramifications for the human rights of people all over the world.

"In order to address a security-related issue related to encryption in one case, the authorities risk unlocking a Pandora's Box that could have extremely damaging implications for the human rights of many millions of people, including their physical and financial security," Zeid said. "I recognize this case is far from reaching a conclusion in the US courts, and urge all concerned to look not just at the merits of the case itself but also at its potential wider impact."...

Ukraine: Growing despair among over three million civilians in conflict zone – UN report

GENEVA (3 March 2015) – Despite a decrease in the number of civilian casualties in the east of Ukraine over the past few months, a new UN report shows that the conflict is severely impacting on the daily life of civilians, with a growing sense of despair and isolation affecting those living in the conflict zone, especially in the areas controlled by the armed groups.

"There is a terrible sensation of physical, political, social and economic isolation and abandonment among the huge number of people – more than three million in all – who are struggling to eke out a living in the conflict zone. They are in urgent need of greater protection and support," said the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein...

The full report can be found here:

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/Ukraine_13th_HRMMU_Report_3March2016.pdf

Committee on the Rights of the Child [to 5 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 5 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 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

SRSG/SVC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

UN OCHA [to 5 March 2016]

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

04 Mar 2016

[Fiji: After Tropical Cyclone Winston: Fiji Humanitarian Appeal requests \\$38.6 million to help restore the Island nation](#)

Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Country: Fiji (Geneva, 4 March 2016): Representatives of the Government of Fiji and the UN today launched an appeal for US\$38.6 million to provide critical emergency relief to 350,000 people affected by tropical cyclone Winston. Category 5 cyclone Winston – the most devastating tropical cyclone on record in the Southern Hemisphere - struck the Pacific island nation Fiji during the night of 20 February taking more than 40 lives..

04 Mar 2016

[occupied Palestinian territory: OCHA Flash Update: Wide-scale demolitions in Khirbet Tana](#)

Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Country: occupied Palestinian territory On 2 March, the Israeli Civil Administration demolished 41 structures in the Area C community of Khirbet Tana, south-east of Nablus city. The demolition displaced ten families with 36 members, including 11 children, and affected the livelihoods of five additional families. Twelve of the demolished structures had been provided by the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian Red Crescent...

03 Mar 2016

[Fiji: International community urged to give generously to Fiji Cyclone Winston emergency response](#)

Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Country: Fiji Suva, 4 March, 2016 The Fijian Government and the United Nations have jointly launched a US\$38.6 million Humanitarian Emergency Appeal for the 350,000 people affected by Severe Tropical Cyclone Winston that is aimed at complementing the relief efforts of the Fijian Government to date. "With our tenacity and the generosity of UN member states, we must work together to meet the unprecedented need...

03 Mar 2016

[Yemen: Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien Statement to the Security Council on Yemen, 3 March 2016](#)

Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Country: Yemen Mr. President, The conflict in Yemen continues unabated since my last briefing to the Council on 16 February. By far, the most pressing concern today is the protection of civilians, millions of whom face relentless and often indiscriminate bombing and shelling of urban areas by the parties to the conflict every day...

02 Mar 2016

[Sudan: Jebel Marra Crisis Fact Sheet Issue 3 I 2 March 2016](#)

Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Country: Sudan KEY FACTS • Thousands of civilians have been displaced from the Jebel Marra area in Sudan's Darfur region since mid-January 2016 as a result of increased hostilities between the Sudanese Armed Forces

(SAF) and the Abdul Wahid faction of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA/AW). Hostilities continue to be reported in the Jebel Marra and prospects for the newly displaced remain uncertain...

01 Mar 2016

Myanmar: Myanmar: the plight of internally displaced people and the Muslim minority must not be forgotten [EN/MY]

Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Country: Myanmar (New York, 1 March 2016): The Director of Operations for the Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, John Ging, briefed media in New York following his recent visit to Myanmar, 22 to 25 February. Myanmar is going through an impressive democratic transformation, which is unlocking significant economic growth and development. However, not everyone in Myanmar is benefiting in this transition...

28 Feb 2016

Sudan: Sudan Humanitarian Fund 2016 Positioning Paper

Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Country: Sudan Overall purpose The Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF) is a country-based pooled fund that should contribute to the overall operational impact of "the provision of timely, coordinated, principled assistance to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity" within Sudan. The SHF aims to promote a strategic and coordinated response towards the highest priorities in support of the Humanitarian Response Plan...

UNICEF [to 5 March 2016]

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

Selected Press Releases

Statement by UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake following his visit to Syria

Child refugees and migrants suffer most by border restrictions: UNICEF

GENEVA, 1 March 2016 – The dire situation unfolding at border points along the Balkan land route, especially in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and in Greece, has left thousands of children stranded, distressed and at risk of poor health and abuse, UNICEF said today.

Over 40 per cent of Fiji's children affected by Cyclone Winston, as school year begins

SUVA, 1 March 2016 – More than a week has passed since Tropical Cyclone Winston ripped through Fiji, leaving a trail of devastation in its wake. The latest data indicates that an estimated 347,000 people (40 per cent of the country's total population), including 120,000 children, are directly impacted by the second-strongest storm to ever make landfall (second only to Super Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines).

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [to 5 March 2016]

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

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

Press Releases

4 March 2016

UNHCR: 6 steps towards solving the refugee situation in Europe

[see Week in Review above for full text]

IOM / International Organization for Migration [to 5 March 2016]

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

03/04/16

Aid Airlift to Cyclone Winston-shattered Fiji Begins

Fiji - IOM is transporting a planeload of aid from its Administrative Centre in the Philippines to ease suffering for tens of thousands of Fijians displaced by Cyclone Winston.

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals in 2016 Near 135,000; Deaths Reach 418

03/04/16

Greece - IOM estimates that 134,905 migrants already have crossed the Mediterranean this year. Of these, 125,819 have reached the Greek islands.

IOM Calls for Dignified, Orderly Solution to Migrant Situation in Calais

03/04/16

Belgium - The closure of part of the migrant camp in Calais this week has led to unfortunate violence which puts migrants at further risk.

Canada, IOM Complete Resettlement of 25,000 Syrian Refugees

03/01/16

Jordan -Yesterday (29/2) the last charter flight carrying Syrian refugees left Jordan for Canada.

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals in 2016 Near 130,000; Deaths Reach 418

03/01/16

Greece - As winter nears its end, IOM estimates irregular migrant and refugee arrivals are now approaching 130,000 in the Mediterranean.

IOM Dominican Republic Resumes Voluntary Return of Vulnerable Migrants to Haiti

03/01/16

IOM, in close coordination with the Government of the Dominican Republic, has helped 170 vulnerable Haitian migrants to voluntarily return to their communities of origin in Northern Haiti. Over half of the returnees were women and a third were children.

Jorge Baca, IOM Chief of Mission in the Dominican Republic, said: "Despite the historic opportunity that the National Regularization Plan has meant to irregular migrants in the Dominican Republic, many were not able to register. This, plus the fact that there are very few income generating activities or jobs available to them, is pushing families to opt for a dignified return solution like IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) program."

Benefits and Challenges of Migration Outlined in New Asia-Pacific Report

03/01/16

Thailand - Migrants from countries across Asia and the Pacific play a key role as development actors, helping drive GDP growth in their countries of destination, while also supporting families and communities in their countries of origin. But the benefits of migration remain under-acknowledged, according to a new UN / IOM report.

UN Women [to 5 March 2016]

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

Date: 04 March 2016

UN Women strongly condemns the murder of human rights defender and Honduran indigenous leader Berta Cáceres

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, UN Women, strongly condemns the murder on 3 March of indigenous leader, environmentalist and defender of human rights, Berta Cáceres, who was shot in her home in the city of La Esperanza in western Honduras.

Message by UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka on International Women's Day, 8 March 2016

Date: 03 March 2016

This year's celebration of International Women's Day is the first within the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are confidently asserted in that Agenda as intrinsic to progress. In her 2016 message, UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka says: "Each one of us is needed—in our countries, communities, organizations, governments and in the United Nations—to ensure decisive, visible and measurable actions are taken under the banner: Planet 50-50: Step It Up for Gender Equality."

Landmark ruling in Guatemala a victory against sexual violence in armed conflict

Date: 03 March 2016

On 26 February, a Guatemalan court convicted two former military officers of crimes against humanity against 11 indigenous Q'eqchi' women who were subjected to sexual violence, sexual and domestic slavery, the forced disappearance of their husbands, as well as the murder and cruel treatment of a woman and her two small daughters. The historic verdict is being hailed by human rights experts as a major victory in accountability for conflict-related sexual violence

Advocacy and laws confront trafficking across the Arab States

Date: 03 March 2016

A three-year anti-trafficking programme supported by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women is boosting legal enforcement against the crime in Egypt, Jordan and Morocco.

Women must be at the centre of the response to the Zika virus, says UN Women Executive Director

Date: 29 February 2016

In a statement, UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka says the public response to the Zika virus epidemic must recognize its impact on women's lives, and ensure that their health and social needs are met. She stresses UN Women's efforts to ensure that women are empowered, their contributions recognized, and their rights and health—including sexual and reproductive rights—kept firmly at the centre of the response.

WHO & Regionals [to 5 March 2016]

:: WHO Regional Offices

WHO African Region AFRO ::

:: [WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Moeti concludes official visit to Cote d'Ivoire](#)

Abidjan, 3 March 2016 - The WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti concluded a three day official visit to Cote d'Ivoire yesterday. The visit began on Monday 29 February and was aimed at further strengthening collaboration between WHO and the Government of Cote d'Ivoire...

WHO Region of the Americas PAHO

:: [PAHO/WHO calls on countries to strengthen surveillance of birth defects, including microcephaly](#) (03/03/2016)

WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO

:: [Media Statement on World Birth Defects Day](#) 03 March 2016

WHO European Region EURO

No new digest content identified.

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO

:: [Countries urged to enhance preparedness and readiness measures for Zika virus infection in the Region](#) 3 March 2016

:: [Life-saving medical supplies reach besieged city in Syria](#)

2 March 2016 – Today, WHO delivered urgently needed medicines, including antibiotics and painkillers, to the besieged city of Mouadamieh, 10 km south of Damascus. Since January 2016, WHO has delivered medicines, medical supplies and vaccines to a number of hard-to-reach areas in Syria, but at times has faced the challenge of having vital medicines removed from shipments depriving people of vital medical support.

WHO Western Pacific Region

:: [WHO and partners reflect on the outcomes of the Conference of Parties on climate change](#)

MANILA, 2 March 2016 – From 30 November to 11 December 2015, world leaders, climate change experts, representatives from the private sector and civil society organizations met in Paris to set a new standard for dealing with complex global problems posed by climate change. In all, 195 countries committed to limit the temperature increase to well below two degrees Celsius. This United Nations Conference of Parties on climate change, (COP 21) resulted in a major agreement and "a huge flame of hope."

UNAIDS [to 5 March 2016]

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

02 March 2016

[Countdown to the 2016 United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS](#)

GENEVA, 2 March 2016—In just under 100 days' time the 2016 United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS will take place in New York, United States of America. The meeting, being held from 8 to 10 June, will focus attention on the importance of accelerating the response to HIV over the next five years to set the world on course to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals...

... "We are at a critical moment in the response to the AIDS epidemic," said Mr Lykketoft. "All Member States must work together on a strong political declaration that will create the conditions needed to Fast-Track action and end the AIDS epidemic by 2030."

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNDP United Nations Development Programme [to 5 March 2016]

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

Mar 3, 2016

[Helen Clark: 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in Fragile States European Parliament](#)

[UNDP supports Costa Rica's pineapple sector to take critical steps towards sustainability](#)

Mar 3, 2016 -- One of the world's biggest pineapple producing countries – Costa Rica – has officially adopted a widely endorsed action plan to tackle serious social and environmental concerns in this critical sector.

[On World Wildlife Day UN Implores Urgent Action to End Poaching Crisis](#)

Mar 3, 2016 New York – As the world marks the third World Wildlife Day under the theme "The future of wildlife is in our hands", the United Nations announced today plans for a Global Coalition campaign to end the illegal trade in wildlife.

[Ending gender-based violence essential to achieving sustainable development](#)

Mar 2, 2016 Ending violence against women requires the development of integrated approaches and new forms of collaboration, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) today, calling it "one of the most pervasive human rights violations in the world".

[Helen Clark: Statement at High-Level Segment of the 31st Session of the Human Rights Council.](#)

Feb 29, 2016 Palais des Nations – Geneva

[Helen Clark: Speech at High-Level Panel Discussion at the UN Human Rights Council on human rights](#)

Feb 29, 2016 Palais des Nations - Geneva

UN Division for Sustainable Development [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

UN Statistical Commission :: UN Statistics Division [to 5 March 2016]

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

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

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

United Nations Statistical Commission- 47th Session (2016)

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

[47th session documents](#)

Third meeting of the IAEG-SDGs

30 MAR - 1 APR 2016 Mexico City

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

Meeting objectives

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

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme [to 5 March 2016]

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

04/03/2016

Wangari Maathai's Legacy Feted across Africa

03/03/2016

Boosting Women's Access to Natural Resources Critical for Africa's Development

On Africa Environment Day-Wangari Maathai Day, countries discuss ways to close the gender gap in natural resource management

03/03/2016

On World Wildlife Day UN Implores Urgent Action to End Poaching Crisis

Levels of elephant poaching in Africa remain alarmingly high, says CITES

UNISDR UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 5 March 2016]

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

News briefs 3 Mar 2016

Australia's disaster bill could skyrocket

Australia could see its annual disaster bill rise nearly fourfold by 2050, with the cost of social impacts such as stress-related illness playing a significant role, two reports commissioned by the Australian Business Roundtable for Disaster Resilience and Safer Communities warn.

UN DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNESCO [to 5 March 2016]

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

Selected Press Releases/News

3 March 2016

Women on the frontline, protecting World Heritage

n°78 - February 2016

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.

2 March 2016

New Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

The launch of an ambitious new three-year scientific assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services was announced on 28 February 2016 at the close of a week-long meeting of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The new global assessment, for completion by 2019, will measure progress towards meeting commitments under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, 2011-2020) and the recently adopted Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

29 February 2016

UNESCO and ICRC partner on the protection of culture heritage in the event of armed conflict

UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova and the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Peter Maurer, signed a partnership agreement paving the way for the two organizations to undertake joint projects to enhance the protection of cultural heritage in the event of armed conflict.

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 5 March 2016]

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

03/03/2016 –

On World Wildlife Day UN Implores Urgent Action to End Poaching Crisis

New York, 3 March 2016 - As the world marks the third World Wildlife Day under the theme "The future of wildlife is in our hands", the United Nations announced today plans for a Global Coalition campaign to end the illegal trade in wildlife.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on UN agencies, CITES and partners to provide a coordinated response to wildlife crime and spread the message that there should be zero tolerance for poaching.

"Time is running out to save some of the world's most iconic species," he said. "Much more needs to be done by key actors on all continents and across sectors to combat poaching and address both the demand and supply of illegal wildlife products."...

...The Global Coalition campaign announced today is a joint effort by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), CITES and other partners.

The campaign will call on individuals, businesses, civil society and academia to use their spheres of influence to end the illicit trade in wildlife and for governments to meet and scale up their recent commitments...

02/03/2016 –

[Statement on World Wildlife Day](#)

UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme [to 5 March 2016]

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

Posted March 2, 2016

[Government of Japan gives USD 15 million to UN-Habitat projects in Iraq](#)

Nairobi, 2 March 2016- United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) has received USD 15 million from the Government of Japan to implement two projects in Iraq: "Gender-sensitive Durable Shelter Support for Internally Displaced Persons in Iraq" and "Promoting Urban Recovery in Newly Liberated Areas in Iraq." The conflict with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has had profound humanitarian consequences throughout Iraq. More than three million Iraqis have fled their homes and three million more are living under ISIL control...

FAO Food & Agriculture Organization [to 5 March 2016]

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

4-03-2016

[Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean reaffirm their determination to fight hunger](#)

Hunger eradication, climate change adaptation, and strengthening family farming are the three priorities set for FAO by governments of Latin America and the Caribbean, during the agency's recent regional conference.

[FAO Food Price Index steady in February, palm oil rises](#)

The FAO Food Price Index was stable in February, as falling sugar and dairy prices offset a substantial jump in vegetable oil prices from the previous month. Averaging 150.2 points for the month, the FAO Food Price Index hit a new low since April 2009, down 14.5 percent from a year ago.

3-03-2016

[Latin America and the Caribbean on track to eradicate hunger and poverty](#)

"The world has entered a new era: the era of the Sustainable Development Goals," said FAO's Director General before representatives of the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean gathered here for the agency's biennial regional conference.

1-03-2016

For families in Central African Republic, food situation dire

Three years of conflict and ongoing displacements in the Central African Republic (CAR) continue to disrupt agriculture and severely constrain people's access to food, as they struggle with the effects of multiple poor harvests, disrupted markets and soaring prices, two UN agencies warned today.

29-02-2016

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

ILO International Labour Organization [to 5 March 2016]

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

Multilateral system

ILO Director-General welcomes the appointment of a High-level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth

04 March 2016

A new multilateral commission will address issues in global health labour markets. Among them, labour shortages and problems of access for populations in need.

International Women's Day

ILO to issue new report on the status of women in the world of work

01 March 2016

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization [to 5 March 2016]

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

29/2/16

ICAO and ACI to Enhance Cooperation on Airport Security

MONTREAL, 29 February 2016 – ICAO and Airports Council International (ACI) have announced a new agreement aimed at reinforcing cooperation on airport security.

The new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will see the UN aviation agency working more closely with ACI towards the objectives of ACI's Airport Excellence (APEX) in Security programme, including working together to deliver security reviews, technical assistance, programmes for airport personnel training and the enhancement of regional partnerships...

IMO International Maritime Organization [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

WMO World Meteorological Organization [to 5 March 2016]

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

4 March 2016

League of Arab States addresses climate-related hazards

The countries of the League of Arab States face significant challenges due to a variety of disaster risks, in particular those related to drought, floods, sand and dust storms, heat waves and tropical cyclones. Concerned about these challenges, representatives of Arab governments met in Amman, Jordan, on 28-29 February to review the current situation and consider a way forward.

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 5 March 2016]

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

Monday, 29 February 2016

UNIDO supports creation of Mesoamerican Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

VIENNA, 29 February 2016 - The General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System (SG-SICA) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) today announced a strategic partnership on the creation of a Mesoamerican Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (MCREEE)...

...Once established, the technical centre is expected to support the SICA Member States through targeted regional programmes and projects on sustainable energy in the areas of capacity development, knowledge management and exchange, technology innovation, policy and legislation, as well as investment and business promotion.

It will also contribute to better technical coordination, donor harmonisation, long-term sustainability of project interventions, as well as the documentation of lessons learned...

UNWTO World Tourism Organization [to 5 March 2016]

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

1 March 2016

UNWTO and China organize First World Conference on Tourism for Development

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the Government of the People's Republic of China will organize the First World Conference on Tourism for Development in Beijing on 18-21 May 2016. Under the theme 'Tourism for Peace and Development', the event aims to kick start a high level debate on the contribution of tourism to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

1 March 2016

UNWTO activities at ITB Berlin 2016 to focus on the Silk Road and Child Protection

On the 50th anniversary of ITB Berlin, UNWTO's activities at the fair will focus on the development of the Silk Road and the World Tourism Network on Child Protection. ITB will take place on 9-13 March.

ITU International Telecommunications Union [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity [to 5 March 2016]

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

2016-03-02

[Message of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Braulio Ferreira De Souza Dias, on the occasion of Africa Environment Day/Wangari Maathai Day](#)

2016-03-01

[Message of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, on the occasion of World Wildlife Day](#)

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USAID [to 5 March 2016]

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

March 3, 2016

[USAID Deploys Disaster Assistance Response Team to Ethiopia for Drought Response](#)

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Gayle Smith announced today that the United States is dispatching a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to Ethiopia to help avert a crisis triggered by El Niño. The drought follows successive poor rainy seasons and is one of the worst to hit the country in decades. The DART, an elite team of disaster experts, will provide technical assistance to the Government of Ethiopia, conduct humanitarian assessments, and coordinate with the Ethiopia Government and humanitarian organizations on the ground to bring vital humanitarian aid - including emergency food assistance, seeds to plant new crops, safe drinking water, and nutrition treatments - to those in need. Administrator Smith also announced \$4 million in drought-tolerant seeds that will help ensure that over 226,000 households can grow additional life-saving food in the coming months.

[United States Announces Additional \\$20 Million in Food Assistance for Iraq](#)

February 29, 2016

The United States is providing an additional \$20 million in emergency food assistance for Iraq to address the humanitarian crisis resulting from the ongoing conflict, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Stuart E. Jones announced today.

DFID [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

ECHO [to 5 March 2016]

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

04/03/2016

EU activates 'Refugee Facility' to help more than 800,000 Syrians in Turkey

The European Commission has today announced the first funding allocation to activate the 'Refugee Facility for Turkey', a multi-billion fund which will support humanitarian aid and development projects for refugees residing in Turkey. Of the total €...

London hosts major European disaster training exercise

03/03/2016

Firefighters, police officers and ambulance personnel from across London, as well as emergency teams from Italy, Hungary and Cyprus, participated this week in a four-day-long exercise aimed at reinforcing civil protection teams' preparedness for...

Commission proposes new Emergency Assistance instrument for faster crisis response within the EU

02/03/2016

Today the European Commission has proposed an 'Emergency Assistance Instrument' 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...

.....

African Union [to 5 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 03, 2016

Benin makes the Declaration to allow NGOs and individuals to directly access the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights

March 03, 2016

The African Union Commission marks the Black History month

March 01, 2016

Africa stands with the Saharawi people until attainment of liberation and independence

ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations [to 5 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 5 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]

[Back to Schengen: Commission proposes Roadmap for restoring fully functioning Schengen system](#)

Date: 04/03/2016

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 4 March 2016 Back to Schengen: Commission proposes Roadmap for restoring fully functioning Schengen system The Commission today presented a detailed Roadmap of the concrete steps needed to return order to the management of the EU's external and internal borders.

[EU announces first projects under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey: €95 million to be provided for immediate educational and humanitarian assistance](#)

Date: 04/03/2016

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 4 March 2016 Today the European Commission announced the first projects under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey, pledging €55 million to address the immediate needs of Syrian school-children in Turkey for access to formal education, and €40 million in humanitarian aid through the...

[Major increase in EU's contribution to improve global health](#)

Date: 03/03/2016

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 3 March 2016 EU increases its contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, will today announce the EU's contribution of €470 million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria...

[Commission proposes new Emergency Assistance instrument for faster crisis response within the EU](#)

Date: 02/03/2016

European - Press release Commission Brussels, 2 March 2016 As the refugee crisis continues to put pressure on many European Member States, the Commission proposes a faster way for support to be provided to tackle wide-ranging humanitarian crises within the EU.

[EU renews its support to Palestinian Authority and Palestinian refugees with a first 2016 assistance package totalling €252.5 million](#)

Date: 01/03/2016

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 1 March 2016 Today, the European Commission has approved a €252.5 million assistance package supporting the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian refugees. It is the first part of the EU's 2016 annual support package in favour of Palestine.

[Commission launches Action Plan to crack down on wildlife trafficking](#)

Date: 26/02/2016

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

OECD [to 5 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]

4-March-2016

[Spain needs to fulfil its commitment to reverse decline in development aid](#)

Spain's gradual economic recovery should enable it to start reversing the sharp decline in its development assistance since 2010 and focus more of its aid budget on the neediest countries, according to an OECD Review.

2-March-2016

[Consumer Prices, OECD - Updated: 2 March 2016](#)

OECD annual inflation up to 1.2% in January 2016

1-March-2016

[Environment & trade: do stricter policies hurt export competitiveness? OECD Chief Economist Catherine Mann - Thursday 10 March 2016, London School of Economics](#)

1-March-2016

[International trade statistics: trends in fourth quarter 2015](#)

Global trade slowdown continues in Q4 2015

Organization of American States (OAS) [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) [to 5 March 2016]

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

04/03/2016

[The OIC co-organizes a Regional Workshop on Advanced Technologies for Digital Inclusion and a Session on Inclusive Broadcasting with the ABU in Kuala Lumpur](#)

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation co-organized and supported convening of a session on Advanced Solutions for Inclusive Broadcasting at the Digital Broadcasting Symposium (DBS) 2016 and a Regional Training Workshop on Advanced Technologies for Digital Inclusion with the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) respectively on 3rd and 4th March 2016 at Istana Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. A two-member delegation from the OIC General Secretariat participated in these two events...

03/03/2016

[OIC Steering Committee on Health decides to expedite the implementation of the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action 2014-2023](#)

The 11th meeting of the OIC Steering Committee on Health (SCH) was held at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah on 02-03 March 2016. The meeting was attended by Mr. Hesham AL Khashan, Deputy Minister of Health, Saudi Arabia , senior health officials from Indonesia, Kazakhstan ,Malaysia ,Sudan , Saudi Arabia ,Turkey, Oman, high-level officials from the relevant

OIC institutions (COMSTECH, SESRIC, ISESCO, IDB) and international organizations (GAVI and UNFPA)...

Group of 77 [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNCTAD [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

World Trade Organisation [to 5 March 2016]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

IPU Inter-Parliamentary Union [to 5 March 2016]

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

29 FEBRUARY 2016

World MPs meet at UN to focus on ending discriminatory laws

An international meeting of MPs at UN Headquarters next month will focus on the ability of legislation to empower women and deliver sustainable development. The [event](#) on 15 March will look at the many forms of legal discrimination that persist around the world and how they hamper delivery of the sustainable development agenda. Participants will discuss the best routes to enacting, implementing and enforcing equality laws. Sessions will focus on the role of parliaments in ending discriminatory laws and the importance of women's political leadership and representation in legislative bodies. The event is being hosted by IPU and UN Women to coincide with the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the main global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. It will be webcast live via a link on the [IPU website](#). IPU is also organizing a panel discussion with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Office for North Africa of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, on 14 March on how UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security can be implemented in Arab countries. IPU is strongly committed to working for gender equality in the world's parliaments, empowering female MPs, and strengthening parliamentary work to achieve gender equality.

29 FEBRUARY 2016

African MPs propose fresh action on migration

Members of Parliament at a conference on African migration have recommended a series of steps to help ensure the maximum benefit migrants could provide to their countries of origin and destination. The MPs from 15 African countries proposed action, including safeguarding migrants' rights, combating racism and intolerance, supporting victims of forced migration, reducing the risk and impact of natural disasters and enforcing existing policies and laws on

migration. They also suggested reducing the cost of remittance transfers, boosting migrants' economic literacy, promoting equality of opportunity for men and women, and improving international cooperation, such as using existing African Union mechanisms fully and creating systems to exchange information to combat human trafficking. The benefits of educating people on the good practices and risks of migration were also highlighted. Participants at the event in Djibouti, organized by the African Parliamentary Union and supported by IPU and others, shared their experiences, examples of good practice, and views on the governance of migration in promoting the sustainable development agenda.

International Criminal Court (ICC) [to 5 March 2016]

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

04/03/2016

El Salvador ratifies the Rome Statute and the Kampala Amendments on war crimes and the crime of aggression

The President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute ("the Assembly"), Minister Sidiki Kaba ("the President") welcomed the deposit by the Republic of El Salvador, on 3 March 2016, of the instrument of accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and of the instruments of ratification of the amendments to the Rome Statute on war crimes and on the crime of aggression.

Case Information Sheet:: ICC - The Prosecutor v. Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi

Situation in the Republic of Mali

Destruction of cultural heritage

[see Week in Review above for additional details]

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World Bank [to 5 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 partners with Leonard Cheshire Disability to promote and protect inclusion for persons with disabilities

WASHINGTON, March 1, 2016 - The World Bank and Leonard Cheshire Disability are joining forces to put persons with disabilities at the heart of social and economic development, and to contribute...

Date: March 3, 2016 Type: Press Release Language: English

Caribbean countries renewing commitment to sustainable growth

New milestone for the Caribbean Growth Forum

We, the representatives of the countries engaged in the Caribbean Growth Forum initiative, reaffirm our commitment to shape a new agenda for sustainable and...

Date: March 1, 2016 Type: Press Release Language: English

Remarks by World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim at the Fragility Forum 2016

Date: March 1, 2016 Type: Speeches and Transcripts Language: English

IMF [to 5 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]

February 27, 2016

Press Release: IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde Calls for Bold, Broad and Accelerated Policy Actions

[see Week in Review above for full text]

African Development Bank Group [to 5 March 2016]

<http://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/>
04/03/2016

Agriculture Fast Track Fund makes a call for concept notes for project grants

The Agriculture Fast Track Fund (AFT), a multi-donor fund contributed by United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), and Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), and hosted and managed by the African Development Bank, has announced an Ongoing Call for Concept Notes for Project Grants.

Pilot city project to guide achievement of universal water supply and sanitation access in Zimbabwe

04/03/2016 - The implementation of an Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM) Masterplan will help Marondera city of Zimbabwe reach universal access to drinking water and sanitation by 2025. The design of Marondera's IUWM masterplan is supported by a EUR 2 million grant from the African Water Facility (AWF) with a view to ensuring sustainable management of water and sanitation services for the region's population.

African Legal Support Facility receives US \$22 million from the AfDB

01/03/2016 - The Africa Legal Support Facility (ALSF) welcomed the announcement from the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group Board of the release of US \$22 million to support legal advisory and capacity building initiatives in fragile states under the African Development Fund window.

Asian Development Bank [to 5 March 2016]

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

04 Mar 2016 | *News Release*

ADB Signs \$1 Billion Cofinancing Agreement with Eurasian Development Bank

MANILA, PHILIPPINES – The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a \$1 billion framework agreement with the Eurasian Development Bank (EDB) to expand their cofinancing activities in Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan.

Under the agreement, EDB will provide \$1 billion in cofinancing of ADB projects from 2016 to 2021...

29 Feb 2016 | *News Release*

ADB Backs First Climate Bond in Asia in Landmark \$225 Million Philippines Deal.

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

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:: INGO/Consortia/Joint Initiatives Watch

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

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

Amref Health Africa [to 5 March 2016]

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

Published: 02 March 2016 Denis

Amref Health Africa to Train Health Workers for First Lady's Mobile Clinics

Amref Health Africa will train over 400 health workers for mobile clinics donated by First Lady Margaret Kenyatta to counties across Kenya.

Aravind Eye Care System [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

BRAC [to 5 March 2016]

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

BRAC USA Newsletter - February 2016

Using tablets to learn: Bangladesh schools go digital

This month, the Bangladesh Prime Minister launched a new digital primary school curriculum for students to use in the classroom. Designed by BRAC and Save the Children, the curriculum is already being used in more than five thousand schools.

Partnering for global prosperity

On Feb. 4th, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, BRAC Founder and Chairperson, Chelsea Clinton, and Carolyn Miles, President and CEO of Save the Children, discussed dynamic partnerships that have spurred multi-sector action worldwide at the Clinton Global Initiative 2016 Winter Meeting. [Watch the session...](#)

CARE International [to 5 March 2016]

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

2nd Mar 2016

Band-Aid solutions to Cyclone Winston not enough, focus must be on building resilience

Fiji

As communities in Fiji start to pick up the pieces after the destruction left by Cyclone Winston, attention must also focus on improving people's resilience to climate shocks.

Casa Alianza [to 5 March 2016]

Covenant House [to 5 March 2016]

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

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

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Covenant House Illinois is Coming!

For the first time since 2000, Covenant House will be expanding our efforts to serve homeless, runaway and trafficked youth in another state.

Clubhouse International [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Danish Refugee Council [to 5 March 2016]

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

02.03.2016

A mine free world is possible

It is possible to fully implement the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, but it requires political will, commitment and sufficient resources, the Danish Demining Group (DDG) said in a statement today ahead of the High-level Panel on the Ottawa Convention held on March 2nd in Geneva.

Ahead of today's Pledging Conference in Geneva, leading global personalities who can generate a debate on the most efficient way to achieve a mine-free world are attending a High-level Panel. The Danish Demining Group is represented as the only operator in the panel and the message is clear.

"Back in the 1990s people spoke about years and not decades, for a complete ban on anti-personnel mines. This was perhaps a bit over the top, but now we once again have the momentum, and we're aiming at addressing State Party obligations under the Convention by 2025, before another decade goes by. We are reaching the last stretch and what is now needed is a credible commitment and enough resources to be channeled towards demining —then we can make it happen," says Tammy Hall, Head of the Danish Demining Group, who will be speaking at the panel – including, among others, former UN Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan, and the chair, Chile's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Heraldo Muñoz...

ECPAT [to 5 March 2016]

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

ECPAT e-Bulletin 2 March 2016

Lead story: Interagency Working Group adopts global terminology guidelines

Fountain House [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Handicap International [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Heifer International [to 5 March 2016]

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

Tuesday, Mar 1, 2016

Heifer International Weekly

HelpAge International [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

IRC International Rescue Committee [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

ICRC [to 5 March 2016]

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

Selected News Releases and Articles

Israel and the occupied territories: Facts and figures from 2015

In 2015, our work in Israel and the occupied territories focused on the protection of civilians, the welfare of detainees held in Israeli and Palestinian jails, and providing help for the most needy.

02-03-2016 | Article

Mauritius ratifies Arms Trade Treaty and Convention on Cluster Munitions

International humanitarian law. Mauritius ratifies the Arms Trade Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions

01-03-2016 | Article

Speech given by ICRC president at Human Rights Council

Speech given by Peter Maurer, president of the ICRC, at the 31st session of the Human Rights Council.

01-03-2016 | Article

Philippines: Fighting causes new displacements in Mindanao

Clashes between government security forces and armed groups in the Maguindanao province of Mindanao have continued into their fourth week, causing displacement and casualties.

01-03-2016 | News release

IRCT [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Islamic Relief [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières [to 5 March 2016]

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

Press Releases

MSF Response to Possible UN Action on Hospital Attacks

March 04, 2016

"A resolution is a welcome step but only if it shows an unwavering commitment to ensuring that health workers, facilities, and patients never come under attack. Several permanent members of the United Nations Security Council have over recent months been engaged in, or have supported, military activities resulting in destruction of health facilities. Therefore, any new resolution will require states in the security council, notably the permanent members, to lead by example.

Press release

South Sudan: Looting of Pibor Medical Center Leaves Thousands Without Care

March 04, 2016

JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN/BRUSSELS— Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) strongly condemns the looting of its medical center in Pibor, in South Sudan's Jonglei State, during and after heavy fighting from February 23 to 25 that also destroyed large sections of the town, leaving thousands of people in need of aid.

Press release

MSF Condemns Attack on Protection of Civilians Site in Malakal, South Sudan

March 02, 2016

Thousands of displaced people need protection and aid after widespread destruction and killings.

Press release

Papua New Guinea: "Return to Abuser" Report Examines Shocking Levels of Family and Sexual Violence

March 01, 2016

PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA/BERLIN—A new report from Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) examines the shocking levels of family and sexual violence in Papua New Guinea, which are among the highest in the world outside of conflict zones.

Mercy Corps [to 5 March 2016]

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

Syria, March 3, 2016

National Press Club Newsmaker: "Can We Still Save Lives in Syria?"

Remarks of Neal Keny-Guyer, Chief Executive Officer

Full audio from the event can be found here.

[Excerpt]

Washington, DC: Thank you, Tommy. Thank you all for coming today, and thank you to the National Press Club Newsmaker committee for hosting this important conversation.

I am Neal Keny-Guyer, CEO of Mercy Corps. Mercy Corps is a global organization, 5,000 strong, living and working in more than 40 countries around the world. We have been working inside Syria continuously for more than a decade. Since the conflict began, we have built a huge aid operation in Syria, second only to the United Nations, serving 570,000 people each month.

I have two main points I want to make today:

First. The agreement to cease hostilities - while imperfect - represents important progress and we should seize every opportunity to make it work - on all fronts, humanitarian and diplomatic. It has been 110 days since the talks in Vienna, and 748 days - more than two years - since the Geneva II talks. It's incumbent on all of us to double-down and turn this agreement into a sustainable cease-fire and, ultimately, a lasting peace. For us in the humanitarian community, this means doing everything we can to aggressively push humanitarian assistance into the most besieged and war-affected areas, while reminding everyone that this level of suffering cannot and must not continue.

Second. Unless we in the global community can turn this cessation into a durable cease-fire, we will continue to fail the people of Syria. The fact is, despite diplomatic progress, an end to the misery is still far away...

Operation Smile [to 5 March 2016]

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

Program Schedule

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

OXFAM [to 5 March 2016]

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

3 March 2016

Oxfam pays tribute to land activist, Berta Cáceres, and calls for justice

Oxfam vehemently condemns the brutal assassination of the Honduran Indigenous and environmental leader, Berta Cáceres, in her home.

2 March 2016

2.5 billion people at risk of hunger and poverty if land rights are not protected

Indigenous Peoples and local communities protect half the world's land, but formally own just 10 percent, according to a report released today by a global alliance of NGOs.

The report, "Common Ground: Securing Land Rights and Safeguarding the Earth," is published by the International Land Coalition (ILC), Oxfam, and the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI). Together with more than 300 organizations and communities from around the world, they have launched the Land Rights Now campaign, calling for the amount of land these communities own to double by 2020.

Mike Taylor, ILC's Director, said: "Billions of people around the world depend on their land to live; if we do not fight to secure this essential human right, we are turning our backs on them, their cultures, and the environment. The lives of those who depend on community-owned land for their homes and livelihoods are at stake."

The report and the Land Rights Now campaign highlight the experiences of people who depend on land for their livelihoods as well as their cultural identity...

Norwegian Refugee Council [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Pact [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Partners In Health [to 5 March 2016]

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

Mar 01, 2016

Protecting Newborns against HIV in Russia

PIH launched a new program in Tomsk, Russia, to help HIV-positive mothers give birth to healthy babies free of the disease. [Read More](#) ►

PATH [to 5 March 2016]

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

Press release | March 03, 2016

Woman's Condom achieves WHO/UNFPA prequalification

An important step toward increasing global access to next-generation female condom
February 2016

Press release | February 26, 2016

Leading health innovator PATH partners with Johnson & Johnson Vietnam to reduce childhood tuberculosis

New initiative builds on PATH's longstanding commitment to support Vietnam's tuberculosis control efforts

Plan International [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Save The Children [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

SOS-Kinderdorf International [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Tostan [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Women for Women International [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

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ChildFund Alliance [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

CONCORD [to 5 March 2016]

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

[European NGO confederation for relief and development]

No new digest content identified.

Disasters Emergency Committee [to 5 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 5 March 2016]

<http://theelders.org/news-media>
No new digest content identified.

END Fund [to 5 March 2016]

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

Press Releases and Major Announcements

Engaging Noteworthy Dialogue

We are excited to share the February E.N.D. roundup, which features a glimpse of what inspires climbers to join Summit to See the END, a look at India's tremendous success on their second annual national deworming day campaign, and the latest Listening Tour story of finding hope - even in the most unlikely of times.

Gavi [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Global Fund [to 5 March 2016]

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

News

Major Pledge by European Commission Signals Strong Replenishment for the Global Fund

03 March 2016

BRUSSELS – The European Commission announced a pledge of €470 million for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for the three-year period beginning in 2017, an increase of €100 million, or 27 percent, over their previous contribution.

The pledge signals the European Commission's strong leadership in global health, and marked the first pledge for the Global Fund's Fifth Replenishment, a funding cycle covering the years 2017 through 2019.

"One of the lessons of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa is the clear need to strengthen health systems in developing countries, so that infectious diseases can be controlled for good," said Neven Mimica, EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development.

"With €470 million, the EU's contribution to the Global Fund will contribute to achieve our shared ambition to save 8 million more lives and avert up to 300 million infections," Commissioner Mimica said. "I call on others to raise their contributions so that more resilient systems can be built, and the special needs of women and girls and those of key affected populations be better served."...

Hilton Prize Coalition [to 5 March 2016]

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

An Alliance of Hilton Prize Recipients

Growing the Next Generation of Leaders: The Hilton Prize Coalition Fellows Program

Posted March 4, 2016

The Hilton Prize Coalition Fellows Program is providing emerging leaders with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the humanitarian and development sectors through placements

with Coalition member organizations. Individual Organization Fellows work exclusively with one Coalition member, while Collaborative Fellows work alongside multiple Coalition members for collective impact.

InterAction [to 5 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 5 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 5 March 2016]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

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Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

CHS Alliance [to 5 March 2016]

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

02/03/2016

[World Humanitarian Summit global consultation report recommends applying the Core Humanitarian Standard](#)

The World Humanitarian Summit has published the final report on its Global Consultation which engaged with more than 23,000 people in over 150 countries over 18 months, concluding in Geneva from 14 to 16 October 2015.

01/03/2016

UNICEF brings a practical approach to quality and accountability at cluster and collective level

Following an invitation from UNICEF in late 2015, the CHS Alliance has joined the steering committee for an OFDA funded project aiming to promote better integration of Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) and more people-centred approaches to humanitarian actions in the work of global and country clusters and other coordination mechanisms.

EHLRA/R2HC [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

The Sphere Project [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP) [to 5 March 2016]

<https://phap.org/>

29 February 2016

Important steps by PHAP members towards new strategic plan

The International Association of Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP) has since its founding in 2010 established itself as the primary individual-based professional association bringing together all parts of the humanitarian sector.

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Center for Global Development [to 5 March 2016]

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

Selected Press Releases, Blog Posts, Publications

Statement of the Honorable Clay Lowery Before the Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing on "Helping the Developing World Fight Terror Finance"

3/3/16

Clay Lowery

On March 1, 2016, CGD visiting fellow Clay Lowery testified before the House Financial Services Committee's Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Finance at a hearing titled "Helping the Developing World Fight Terror Finance."

Assessing the US Feed the Future Initiative: A New Approach to Food Security?

3/1/16

Kimberly Ann Elliott and Casey Dunning

Data on Feed the Future's results are just becoming available, and there is strikingly little independent analysis of the program. While we cannot yet assess the impact on poverty alleviation or improved nutrition, we can assess how Feed the Future performs against its stated objective of offering a new, more effective approach to food security. The integrated agriculture and nutrition approach emphasizes increased selectivity in aid allocations along with country ownership and capacity building to increase the effectiveness and sustainability of the initiative's impacts. We find the initiative has led to an increase in the share of overall US assistance for agriculture and nutrition, and that the Obama administration has increasingly concentrated this aid in selected focus countries.

<http://www.cgdev.org/publication/assessing-us-feed-future-initiative-new-approach-food-security>

ODI [to 5 March 2016]

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

Research reports and studies | March 2016

Women's work: mothers, children and the global childcare crisis

Emma Samman, Elizabeth Presler-Marshall and Nicola Jones with Tanvi Bhatkal, Claire Melamed, Maria Stavropoulou and John Wallace

New ODI research uncovers a hidden childcare crisis, with mothers bearing the burden – and the poorest children paying the price.

Urban Institute [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

World Economic Forum [to 5 March 2016]

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

News 2 Mar 2016

Geopolitical conflicts, cybersecurity and changes in energy infrastructure present rising challenges and new opportunities

:: The Global Energy Architecture Performance Index Report 2016, launched today, ranks 126 countries on their ability to deliver secure, affordable and sustainable energy

:: Findings reveal that all countries can improve rankings and that major economies – with the exception of France - struggle to take the lead, as transitions take longer to unfold owing to the size and complexity of their energy systems

:: Three key trends are shaping the energy transition: Infrastructure and resilience; digital disruption and a new global energy security order

:: Accelerating changes in technology, energy markets and geopolitics are creating new opportunities and also threats to energy security

Geneva, Switzerland, 2 March 2016 – Today the World Economic Forum released the fourth edition of the Global Energy Architecture Performance Index Report. The 2016 report puts the spotlight on energy security and access. Evolution in this area is being shaped by the fast transition underway in the energy sector, with several elements playing important roles, such as the fast growth of distributed renewable energy and recent developments in digital technology and international security.

The annual index provides a benchmark to help countries address energy transformation challenges and identify opportunities across their energy systems. This year's study explores the energy architecture of 126 countries based on their ability to provide energy access across three dimensions of the "energy triangle" – affordability, environmental sustainability, security and access...

Explore the [full report](#)

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:: Foundation/Major Donor Watch

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

Aga Khan Foundation [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

BMGF - Gates Foundation [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Annie E. Casey Foundation [to 5 March 2016]

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

Posted March 1, 2016

[Casey Foundation Announces Tenth Class of Children and Family Fellows](#)

Outstanding human service and social change leaders from 13 states will develop results-based leadership skills to build bright futures for children and families.

Clinton Foundation [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Ford Foundation [to 5 March 2016]

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

News

— 3 March 2016

[Ford mourns the loss of Berta Cáceres](#)

"They fear us because we are fearless." - Berta Cáceres

It is with great sadness that we learned of the assassination of Berta Cáceres. As a grantee she was a courageous advocate on the frontlines of social change. We honor her life and the

work she did as an indigenous activist and the leader of the Civic Council of Popular Indigenous Organizations of Honduras.

News

— 29 February 2016

[Executives' Alliance foundation leaders "ban the box"](#)

Network of foundations issues call to action for all U.S. philanthropic institutions to adopt fair chance hiring measures.

GHIT Fund [to 5 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 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Grameen Foundation [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

IKEA Foundation [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

HHMI - Howard Hughes Medical Institute [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Kellogg Foundation [to 5 March 2016]

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

March 4, 2016

[Executives' Alliance for Men and Boys of Color leads initiative to "ban the box"](#)

As part of the Executives' Alliance for Men and Boys of Color, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation joins 41 peer foundations in "banning the box" and adopting fair hiring practices through eliminating questions about criminal convictions on employment applications.

March 1, 2016

[La June Montgomery Tabron discusses the wealth gap for families of color in the Stanford Social Innovation Review](#)

In a [recent blog for the Stanford Social Innovation Review](#), WKKF President and CEO La June Montgomery Tabron addresses the wealth gap for families of color, as well as the steps that need to be taken to close the gap. She writes that "we must align programs and policies to better support the financial strength and security of families of color today, while keeping sight of the long-term benefits for all of creating a truly inclusive economy."

MacArthur Foundation [to 5 March 2016]

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

March 5, 2016

[Mapping Philanthropy and Impact Investing Opportunities in India](#)

[content from link not active at inquiry]

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 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Open Society Foundation [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

David and Lucile Packard Foundation [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Pew Charitable Trusts [to 5 March 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Rockefeller Foundation [to 5 March 2016]
<http://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/newsroom>
No new digest content identified.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [to 5 March 2016]
<http://www.rwjf.org/en/about-rwjf/newsroom/news-releases.html>
Mon Feb 29 00:01:00 EST 2016

Poll Finds Majority of Americans View Their Health Care Experiences Positively

While the majority of Americans are satisfied with the health care they receive, but many still experience significant problems with health care costs, insurance coverage, and accessing care when they need it.

Wellcome Trust [to 5 March 2016]
<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/News/2016/index.htm>
No new digest content identified.

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:: Journal Watch

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

American Journal of Disaster Medicine

Summer 2015, Volume 10, Number 3

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Preventive Medicine

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

<http://www.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>

Perspective Piece

Travel Vaccines Enter the Digital Age: Creating a Virtual Immunization Record

Kumanan Wilson, Katherine M. Atkinson, and Cameron P. Bell

Am J Trop Med Hyg 2016 94:485-488; Published online December 28, 2015,

doi:10.4269/ajtmh.15-0510

Abstract

At present, proof of immunization against diseases such as yellow fever is required at some international borders in concordance with the International Health Regulations. The current standard, the International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis (ICVP), has limitations as a paper record including the possibility of being illegible, misplaced, or damaged. We believe that a complementary, digital record would offer advantages to public health and travelers alike. These include enhanced availability and reliability, potential to include lot specific information, and integration with immunization information systems. Challenges exist in implementation, particularly pertaining to verification at border crossings. We describe a potential course for the development and implementation of a digital ICVP record.

Articles

Community Attitudes Toward Mass Drug Administration for Control and Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases After the 2014 Outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease in Lofa County, Liberia

Joshua Bogus, Lincoln Gankpala, Kerstin Fischer, Alison Krentel, Gary J. Weil, Peter U. Fischer, Karsor Kollie, and Fatorma K. Bolay

Am J Trop Med Hyg 2016 94:497-503; Published online December 14, 2015,

doi:10.4269/ajtmh.15-0591

Abstract

The recent outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) interrupted mass drug administration (MDA) programs to control and eliminate neglected tropical diseases in Liberia. MDA programs treat entire communities with medication regardless of infection status to interrupt transmission and eliminate lymphatic filariasis and onchocerciasis. Following reports of hostilities toward health workers and fear that they might be spreading EVD, it was important to determine whether attitudes toward MDA might have changed after the outbreak. We surveyed 140 community leaders from 32 villages in Lofa County, Liberia, that had previously participated in MDA and are located in an area that was an early epicenter of the EVD outbreak. Survey respondents reported a high degree of community trust in the MDA program, and 97% thought their communities were ready to resume MDA. However, respondents predicted that fewer people would comply with MDA after the EVD epidemic than before. The survey also uncovered fears in the community that EVD and MDA might be linked. Respondents suggested that MDA programs emphasize to people that the medications are identical to those previously distributed and that MDA programs have nothing to do with EVD.

Articles

Diarrhea Prevalence, Care, and Risk Factors Among Poor Children Under 5 Years of Age in Mesoamerica

Danny V. Colombara, Bernardo Hernández, Claire R. McNellan, Sima S. Desai, Marielle C. Gagnier, Annie Haakenstad, Casey Johanns, Erin B. Palmisano, Diego Ríos-Zertuche, Alexandra Schaefer, Paola Zúñiga-Brenes, Nicholas Zyznieuski, Emma Iriarte, and Ali H. Mokdad
Am J Trop Med Hyg 2016 94:544-552; Published online January 19, 2016,
doi:10.4269/ajtmh.15-0750

Abstract

Care practices and risk factors for diarrhea among impoverished communities across Mesoamerica are unknown. Using Salud Mesoamérica Initiative baseline data, collected 2011–2013, we assessed the prevalence of diarrhea, adherence to evidence-based treatment guidelines, and potential diarrhea correlates in poor and indigenous communities across Mesoamerica. This study surveyed 14,500 children under 5 years of age in poor areas of El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico (Chiapas State), Nicaragua, and Panama. We compared diarrhea prevalence and treatment modalities using χ^2 tests and used multivariable Poisson regression models to calculate adjusted risk ratios (aRRs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for potential correlates of diarrhea. The 2-week point prevalence of diarrhea was 13% overall, with significant differences between countries ($P < 0.05$). Approximately one-third of diarrheal children were given oral rehydration solution and less than 3% were given zinc. Approximately 18% were given much less to drink than usual or nothing to drink at all. Antimotility medication was given to 17% of diarrheal children, while antibiotics were inappropriately given to 36%. In a multivariable regression model, compared with children 0–5 months, those 6–23 months had a 49% increased risk for diarrhea (aRR = 1.49, 95% CI = 1.15, 1.95). Our results call for programs to examine and remedy low adherence to evidence-based treatment guidelines.

Annals of Internal Medicine

1 March 2016, Vol. 164. No. 5

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

Ideas and Opinions

Interrupting Ebola Transmission in Liberia Through Community-Based Initiatives

Mosoka Fallah, PhD, MPH; Bernice Dahn, MD, MPH; Tolbert G. Nyenswah, Esq, MPH; Moses Massaquoi, MD, MPH; Laura A. Skrip, MPH; Dan Yamin, PhD; Martial Ndeffo Mbah, PhD; Netty Joe, MD; Siedoh Freeman, MD; Thomas Harris, BA; Zinnah Benson, BBA; and Alison P. Galvani, PhD

In Liberia, programs based on community engagement were effective in controlling the Ebola virus disease epidemic. This article details the community-based initiative that was instrumental to the shift in transmission dynamics.

BMC Health Services Research

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

(Accessed 5 March 2016)

Research article

Service user and caregiver involvement in mental health system strengthening in low- and middle-income countries: systematic review

Maya Semrau, Heidi Lempp, Roxanne Keynejad, Sara Evans-Lacko, James Mugisha, Shoba Raja, Jagannath Lamichhane, Atalay Alem, Graham Thornicroft and Charlotte Hanlon

Published on: 1 March 2016

Abstract

Background

The involvement of mental health service users and their caregivers in health system policy and planning, service monitoring and research can contribute to mental health system strengthening, but as yet there have been very few efforts to do so in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Methods

This systematic review examined the evidence and experience of service user and caregiver involvement in mental health system strengthening, as well as models of best practice for evaluation of capacity-building activities that facilitate their greater participation. Both the peer-reviewed and the grey literature were included in the review, which were identified through database searches (MEDLINE, Embase, PsycINFO, Web of Knowledge, Web of Science, Scopus, CINAHL, LILACS, SciELO, Google Scholar and Cochrane), as well as hand-searching of reference lists and the internet, and a snowballing process of contacting experts active in the area. This review included any kind of study design that described or evaluated service user, family or caregiver (though not community) involvement in LMICs (including service users with intellectual disabilities, dementia, or child and adolescent mental health problems) and that were relevant to mental health system strengthening across five categories. Data were extracted and summarised as a narrative review.

Results

Twenty papers matched the inclusion criteria. Overall, the review found that although there were examples of service user and caregiver involvement in mental health system strengthening in numerous countries, there was a lack of high-quality research and a weak evidence base for the work that was being conducted across countries. However, there was some emerging research on the development of policies and strategies, including advocacy work, and to a lesser extent the development of services, service monitoring and evaluation, with most service user involvement having taken place within advocacy and service delivery. Research was scarce within the other health system strengthening areas.

Conclusions

Further research on service user and caregiver involvement in mental health system strengthening in LMICs is recommended, in particular research that includes more rigorous evaluation. A series of specific recommendations are provided based on the review.

BMC Infectious Diseases

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

(Accessed 5 March 2016)

Debate

Implications of prioritizing HIV cure: new momentum to overcome old challenges in HIV

Curing HIV is a new strategic priority for several major AIDS organizations. In step with this new priority, HIV cure research and related programs are advancing in low, middle, and high-income country settings...

Joseph D. Tucker, Adam Gilbertson, Ying-Ru Lo and Marco Vitória

BMC Infectious Diseases 2016 16:109

Published on: 3 March 2016

BMC Medical Ethics

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmedethics/content>
(Accessed 5 March 2016)
[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Medicine

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmed/content>
(Accessed 5 March 2016)
[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcpregnancychildbirth/content>
(Accessed 5 March 2016)
[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Public Health

<http://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles>
(Accessed 5 March 2016)

Research article

[The impact of armed conflict on adolescent transitions: a systematic review of quantitative research on age of sexual debut, first marriage and first birth in young women under the age of 20 years](#)

Sarah Neal, Nicole Stone and Roger Ingham

BMC Public Health 2016 16:225

Published on: 4 March 2016

Abstract

Background

Young women in conflict-affected regions are at risk of a number of adverse outcomes as a result of violence, economic deterioration and the breakdown of community structures and services. This paper presents the findings of a systematic review of quantitative literature reporting how key sexual and reproductive health (SRH) outcomes among young women under the age of 20 years are affected by exposure to armed conflict; namely, sexual debut, first marriage and first birth. Increases in these outcomes among young women are all associated with potential negative public health consequences. It also examines and documents possible causal pathways for any changes seen.

Methods

To fit with our inclusion criteria, all reviewed studies included outcomes for comparable populations not exposed to conflict either temporally or spatially. A total of 19 studies with results from 21 countries or territories met our inclusion criteria; seven presented findings on marriage, four on fertility and eight on both of these outcomes. Only one study reporting on sexual debut met our criteria.

Results

Findings show clear evidence of both declines and increases in marriage and childbirth among young women in a range of conflict-affected settings. Several studies that showed increases in marriage below the age of 20 years reported that such increases were concentrated in the younger teenagers. Trends in fertility were predominantly driven by marriage patterns.

Suggested causal pathways for the changes observed could be grouped into three categories: involuntary, gender and psycho-social and economic and material factors.

Conclusion

The review reveals a paucity of literature on the impact of conflict on SRH outcomes of young women. Further quantitative and qualitative studies are needed to explore how conflict influences SRH events in young women over both the short- and longer-term.

Research article

Maternal profiles and social determinants of malnutrition and the MDGs: What have we learnt?

Edem M. A. Tette, Eric K. Sifah, Edmund T. Nartey, Peter Nuro-Ameyaw, Pricilla Tete-Donkor and Richard B. Biritwum

BMC Public Health 2016 16:214

Published on: 2 March 2016

Abstract

Background

Maternal socio-demographic and health profiles are important determinants of malnutrition in children. In the 1990s, malnutrition was associated with low-birth-weight, young mothers and low maternal socio-economic status at Princess Marie Louise Children's Hospital (PML). It is not known how this has changed by efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. We examined socio-demographic and health profiles of mothers of children with acute malnutrition and those without the condition to identify risk factors for malnutrition and focus on preventive efforts.

Methods

An unmatched case-control study was conducted in 2013 at PML, the largest facility for treating malnourished children in Ghana in 2013. Mothers of children with moderate and severe acute malnutrition were compared with mothers of well-nourished children. Weight-for-height was used to classify malnutrition. Record forms and a semi-structured questionnaire were used for data collection. An analysis was done with Stata 11.0 software.

Results

Altogether, 371 mothers were studied consisting of 182 mothers of malnourished children and 189 mothers of well-nourished children. Mothers of malnourished children were more likely to be unmarried or cohabiting, have lower family incomes, HIV infection and chronic disease. They were less likely to stay with or provide alternative care for their child. Awareness and use of social services, health insurance and a cash transfer programme were low. A remarkable reduction in the number of malnourished children occurred when families earned more than \$250 USD a month. Over-nutrition was present in both groups of mothers.

Conclusion

Low family income, unmarried status and type of child care were the main social determinants of malnutrition. There appears to be a reduction in the number of other poor socio-demographic characteristics in both the study and control groups compared to results from a previous study at the same centre, probably because of efforts toward attaining the MDGs. These findings suggest that prevention and optimum management need to involve multidisciplinary teams consisting of health professionals, social workers and/or key workers to enable families at risk to access social care and social protection interventions (MDG 1). This will make the management of malnutrition more effective, prevent relapse, protect the next child and address maternal over-nutrition.

BMC Research Notes

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

(Accessed 5 March 2016)

Research Article

Factors influencing willingness to participate in new drug trial studies: a study among parents whose children were recruited into these trials in northern Ghana

James Akazili, Samuel Chatio, Fabian Sebastian Achana, Abraham Oduro, Edmund W. Kanmiki and Frank Baiden

BMC Research Notes 2016 9:139

Published on: 3 March 2016

Abstract

Background

During the last decade, the number of clinical trials conducted in sub-Saharan Africa has increased significantly which has helped to address priority health problems in the region. Navrongo health research centre since it was established in 1989, has conducted several trial studies including rectal artesunate trial in the Kassena-Nankana districts. However, there is little evidence-based for assessing the impact of new drug trials. This study explored factors that motivate parents to allow their children to participate in new drug trials in northern Ghana.

Method

The study used both quantitative and qualitative methods. The participants were randomly selected from among parents whose children were enrolled in a new drug trial conducted in the Kassena-Nankana districts between 2000 and 2003. QSR Nvivo 9 software was used to code the qualitative data into themes before analysis while STATA software Version 11.2© was used to analyze the quantitative data.

Results

The results showed that majority (95.9 %) of the parents were willing to allow their children to be enrolled in future new drug trials. The main factors motivating their willingness to allow their children to be enrolled in these trials were quality of health care services offered to trial participants (92.9 %), detail medical examination (90.8 %), promptness of care provided (94.4 %) and quality of drugs (91.9 %). Other factors mentioned included disease prevention (99.5 %) and improved living standard (96.1 %). Parents reported that the conduct of these trials had reduced the frequency of disease occurrences in the communities because of the quality of health care services provided to the children recruited into these trial studies.

Conclusion

Though the implementation of clinical trials in the study area is believed to have positive impact on health status of people particularly trial participants, measures should however be taken to address safety and likely side effects of new drugs given to trial participants during these trial studies.

BMC Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation

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

(Accessed 5 March 2016)

[No new content]

BMJ Open

2016, Volume 6, Issue 3
<http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/current>
[New issue; No new relevant content identified]

British Medical Journal

5 March 2016 (vol 352, issue 8047)
<http://www.bmj.com/content/352/8047>
[No new relevant content identified]

Brown Journal of World Affairs

Volume XXI Issue 1 Fall–Winter 2014
<http://brown.edu/initiatives/journal-world-affairs/>
[Reviewed earlier]

Bulletin of the World Health Organization

Volume 94, Number 3, March 2016, 157-232
<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/94/3/en/>
EDITORIALS

[Data sharing in public health emergencies: a call to researchers](#)

Christopher Dye, Kidist Bartolomeos, Vasee Moorthy & Marie Paule Kieny
<http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.16.170860>

[Measuring quality-of-care in the context of sustainable development goal 3: a call for papers](#)

Yoko Akachi, Finn Tarp, Edward Kelley, Tony Addison & Margaret E Kruk
<http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.16.170605>

Research

[Size and distribution of the global volume of surgery in 2012](#)

Thomas G Weiser, Alex B Haynes, George Molina, Stuart R Lipsitz, Micaela M Esquivel, Tarsicio Uribe-Leitz, Rui Fu, Tej Azad, Tiffany E Chao, William R Berry & Atul A Gawande
<http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.15.159293>

Abstract

Objective

To estimate global surgical volume in 2012 and compare it with estimates from 2004.

Methods

For the 194 Member States of the World Health Organization, we searched PubMed for studies and contacted key informants for reports on surgical volumes between 2005 and 2012. We obtained data on population and total health expenditure per capita for 2012 and categorized Member States as very-low, low, middle and high expenditure. Data on caesarean delivery were obtained from validated statistical reports. For Member States without recorded surgical data, we estimated volumes by multiple imputation using data on total health expenditure. We estimated caesarean deliveries as a proportion of all surgery.

Findings

We identified 66 Member States reporting surgical data. We estimated that 312.9 million operations (95% confidence interval, CI: 266.2–359.5) took place in 2012, an increase from the 2004 estimate of 226.4 million operations. Only 6.3% (95% CI: 1.7–22.9) and 23.1% (95% CI: 14.8–36.7) of operations took place in very-low- and low-expenditure Member States representing 36.8% (2573 million people) and 34.2% (2393 million people) of the global population of 7001 million people, respectively. Caesarean deliveries comprised 29.6% (5.8/19.6 million operations; 95% CI: 9.7–91.7) of the total surgical volume in very-low-expenditure Member States, but only 2.7% (5.1/187.0 million operations; 95% CI: 2.2–3.4) in high-expenditure Member States.

Conclusion

Surgical volume is large and growing, with caesarean delivery comprising nearly a third of operations in most resource-poor settings. Nonetheless, there remains disparity in the provision of surgical services globally.

POLICY & PRACTICE

Psychosocial effects of an Ebola outbreak at individual, community and international levels

Tine Van Bortel, Anoma Basnayake, Fatou Wurie, Musu Jambai, Alimamy Sultan Koroma, Andrew T Muana, Katrina Hann, Julian Eaton, Steven Martin & Laura B Nellums
<http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.15.158543>

PERSPECTIVES

A new global agenda for nutrition and health: the importance of agriculture and food systems

Andrew D Jones & Gebisa Ejeta
<http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.15.164509>

Disability, noncommunicable disease and health information

Nicola C Richards, Hebe N Gouda, Jo Durham, Rasika Rampatige, Anna Rodney & Maxine Whittaker
<http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.15.156869>

Complexity

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

Conflict and Health

<http://www.conflictandhealth.com/>
[Accessed 5 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>

RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS

Pneumococcal vaccination

Cillóniz, Catia; Amaro, Rosanel; Torres, Antoni

Abstract

Purpose of review: Pneumococcal diseases (invasive diseases, pneumonia, otitis media, and sinusitis) are among the most frequent preventable infectious diseases carrying a very high morbidity and case fatality rate worldwide. Pneumococcal vaccination is a key element to reduce the global burden of the disease in children and adult population. Our aim is to discuss current knowledge of the epidemiology of pneumococcal disease and pneumococcal vaccines.

Recent findings:

After the introduction of conjugate vaccines (PCV7 and PCV13), rates of pneumococcal diseases because of vaccine serotypes have decreased considerably among children in the vaccine target and among nonvaccinated children and adults. Results of the Community-Acquired Pneumonia Immunization Trial in Adults demonstrated 45.6% efficacy of PCV13 against the first episode of pneumonia, 45% against first-episode nonbacteremic pneumococcal pneumonia, and 75% against the first episode of invasive pneumococcal diseases in adults older than 65 years.

Recommendations for pneumococcal vaccination have changed recently in both the United States and Europe.

Summary:

The changing epidemiology of pneumococcal diseases should be closely investigated to assess the effectiveness and the usefulness of the current vaccination policies, and to identify future directions for preventing pneumococcal infections.

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>

EDITORIAL

Future Infectious Disease Outbreaks: Ethics of Emergency Access to Unregistered Medical Interventions and Clinical Trial Designs (pages 2–3)

Udo Schuklenk

Article first published online: 19 JAN 2016 | DOI: 10.1111/dewb.12102

[No abstract]

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

Managing Ethical Challenges to Mental Health Research in Post-Conflict Settings (pages 15–28)

Anna Chiumento, Muhammad Naseem Khan, Atif Rahman and Lucy Frith

Article first published online: 8 JAN 2015 | DOI: 10.1111/dewb.12076

Abstract

Recently the World Health Organization (WHO) has highlighted the need to strengthen mental health systems following emergencies, including natural and manmade disasters. Mental health services need to be informed by culturally attuned evidence that is developed through research. Therefore, there is an urgent need to establish rigorous ethical research practice to underpin the evidence-base for mental health services delivered during and following emergencies.

Against Permitted Exploitation in Developing World Research Agreements (pages 36–44)

Danielle M. Wenner

Article first published online: 17 FEB 2015 | DOI: 10.1111/dewb.12081

Abstract

This paper examines the moral force of exploitation in developing world research agreements. Taking for granted that some clinical research which is conducted in the developing world but funded by developed world sponsors is exploitative, it asks whether a third party would be morally justified in enforcing limits on research agreements in order to ensure more fair and less exploitative outcomes. This question is particularly relevant when such exploitative transactions are entered into voluntarily by all relevant parties, and both research sponsors and host communities benefit from the resulting agreements. I show that defenders of the claim that exploitation ought to be permitted rely on a mischaracterization of certain forms of interference as unjustly paternalistic and two dubious empirical assumptions about the results of regulation. The view I put forward is that by evaluating a system of constraints on international research agreements, rather than individual transaction-level interference, we can better assess the alternatives to permitting exploitative research agreements.

Maintaining Research Integrity While Balancing Cultural Sensitivity: A Case Study and Lessons From the Field (pages 55–60)

Rebekah Sibbald, Bethina Loiseau, Benedict Darren, Salem A. Raman, Helen Dimaras and Lawrence C. Loh

Article first published online: 11 SEP 2015 | DOI: 10.1111/dewb.12089

Abstract

Contemporary emphasis on creating culturally relevant and context specific knowledge increasingly drives researchers to conduct their work in settings outside their home country. This often requires researchers to build relationships with various stakeholders who may have a vested interest in the research. This case study examines the tension between relationship development with stakeholders and maintaining study integrity, in the context of potential harms, data credibility and cultural sensitivity. We describe an ethical breach in the conduct of global health research by arising from the ad-hoc participation of a community stakeholder external to the visiting research group. A framework for reflection is developed from a careful examination of underlying factors and presented with a discussion of consequences and mitigation measures. This framework aims to present lessons learned for researchers working abroad who might face similar situations in their work.

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

January 2016 Volume 40, Issue 1 Pages 1–182
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/disa.2016.40.issue-1/issuetoc>
[Reviewed earlier]

Emergency Medicine Journal

March 2016, Volume 33, Issue 3
<http://emj.bmj.com/content/current>
[New issue; [No new relevant content]

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]

Food Policy

Volume 61, In Progress (May 2016)
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/03069192>

Original Research Article

[Abolishing biofuel policies: Possible impacts on agricultural price levels, price variability and global food security](#)

Pages 9-26

Sergio René Araujo Enciso, Thomas Fellmann, Ignacio Pérez Dominguez, Fabien Santini

Abstract

In this paper we assess the impact of abolishing biofuel policies (mandates, tax credits, import and export tariffs) on agricultural price levels and price variability as well as some aspects related to global food security. For the analysis we employ a recursive-dynamic agricultural multi-commodity model within a stochastic framework. Results of the 10-years forward looking scenario indicate that the removal of biofuel policies would have a significant effect on price variability of biofuels, but only a marginal impact on the variability of agricultural commodity prices. Without biofuel policies, global biofuel demand would decrease by 25% for ethanol and 32% for biodiesel. Moreover, prices would only moderately decrease for ethanol feedstock commodities like wheat and coarse grains, while prices for biodiesel feedstock commodities, specifically vegetable oils, would be more affected. Due to competing uses of crop production such as feed and industrial use, abolishing biofuel policies would not necessarily lead to an increase in global food security, as food use increases would remain low for most crops and regions.

Food Security

Volume 8, Issue 1, February 2016

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Forum for Development Studies

Volume 43, Issue 1, 2016

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

Special Issue: Frontiers of Research on Development and the Environment

[Reviewed earlier]

Genocide Studies International

Volume 9, Issue 2, Fall 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Global Health: Science and Practice (GHSP)

December 2015 | Volume 3 | Issue 4

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Global Health Governance

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

[Accessed 5 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 5 March 2016]

[No new content]

Health Affairs

February 2016; Volume 35, Issue 2

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

Issue Focus: Vaccines

[Reviewed earlier]

Health and Human Rights

Volume 17, Issue 2 December 2015

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Economics, Policy and Law

Volume 11 - Issue 02 - April 2016

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Health Policy and Planning

Volume 31 Issue 3 April 2016

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Health Research Policy and Systems

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

[Accessed 5 March 2016]

[No new relevant content identified]

Human Rights Quarterly

Volume 38, Number 1, February 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Human Service Organizations Management, Leadership & Governance

Volume 40, Issue 1, 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Humanitarian Exchange Magazine

Number 65 November 2015

<http://odihpn.org/>

Special Feature: The Crisis in Iraq

[Reviewed earlier]

IDRiM Journal

Vol 5, No 2 (2015)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Infectious Diseases of Poverty

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

[Accessed 5 March 2016]

[No new content]

International Health

Volume 8 Issue 2 February 2016

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

REVIEWS

[Editor's choice: Cardiac rehabilitation in low- and middle-income countries: a review on cost and cost-effectiveness](#)

Neil B. Oldridge, Maureen T. Pakosh, and Randal J. Thomas

Int. Health (2016) 8 (2): 77-82 doi:10.1093/inthealth/ihv047

[Spillover effect of HIV-specific foreign aid on immunization services in Nigeria](#)

Charles C. Chima and Luisa Franzini

Abstract

Background Health aid to Nigeria increased tremendously in the last decade and a significant portion of the funds were earmarked for HIV-associated programs. Studies on the impact of

HIV-specific aid on the delivery of non-HIV health services in sub-Saharan Africa have yielded mixed results. This study assessed if there is a spillover effect of HIV-specific aid on childhood vaccinations in Nigeria.

Methods Multivariate logistic regression models were used to estimate the effect of aid disbursements in a previous year on the receipt of vaccines at the individual level in a given year. Estimations were done for approximately 11 700 children using data from demographic and health surveys conducted in Nigeria in 2003 and 2008.

Results US\$1 increase in HIV aid per capita was associated with a decrease in the probability of receipt of vaccines by 8–31%: polio first dose decreased by 8%; polio final dose by 9%; diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus (DPT) first dose by 11%; DPT final dose by 19%; measles by 31%; final doses of polio and DPT plus measles vaccine by 8%.

Conclusions HIV-specific aid had a negative spillover effect on immunization services in Nigeria over the study period. Donors may need to rethink their funding strategies in favour of more horizontal approaches.

International Human Rights Law Review

Volume 4, Issue 2, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction

Volume 15, In Progress (March 2016)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Infectious Diseases

February 2016 Volume 43, p1-110

<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>

Original Articles

Tourism effects on the environment and economic sustainability of sub-Saharan Africa

Jung Wan Lee & Tantatape Brahmasrene

pages 221-232

DOI:10.1080/13504509.2015.1114976

ABSTRACT

This paper integrates tourism, economic growth, and environmental issues in a multivariate format. Unlike recent research on this topic, a panel data of selected sample nations of sub-Saharan Africa is adopted by using cointegration and panel regression models. The current research discovers both long-run equilibrium and short-run dynamics between economic

growth, tourism, energy use, and carbon emissions in sub-Saharan Africa. Furthermore, tourism and energy use show a highly significant direct impact on economic growth. In addition, tourism, energy use, and economic growth yield a highly significant positive effect on carbon emissions. Dissecting the region into oil producers and non-oil producers further suggests that the economic growth of sub-Saharan Africa has been accomplished by strong growth in tourism and energy use. However, there is highly significant evidence that in oil producing countries, CO₂ emissions are directly affected by energy use and economic growth and not by tourism. For non-oil producing countries, tourism and energy use but not economic growth incur a highly significant positive impact on carbon emissions.

Community participation in the management of forest reserves in the Northern Region of Ghana

Rikiatu Hussein, Stephen B. Kendie & Patrick Agbesinyale
pages 245-256

DOI:10.1080/13504509.2015.1112858

ABSTRACT

The 1994 forest and wildlife policy of Ghana provides the basis for community participation in forest management through participatory forest management. Even though forest reserves in the Northern Region are said to be managed collaboratively, fringe communities are supposedly involved only in maintenance activities of the reserve boundaries and seedling planting in plantation programmes. The forest reserves are said to be threatened by illegal activities from the fringe communities. This study therefore examined the nature of community participation in the management of forest reserves.

It is a mixed method research in which structured interview schedule, in-depth interview and focus group discussion guides were used for data collection. Respondents comprised community members, forestry staff and NGOs. Communities' participation was found to be passive and tokenistic and limited to boundary cleaning and providing labour on plantations. There is no formal collaboration between communities and Forest Services Division. Prospects to communities' participation lie in the continuous flow of benefits and their active involvement in management decisions. Active involvement of communities in all decision-making processes, capacity building of communities and forestry staff, incentive schemes and awareness creation are recommended for promoting community participation in managing forest reserves in Northern Region.

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>

Articles

A post disaster capacity building model in Peru

Rivera-Holguín, Miryam; Velázquez, Tesania; Morote, Roxana

Abstract

This paper presents a model of a capacity building intervention, which encompasses two phases: reception and familiarity (a process of getting to know people beyond their problems) and community mobilisation. This intervention was conducted with 65 participants from Chíncha (Peru) urban and rural areas after the earthquake of 15 August 2007, highlighting a community intervention that was based on the content and methodology generated during the sessions. It is grounded in the recognition of local capacities and putting collective action into practice, through workshops and art to enhance culture and identity and empower participants. The 65 participants were able to mobilise their communities to design and create 17 murals and signboards. The main achievements of this model of intervention were the progressive withdrawal of external professionals involved, the development of personal skills of community leaders (e.g. self efficacy, organisation), and the systematic increase of leadership and community participation.

Mental health and psychosocial support for the internally displaced persons in Bannu, Pakistan

Humayun, Asma; Azad, Nadia; Haq, Israr ul; More

Abstract

Following armed conflict in the North Waziristan Agency, a mental health and psychosocial support initiative was launched for internally displaced persons in Bannu, Pakistan. This was convened by volunteer mental health professionals, in collaboration with a variety of agencies (provincial government, military, humanitarian agencies) in a security compromised region. As part of the initiative, monthly camps were held for a period of six months. Mental health needs were assessed. A multidisciplinary team (psychiatrists, psychologists, psychiatric nurses and psychosocial workers) offered mental health care to 680 people who attended the camps, of which 28% were under the age of 18 years old. Twenty-one percent returned for follow-up, while others were followed-up in the community by psychosocial teams. Estimates of common mental disorders were found. Both pharmacological and psychological treatments were offered, according to existing guidelines. Active efforts were made to conduct holistic assessments and avoid a pure biomedical approach. This also provided an opportunity for training non specialist staff and led to formal (World Health Organization) mental health gap action plan training for primary care staff.

JAMA

March 1, 2016, Vol 315, No. 9

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

Viewpoint

The Emerging Zika Pandemic: Enhancing Preparedness

Daniel R. Lucey, MD, MPH; Lawrence O. Gostin, JD

Extract

This Viewpoint discusses Zika virus infection and health system preparedness and urges the World Health Organization to proactively respond to the growing global threat of infection.

The Zika virus (ZIKV), a flavivirus related to yellow fever, dengue, West Nile, and Japanese encephalitis, originated in the Zika forest in Uganda and was discovered in a rhesus monkey in 1947. The disease now has “explosive” pandemic potential, with outbreaks in Africa, Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, and the Americas.¹ Since Brazil reported Zika virus in May 2015, infections have occurred in at least 20 countries in the Americas.² Puerto Rico reported the first locally transmitted infection in December 2015, but Zika is likely to spread to the United States.

The Aedes species mosquito (an aggressive daytime biter) that transmits Zika virus (as well as dengue, chikungunya, and yellow fever) occurs worldwide, posing a high risk for global transmission. Modeling anticipates significant international spread by travelers from Brazil to the rest of the Americas, Europe, and Asia.³ What steps are required now to shore up preparedness in the Americas and worldwide?...

JAMA Pediatrics

February 2016, Vol 170, No. 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Asian Development

Vol 1, No 1 (2015)

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Community Health

Volume 41, Issue 2, April 2016

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10900/41/2/page/1>

Original Paper

Effects of Community Health Nurse-Led Intervention on Childhood Routine Immunization Completion in Primary Health Care Centers in Ibadan, Nigeria

V. B. Brown, O. A. Oluwatosin, J. O. Akinyemi, A. A. Adeyemo

Abstract

Immunization coverage of vulnerable children is often sub-optimal in many low- and middle-income countries. The use of a reminder/recall (R/R) system has been one of the strategies shown to be effective in improving immunization rates. In the present study, we evaluated the effect of R/R and Primary Health Care Immunization Providers' Training (PHCIPT) intervention on routine immunization completion among 595 infants in Ibadan, Nigeria. The design was a group randomized controlled trial with Local Government Area (LGA) being the unit of randomization. Four randomly selected LGAs were randomized to receive a cellphone R/R only (A), a PHCIPT only (B); combined R/R and PHCIPT (C) intervention or serve as a control group (D). Children aged 0–12 weeks were consecutively recruited into each group and followed up for 12 months. The primary outcome measure was routine immunization completion at 12 months of age. At the study endpoint, immunization completion rates were: group A, 98.6 %; group B, 70 %; group C, 97.3 %; and group D, 57.3 %. Compared to the control group, the cellphone R/R group was 72 % (RR 1.72, 95 % CI 1.50–1.98) and the combined RR/PHCIPT group 70 % (RR 1.70, 95 % CI 1.47–1.95) more likely to complete immunization. In contrast, immunization completion in the PHCIPT group was marginally different from the control group (RR 1.22, 95 % CI 1.03–1.45). These findings remained robust to adjustment for potential predictors of immunization completion as covariates. In conclusion, cellphone reminder/recall was effective in improving immunization completion in this Nigerian setting. Its use is recommended for large scale implementation

Original Paper

A Cluster-Randomized Trial to Evaluate a Mother–Daughter Dyadic Educational Intervention for Increasing HPV Vaccination Coverage in American Indian Girls

Rachel L. Winer, Angela A. Gonzales, Carolyn J. Noonan...

Abstract

We evaluated whether delivering educational presentations on human papillomavirus (HPV) to American Indian mothers affected HPV vaccination rates in their adolescent daughters. In March–April 2012, we recruited Hopi mothers or female guardians with daughters aged 9–12 years for a cluster-randomized intervention study on the Hopi Reservation. Participants attended mother-daughter dinners featuring educational presentations for mothers on either HPV (intervention) or juvenile diabetes (control) and completed baseline surveys. Eleven months later, we surveyed mothers on their daughters' HPV vaccine uptake. We also reviewed aggregated immunization reports from the Indian Health Service to assess community-level HPV vaccination coverage from 2007 to 2013. Ninety-seven mother-daughter dyads participated; nine mothers reported that their daughters completed the three-dose HPV vaccination series before recruitment. Among the remaining mothers, 63 % completed the follow-up survey. Adjusting for household income, the proportion of daughters completing vaccination within 11 months post-intervention was similar in the intervention and control groups (32 vs. 28 %, adjusted RR = 1.2, 95 % confidence interval (CI) 0.6–2.3). Among unvaccinated daughters, those whose mothers received HPV education were more likely to initiate vaccination (50 vs. 27 %, adjusted RR = 2.6, 95 % CI 1.4–4.9) and complete three doses (adjusted RR = 4.0, 95 % CI 1.2–13.1) than girls whose mothers received diabetes education. Community-level data showed that 80 % of girls aged 13–17 years and 20 % of girls aged 11–12 completed the vaccination series by 2013. HPV vaccine uptake in Hopi girls aged 13–17 years is significantly higher than the U.S. national average. Brief educational presentations on HPV delivered to American Indian mothers might increase HPV vaccination rates in daughters aged 9–12 years.

Journal of Development Economics

Volume 119, Pages 1-138 (March 2016)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/03043878/119>

Regular Articles

Labor market opportunities and women's decision making power within households

Original Research Article

Pages 34-47

Kaveh Majlesi

Abstract

Despite the perceived importance of labor market opportunities in shaping married women's outside option, and their bargaining power within households as a result, this link has received very little empirical attention. Using longitudinal data on who makes the decision on a wide range of issues within Mexican households and data from the administrative records of the Mexican Social Security Institute, this paper identifies the effects of relative changes in labor market opportunities for men and women on both working and non-working women's decision making power. I find that increases in labor market opportunities improve women's decision-making power as well as children's health. Using differential labor demand shocks across Mexican industries caused by China's admission to the WTO gives similar results.

Journal of Human Trafficking

Volume 2, Issue 1, 2016

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

Introduction to the Special Issue

[The Good, the Bad, the Ugly: Human Rights Violators in Comparative Perspective](#)

DOI:10.1080/23322705.2016.1136166

Austin Choi-Fitzpatrick*

pages 1-14

Published online: 03 Mar 2016

ABSTRACT

A large and growing wave of scholarship has focused attention on a variety of contemporary forms of slavery. Early attention went to victims of sexual exploitation, though this is starting to slowly change with a growing body of work on labor exploitation. Previous studies focused exclusively on international trafficking and on the Global South whereas newer studies emphasize domestic trafficking and exploitation in the Global North. This article, and the special issue it introduces, suggests that it is high time scholars and advocates broaden their scope to more clearly focus on perpetrators and on the emancipation process. Perpetrators are too often thought of as "criminals of the worst sort," a cultural shorthand that reduces understanding and thereby hampers both theory and practice of emancipation. For its part, emancipation is too often thought of as either "freedom" or the binary opposite of slavery. Here too, reality is more complex and fraught. In this article, I argue that a human rights approach to slaveholders and emancipation would improve greatly on the status quo.

Articles

[Eliminating Corporate Exploitation: Examining Accountability Regimes as Means to Eradicate Forced Labor from Supply Chains](#)

Ashley Feasley

Columbus School of Law, Catholic University, Washington, DC, USA and Director of Advocacy, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., Silver Spring, Maryland, USA

pages 15-31
DOI:10.1080/23322705.2016.1137194

ABSTRACT

The existence of forced labor in a company's supply chain represents the newest frontier of the global effort to eliminate forced labor. Corporations, beneficiaries of profits from products made with forced labor, represent the most nimble and most modern perpetrators of trafficking and exploitation. The negative publicity and consumer backlash that companies are facing for having forced labor in their supply chains reflects the new paradigm confronting corporate perpetrators with respect to international human rights. This article discusses four established regimes of accountability and reviews each regime's efficacy in ensuring that corporations operate transparent, forced labor-free supply chains. The respective regimes: international regulation, market-based, civil liability, and domestic regulation, have achieved varying levels of success in recent years in an effort to make businesses accountable for ensuring forced labor-free supply chains. Analysis of accountability regimes and the successes and obstacles each regime has encountered in eliminating forced labor from corporate supply chains forcing companies to address forced labor maps progress that has occurred and also provides evaluation of what each accountability regime can provide to ensure businesses eliminate forced labor from their supply chains.

[Female Perpetrators in Internal Child Trafficking in China: An Empirical Study](#)

Anqi Shen
School of Social Sciences, Business and Law, Teesside University, Middlesbrough, United Kingdom
pages 63-77
DOI:10.1080/23322705.2016.1136537

ABSTRACT

Through an empirical study, this article explores the overall profile of female traffickers of children in China and their role and performance in the trafficking processes. Its contribution to the human-trafficking literature lies in its focus on female perpetrators in particular. The article provides an overview of the international literature on female traffickers as well as contemporary knowledge about internal child trafficking in China. Empirical data from incarcerated traffickers suggest that portraying female traffickers as active players of criminal networks obscures the structural problems affecting female child traffickers. The short-term result is that the problems of female offenders are ignored, and the long-term impact is policy making that is disconnected from the lived experiences of an important population. From a gender perspective, this study suggests that female child traffickers are offenders as well as victims of social and gender inequalities in China's reform era. This study also proposes that internal child trafficking in China should be brought in the international and Anglo-American debates surrounding human trafficking.

Preliminary Data on a Sample of Perpetrators of Domestic Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation: Suggestions for Research and Practice

Katherine Gotch
Integrated Clinical & Correctional Services, Portland, Oregon, USA
pages 99-109
DOI:10.1080/23322705.2016.1136539

ABSTRACT

Trafficking for sexual exploitation is one aspect of human trafficking and, in recent years, there has been an increased awareness of and focus on domestic trafficking for sexual exploitation within the United States; however, very little is known about the psychological characteristics or criminogenic (i.e., causing or likely to cause criminal behavior) risk/need factors of the perpetrators who profit from domestic trafficking for sexual exploitation. In an attempt to expand the scope of known data on perpetrators of domestic trafficking for sexual exploitation, descriptive statistical analyses looking at factors hypothesized to be related to the psychological characteristics, criminogenic risk/need factors, and potential treatment interventions were conducted on a sample of 28 adult male offenders with an arrest, charge, and/or conviction of street-level domestic trafficking for sexual exploitation behavior in their history. The results provide preliminary data regarding the developmental/environmental factors, psychological characteristics, and criminogenic risk/need factors of this offender population, as well as support the hypothesis that perpetrators of domestic trafficking for sexual exploitation behavior appear to be a unique offender population requiring specialized management and therapeutic interventions. Suggestions and implications for practice and research are also provided.

Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health

March 2016, Volume 70, Issue 3
<http://jech.bmj.com/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Global Ethics

Volume 11, Issue 3, 2015

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

Forum: The Sustainable Development Goals

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Global Infectious Diseases (JGID)

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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

Volume 27, Number 1, February 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Management

Volume 5 Issue 3 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health

Volume 18, Issue 1, February 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies

Volume 13, Issue 4, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Infectious Diseases

Volume 213 Issue 7 April 1, 2016

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Journal of International Development

March 2016 Volume 28, Issue 2 Pages 159–308

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

Research Articles

[Understanding the Effects of Faith: A Comparison of Religious and Secular HIV Prevention NGOS in Kenya \(pages 161–176\)](#)

Megan Hershey

Article first published online: 17 FEB 2015 | DOI: 10.1002/jid.3075

Abstract

Religious non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are active in development efforts, yet the role faith plays in these organizations—and its effects on programs—remains unclear. Drawing on evidence from a study of Kenyan NGOs, I find that faith rarely emerges in the programs of Christian religious NGOs. I argue that both secular and religious NGOs are constrained by donor restrictions and a need for legitimacy that simultaneously remove religious elements from religious NGOs and promote minimal religious practices within secular organizations. The second half of the article discusses the nuanced ways in which faith does manifest within the organizational characteristics and practices of NGOs

[The Effect of Remittances on Domestic Capital Formation in Select African Countries: A Comparative Empirical Analysis \(pages 243–265\)](#)

Zelealem Yiheyis and Kasahun Woldemariam

Article first published online: 5 NOV 2015 | DOI: 10.1002/jid.3194

Abstract

Remittances are expected to affect domestic investment, among others, through induced rise in savings and easing of financial constraints. However, the empirical evidence on the relationship between the two variables is rather thin, especially in the context of Africa. This study investigates the short-run and long-run effects of remittances on domestic investment in four African countries using the bounds testing approach to cointegration analysis. The findings of the study indicate that whether remittances spur domestic capital formation varies by country and the time horizon considered, highlighting, among others, the importance of identifying the factors that tend to condition their relationship.

Review Articles

[The Impact of Remittances on Children's Human Capital Accumulation: Evidence from Morocco \(pages 266–280\)](#)

Jamal Bouoiyour and Amal Miftah

Article first published online: 11 SEP 2015 | DOI: 10.1002/jid.3147

Abstract

Using a nationally representative household data set from Morocco, the present study seeks to estimate the effects of migrants' remittances on household investments in children's human capital. Three findings emerge. First, children in remittance-receiving households are more likely to attend school and less likely to drop out compared with those in non-remittance-receiving households. Second, children's participation in labour market decreases in the presence of international remittances. Third, remittances are associated with significantly lower level of no schooling for girls. These findings support the growing view that remittances can help increase the educational opportunities, especially for female children.

[Rethinking Microfinance for Developed Countries \(pages 281–302\)](#)

Matteo Pedrini, Valentina Bramanti, Marco Minciullo and Laura Maria Ferri

Article first published online: 15 FEB 2016 | DOI: 10.1002/jid.3205

Abstract

Despite the growth of the sector, microfinance's academic research in developed countries is still very limited. The paper builds on earlier works, which discuss four technical problems related to the diffusion of microfinance in developing countries. In re-framing their approach to apply it to developed countries, we propose a set of recommendations in order to foster the growth of the microfinance sector: (1) the use of financial institutions to supply microfinance products; (2) the development of an alternative credit scoring in banks; (3) the adoption of a regulatory framework for microfinance; and (4) the use of networks as social collaterals.

The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics

Winter 2015 Volume 43, Issue 4 Pages 673–913

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

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

[14 articles]

Journal of Medical Ethics

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 05, 2016 Volume 387 Number 10022 p917-1026 e22

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

Editorial

Health—an explicit human right

The Lancet

Summary

"The past year severely tested the international system's capacity to respond to crises and mass forced displacements of people, and found it woefully inadequate." So begins Amnesty International's annual report for 2015, The state of the world's human rights, published last week. Set against the backdrop of unprecedented and worldwide migration, recurring themes include access to health services, the effects of conflict on health, women and children's health, sexual rights, and the denial of health care in prisons.

Comment

Zika virus and microcephaly in Brazil: a scientific agenda

Mauricio L Barreto, Manoel Barral-Netto, Rodrigo Stabeli, Naomar Almeida-Filho, Pedro F C Vasconcelos, Mauro Teixeira, Paulo Buss, Paulo E Gadelha

Summary

Since 1981, the Brazilian population has had dengue fever epidemics and all control efforts have been unsuccessful.¹ In 2014, chikungunya fever was reported for the first time in the country.² In 2015, the occurrence of Zika virus was also reported,³ along with an increase of microcephaly and brain damage in newborn babies.^{4,5} The mosquito *Aedes aegypti* is the most conventional vector of these three viral infections and is widely disseminated in a great part of urban Brazil. Brazilian public health authorities declared a National Public Health Emergency on Nov 11, 2015, and intensified the vector control campaign to tackle the epidemic.

The Lancet Infectious Diseases

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

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

Editorial

Zika virus in the dock

The Lancet Infectious Diseases

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099\(16\)00085-2](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(16)00085-2)

Summary

In October, 2015, the Ministry of Health in Brazil reported an unexplained increase in cases of microcephaly, a congenital malformation normally associated with incomplete brain development, in newborn babies (4783 cases vs 150 in the previous year). The reported cases have caused widespread fear among pregnant women all over South and Central America, to the point that some nations such as Ecuador have recommended that their citizens postpone pregnancy to 2018, to give time to investigate the causes of the increase of microcephaly cases.

Articles

Safety and immunogenicity of a chimpanzee adenovirus-vectored Ebola vaccine in healthy adults: a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, dose-finding, phase 1/2a study

Olga De Santis, Régine Audran, Emilie Pothin, Loane Warpelin-Decrausaz, Laure Vallotton, Grégoire Wuerzner, Camille Cochet, Daniel Estoppey, Viviane Steiner-Monard, Sophie Lonchampt, Anne-Christine Thierry, Carole Mayor, Robert T Bailer, Olivier Tshiani Mbaya, Yan Zhou, Aurélie Ploquin, Nancy J Sullivan, Barney S Graham, François Roman, Iris De Ryck, W Ripley Ballou, Marie Paule Kieny, Vasee Moorthy, François Spertini, Blaise Genton

Interpretation

ChAd3-EBO-Z was safe and well tolerated, although mild to moderate systemic adverse events were common. A single dose was immunogenic in almost all vaccine recipients. Antibody responses were still significantly present at 6 months. There was no significant difference between doses for safety and immunogenicity outcomes. This acceptable safety profile provides a reliable basis to proceed with phase 2 and phase 3 efficacy trials in Africa.

Immunogenicity and safety of a novel monovalent high-dose inactivated poliovirus type 2 vaccine in infants: a comparative, observer-blind, randomised, controlled trial

Xavier Sáez-Llorens, Ralf Clemens, Geert Leroux-Roels, José Jimeno, Sue Ann Costa Clemens, William C Weldon, M Steven Oberste, Natanael Molina, Ananda S Bandyopadhyay

Interpretation

Our findings lend support to the use of mIPV2HD as an option for stockpiling for outbreak response or primary protection in selected areas at risk for emergence of poliovirus type 2 during the next phase of the polio eradication plan.

Lancet Global Health

Mar 2016 Volume 4 Number 3 e137-e214

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

Articles

Effect of Haemophilus influenzae type b vaccination without a booster dose on invasive H influenzae type b disease, nasopharyngeal carriage, and population immunity in Kilifi, Kenya: a 15-year regional surveillance study

Laura L Hammitt, Rosie J Crane, Angela Karani, Alex Mutuku, Susan C Morpeth, Polly Burbidge, David Goldblatt, Tatu Kamau, Shahnaaz Sharif, Neema Mturi, J Anthony G Scott

Summary

Background

Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) conjugate vaccine, delivered as a three-dose series without a booster, was introduced into the childhood vaccination programme in Kenya in 2001. The duration of protection and need for a booster dose are unknown. We aimed to assess vaccine effectiveness, the impact of the vaccine on nasopharyngeal carriage, and population immunity after introduction of conjugate Hib vaccine in infancy without a booster dose in Kenya.

Methods

This study took place in the Kilifi Health and Demographic Surveillance System (KHDSS), an area of Kenya that has been monitored for vital events and migration every 4 months since 2000. We analysed sterile site cultures for H influenzae type b from children (aged ≤ 12 years) admitted to the Kilifi County Hospital (KCH) from Jan 1, 2000, through to Dec 31, 2014. We determined the prevalence of nasopharyngeal carriage by undertaking cross-sectional surveys in random samples of KHDSS residents (of all ages) once every year from 2009 to 2012, and measured Hib antibody concentrations in five cross-sectional samples of children (aged ≤ 12

years) within the KHDSS (in 1998, 2000, 2004–05, 2007, and 2009). We calculated incidence rate ratios between the prevaccine era (2000–01) and the routine-use era (2004–14) and defined vaccine effectiveness as 1 minus the incidence rate ratio, expressed as a percentage.

Findings

40 482 children younger than 13 years resident in KHDSS were admitted to KCH between 2000 and 2014, 38 206 (94%) of whom had their blood cultured. The incidence of invasive H influenzae type b disease in children younger than 5 years declined from 62·6 (95% CI 46·0–83·3) per 100 000 in 2000–01 to 4·5 (2·5–7·5) per 100 000 in 2004–14, giving a vaccine effectiveness of 93% (95% CI 87–96). In the final 5 years of observation (2010–14), only one case of invasive H influenzae type b disease was detected in a child younger than 5 years. Nasopharyngeal H influenzae type b carriage was detected in one (0·2%) of 623 children younger than 5 years between 2009 and 2012. In the 2009 serosurvey, 92 (79%; 95% CI 70–86) of 117 children aged 4–35 months had long-term protective antibody concentrations.

Interpretation

In this region of Kenya, use of a three-dose primary series of Hib vaccine without a booster dose has resulted in a significant and sustained reduction in invasive H influenzae type b disease. The prevalence of nasopharyngeal carriage is low and the profile of Hib antibodies suggests that protection wanes only after the age at greatest risk of disease. Although continued surveillance is important to determine whether effective control persists, these findings suggest that a booster dose is not currently required in Kenya.

Funding

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, Wellcome Trust, European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases, and National Institute for Health Research.

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 7592 pp7–134 3 March 2016

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Nature Medicine

March 2016, Volume 22 No 3 pp219-323

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

Nature Medicine / Editorial

[A modest proposal](#) [Zika]

doi:10.1038/nm.4065

Published online

03 March 2016

Abstract

Amid heightened concerns about the Zika virus outbreak in parts of the Western Hemisphere, it is worth remembering that the most extreme countermeasures are not necessarily the only ones worth trying. We must engage in calculated and diverse responses that will ensure sustainable outcomes for this and other outbreaks.

New England Journal of Medicine

March 3, 2016 Vol. 374 No. 9

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly

February 2016; 45 (1)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration

OxMo – Vol. 5, No. 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Pediatrics

February 2016, VOLUME 137 / ISSUE 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

PharmacoEconomics

Volume 34, Issue 2, February 2016

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

Big Data Themed Issue

[Reviewed earlier]

PLOS Currents: Disasters

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

[Accessed 5 March 2016]

[No new content]

PLoS Currents: Outbreaks

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

(Accessed 5 March 2016)

Research Article

Knowledge, Attitude and Perception of Ebola Virus Disease among Secondary School Students in Ondo State, Nigeria, October, 2014

March 4, 2016 ·

Introduction: The first case of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Nigeria was imported on 20th July 2014, by an air traveller. On 8th August, 2014, WHO declared the Ebola outbreak in West Africa a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). This study aimed at assessing the knowledge, perception and attitude of secondary school students towards EVD and adopting disease preventive behaviour.

Methods: A descriptive cross sectional study of 440 students from a mixed secondary school in Owo, Ondo State was done. Data was collected in October 2014 when Nigeria was yet to be declared EVD free. Simple random sampling was used to select the school while Systematic random sampling was used in the selection of participants. A semi-structured, interviewer administered questionnaire was used to collect data. Data was analyzed with SPSS version 21. Descriptive statistics and Chi-square test were done, level of statistical significant was 5%.

Results: Mean age of respondents was 13.7 ± 1.9 years. Females were 48.2%. Most of the respondents had heard of Ebola Virus Disease (95.4%). Female respondents (51.3%), those who were 15 years and above (51.1%) and in the senior class (54.1%), and had good general knowledge of EVD and across all domains. Being in the senior secondary class and seeking for health care in the hospital were positively associated with good general knowledge (p-value: 0.029, and <0.001 respectively). Three commonest modes of spread of EVD mentioned were contact between infected animals and men (74.8%), touching body fluids of a person who is sick of EVD (57.0%), and contact (55.2%). The top three signs of EVD mentioned were abnormal bleeding from any part of the body (56.10%), vomiting (47.0%) and fever (42.3%).

Conclusion: Our results revealed suboptimal EVD-related knowledge, attitude and practice among the students. Promotion of health messages and training of students on prevention of EVD to effectively control past and future outbreaks of EVD in Nigeria was immediately initiated in schools in Ondo State.

PLoS Medicine

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

(Accessed 5 March 2016)

Transformative Innovations in Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health over the Next 20 Years

Cyril M. Engmann, Sadaf Khan, Cheryl A. Moyer, Patricia S. Coffey, Zulfiqar A. Bhutta

Collection Review | published 02 Mar 2016 | PLOS Medicine

10.1371/journal.pmed.1001969

Summary Points

:: Accelerating progress in reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health (RMNCH) over the past 30 years has resulted in significant decreases in mortality, as well as shifts in causes of death. For example, deaths from diarrhea among children under age 5 have significantly declined. This increased survival means an increasing fraction of under-5 deaths occur in the first 4 weeks of life, the neonatal period.

:: Transformative changes, including advances such as the development of immunizations, wide uptake of contraception, and the availability of medications such as oxytocin, have contributed to an improved morbidity and mortality curve. Such advances are set against a broader backdrop of increasing national wealth, stronger health systems, aligned political agendas, and advocacy systems.

:: Global mechanisms and strategies such as the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health, Global Alliance for the Vaccine Initiative (GAVI), the United Nations Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children, Family Planning 2020, and the Every Newborn Action Plan, among others, are serving to drive the global agenda forward, although stubborn gaps remain.

:: In this paper, we discuss promising innovations that in our opinion have significant promise in moving the RMNCH agenda forward. While some of these are technologies, others are efforts aimed at improving commodities, increasing demand for services, and promoting equity in access.

PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases

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

(Accessed 5 March 2016)

Zika Virus: Medical Countermeasure Development Challenges

Robert W. Malone, Jane Homan, Michael V. Callahan, Jill Glasspool-Malone, Lambodhar Damodaran, Adriano De Bernardi Schneider, Rebecca Zimler, James Talton, Ronald R. Cobb, Ivan Ruzic, Julie Smith-Gagen, Daniel Janies, James Wilson, Zika Response Working Group Review | published 02 Mar 2016 | PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases
10.1371/journal.pntd.0004530

Abstract

Introduction

Reports of high rates of primary microcephaly and Guillain–Barré syndrome associated with Zika virus infection in French Polynesia and Brazil have raised concerns that the virus circulating in these regions is a rapidly developing neuropathic, teratogenic, emerging infectious public health threat. There are no licensed medical countermeasures (vaccines, therapies or preventive drugs) available for Zika virus infection and disease. The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) predicts that Zika virus will continue to spread and eventually reach all countries and territories in the Americas with endemic *Aedes* mosquitoes. This paper reviews the status of the Zika virus outbreak, including medical countermeasure options, with a focus on how the epidemiology, insect vectors, neuropathology, virology and immunology inform options and strategies available for medical countermeasure development and deployment.

Methods

Multiple information sources were employed to support the review. These included publically available literature, patents, official communications, English and Lusophone lay press. Online surveys were distributed to physicians in the US, Mexico and Argentina and responses analyzed. Computational epitope analysis as well as infectious disease outbreak modeling and forecasting

were implemented. Field observations in Brazil were compiled and interviews conducted with public health officials.

Eliminating the Neglected Tropical Diseases: Translational Science and New Technologies

Peter J. Hotez, Bernard Pecoul, Suman Rijal, Catharina Boehme, Serap Aksoy, Mwelecele Malecela, Roberto Tapia-Conyer, John C. Reeder
Review | published 02 Mar 2016 | PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases
10.1371/journal.pntd.0003895

Abstract

Today, the World Health Organization recognizes 17 major parasitic and related infections as the neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). Despite recent gains in the understanding of the nature and prevalence of NTDs, as well as successes in recent scaled-up preventive chemotherapy strategies and other health interventions, the NTDs continue to rank among the world's greatest global health problems. For virtually all of the NTDs (including those slated for elimination under the auspices of a 2012 London Declaration for NTDs and a 2013 World Health Assembly resolution [WHA 66.12]), additional control mechanisms and tools are needed, including new NTD drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, and vector control agents and strategies. Elimination will not be possible without these new tools. Here we summarize some of the key challenges in translational science to develop and introduce these new technologies in order to ensure success in global NTD elimination efforts.

PLoS One

<http://www.plosone.org/>
[Accessed 5 March 2016]

The Success of a Universal Hepatitis B Immunization Program as Part of Thailand's EPI after 22 Years' Implementation

Nawarat Posuwan, Nasamon Wanlapakorn, Pattaratida Sa-nguanmoo, Rujipat Wasitthankasem, Preeyaporn Vichaiwattana, Sirapa Klinfueng, Viboonsak Vuthitanachot, Siriporn Sae-lao, Monthana Foonoi, Apinya Fakthongyoo, Jamorn Makaroon, Klaita Srisingh, Duangporn Asawarachun, Somchai Owatanapanich, Norra Wutthiratkowit, Kraisorn Tohtubtiang, Pornsak Yoocharoen, Sompong Vongpunsawad, Yong Poovorawan
Research Article | published 03 Mar 2016 | PLOS ONE
10.1371/journal.pone.0150499

Immunization Coverage Surveys and Linked Biomarker Serosurveys in Three Regions in Ethiopia

Mark A. Travassos, Berhane Beyene, Zenaw Adam, James D. Campbell, Nigisti Mulholland, Seydou S. Diarra, Tassew Kassa, Lisa Oot, Jenny Sequeira, Mardi Reymann, William C. Blackwelder, Yukun Wu, Inna Ruslanova, Jaya Goswami, Samba O. Sow, Marcela F. Pasetti, Robert Steinglass, Amha Kebede, Myron M. Levine
Research Article | published 02 Mar 2016 | PLOS ONE
10.1371/journal.pone.0149970

Abstract

Objective

Demographic and health surveys, immunization coverage surveys and administrative data often divergently estimate vaccination coverage, which hinders pinpointing districts where

immunization services require strengthening. We assayed vaccination coverage in three regions in Ethiopia by coverage surveys and linked serosurveys.

Methods

Households with children aged 12–23 (N = 300) or 6–8 months (N = 100) in each of three districts (woredas) were randomly selected for immunization coverage surveys (inspection of vaccination cards and immunization clinic records and maternal recall) and linked serosurveys. IgG-ELISA serologic biomarkers included tetanus antitoxin ≥ 0.15 IU/ml in toddlers (receipt of tetanus toxoid) and Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) anti-capsular titers ≥ 1.0 mcg/ml in infants (timely receipt of Hib vaccine).

Findings

Coverage surveys enrolled 1,181 children across three woredas; 1,023 (87%) also enrolled in linked serosurveys. Administrative data over-estimated coverage compared to surveys, while maternal recall was unreliable. Serologic biomarkers documented a hierarchy among the districts. Biomarker measurement in infants provided insight on timeliness of vaccination not deducible from toddler results.

Conclusion

Neither administrative projections, vaccination card or EPI register inspections, nor parental recall, substitute for objective serological biomarker measurement. Including infants in serosurveys informs on vaccination timeliness.

PLoS Pathogens

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

(Accessed 5 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 5 March 2016)

Social Sciences - Sustainability Science:

Impacts of nonstate, market-driven governance on Chilean forests

Robert Heilmayra^{[a,1](#)} and Eric F. Lambin^{[b,c,d,1](#)}

Author Affiliations

Significance

Global trade in commodities has become an important driver of environmental degradation. In response, there has been a proliferation of nonstate, market-driven governance seeking to reduce environmental degradation through interventions in the supply chain. We provide some of the first quasiexperimental evidence to show that private, market-driven policies can slow deforestation. We compare the impacts of two certification schemes and a deforestation moratorium in Chile using a factorial quasiexperimental design. Our results indicate that governance regimes with greater collaboration between environmental and industry stakeholders achieved better environmental outcomes. In contrast to many public conservation policies, we find that private governance systems can effectively target high-deforestation properties.

Abstract

Global markets for agricultural products, timber, and minerals are critically important drivers of deforestation. The supply chains driving land use change may also provide opportunities to halt deforestation. Market campaigns, moratoria, and certification schemes have been promoted as powerful tools to achieve conservation goals. Despite their promise, there have been few opportunities to rigorously quantify the ability of these nonstate, market-driven (NSMD) governance regimes to deliver conservation outcomes. This study analyzes the impacts of three NSMD governance systems that sought to end the conversion of natural forests to plantations in Chile at the start of the 21st century. Using a multilevel, panel dataset of land use changes in Chile, we identify the impact of participation within each of the governance regimes by implementing a series of matched difference-in-differences analyses. Taking advantage of the mosaic of different NSMD regimes adopted in Chile, we explore the relative effectiveness of different policies. NSMD governance regimes reduced deforestation on participating properties by 2–23%. The NSMD governance regimes we studied included collaborative and confrontational strategies between environmental and industry stakeholders. We find that the more collaborative governance systems studied achieved better environmental performance than more confrontational approaches. Whereas many government conservation programs have targeted regions with little likelihood of conversion, we demonstrate that NSMD governance has the potential to alter behavior on high-deforestation properties.

Biological Sciences - Ecology:

[Global change and terrestrial plant community dynamics](#)

[Janet Franklin](#)¹, [Josep M. Serra-Diaz](#)^{a,b}, [Alexandra D. Syphard](#)^c, and [Helen M. Regand](#)

[Author Affiliations](#)

Significance

Global terrestrial vegetation plays a critical role in biogeochemical cycles and provides important ecosystem services. Vegetation has been altered by anthropogenic global change drivers including land-use change, altered disturbance regimes, invasive species, and climate change, for decades to centuries, or in some cases millennia. Vegetation responses to land use and disturbance can be more immediate than to climate change and can be long lasting. The effect of global warming on water balance may have a stronger influence than the direct effects of temperature on vegetation. Models deployed at multiple ecological scales, populations, communities, and landscapes will be required to forecast vegetation responses and feedbacks to accelerated global change.

Abstract

Anthropogenic drivers of global change include rising atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases and resulting changes in the climate, as well as nitrogen deposition, biotic invasions, altered disturbance regimes, and land-use change. Predicting the effects of global change on terrestrial plant communities is crucial because of the ecosystem services vegetation provides, from climate regulation to forest products. In this paper, we present a framework for detecting vegetation changes and attributing them to global change drivers that incorporates multiple lines of evidence from spatially extensive monitoring networks, distributed experiments, remotely sensed data, and historical records. Based on a literature review, we summarize observed changes and then describe modeling tools that can forecast the impacts of multiple drivers on plant communities in an era of rapid change. Observed responses to changes in temperature, water, nutrients, land use, and disturbance show strong sensitivity of ecosystem productivity and plant population dynamics to water balance and long-lasting effects of disturbance on plant community dynamics. Persistent effects of land-use change and human-altered fire regimes on vegetation can overshadow or interact

with climate change impacts. Models forecasting plant community responses to global change incorporate shifting ecological niches, population dynamics, species interactions, spatially explicit disturbance, ecosystem processes, and plant functional responses. Monitoring, experiments, and models evaluating multiple change drivers are needed to detect and predict vegetation changes in response to 21st century global change.

Prehospital & Disaster Medicine

Volume 31 - Issue 01 - February 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Preventive Medicine

Volume 83, Pages 1-76 (February 2016)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/00917435/84>

[New issue; No new relevant content]

Public Health Ethics

Volume 9 Issue 1 April 2016

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

[New issue; No new relevant content]

Qualitative Health Research

March 2016; 26 (4)

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

Special Issue: Autoethnography

Commentary

[Autoethnography in Health Research: Growing Pains?](#)

Heewon Chang

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Abstract

Autoethnography is gaining acceptance as a legitimate research method in health science research. The growing volume of published autoethnographies is indicative of this trend. After discussing the methodological tenets of this qualitative research method and its compatibility with health-related research, the author illustrates this trend with examples of published autoethnographic books, theses, and journal articles. While celebrating the potential of autoethnography as a suitable health research method, the author critiques dominantly descriptive and evocative illness self-narratives that may evoke emotionally compelling responses from readers but offer insufficient sociocultural insights about the illness phenomenon. To identify a “desirable” autoethnography that provides not only a “thick description” of personal experiences but also a sociocultural interpretation of such experiences, the author recommends both creators and consumers of autoethnography to ask five evaluative questions: (1) Does the autoethnography use authentic and trustworthy data?; (2) Does the autoethnography follow a reliable research process and show the process clearly?; (3) Does the autoethnography follow ethical steps to protect the rights of self and others presented and

implicated in the autoethnography?; (4) Does the autoethnography analyze and interpret the sociocultural meaning of the author's personal experiences?; and (5) Does the autoethnography attempt to make a scholarly contribution with its conclusion and engagement of the existing literature?

Refugee Survey Quarterly

Volume 34 Issue 4 December 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Reproductive Health

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

[Accessed 5 March 2016]

[No new relevant content]

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

December 2015 Vol. 38, No. 6

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

[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

04 March 2016 Vol 351, Issue 6277

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

Policy Forum

Liberating field science samples and data

By Marcia McNutt, Kerstin Lehnert, Brooks Hanson, Brian A. Nosek, Aaron M. Ellison, John Leslie King

Science 04 Mar 2016 : 1024-1026

Summary

Transparency and reproducibility enhance the integrity of research results for scientific and public uses and empower novel research applications. Access to data, samples, methods, and reagents used to conduct research and analysis, as well as to the code used to analyze and process data and samples, is a fundamental requirement for transparency and reproducibility. The field sciences (e.g., geology, ecology, and archaeology), where each study is temporally (and often spatially) unique, provide exemplars for the importance of preserving data and samples for further analysis. Yet field sciences, if they even address such access, commonly do so by simply noting "data and samples available upon request." They lag behind some

laboratory sciences in making data and samples available to the broader research community. It is time for this to change. We discuss cultural, financial, and technical barriers to change and ways in which funders, publishers, scientific societies, and others are responding.

Social Science & Medicine

Volume 150, Pages 1-290 (February 2016)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Stability: International Journal of Security & Development

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

[accessed 5 March 2016]

[No new content]

Stanford Social Innovation Review

Winter 2016 Volume 14, Number 1

<http://ssir.org/>

[Reviewed earlier]

Sustainability

Volume 8, Issue 2 (February 2016)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

TORTURE Journal

Volume 25, Nr. 2, 2015

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Tropical Medicine & International Health

February 2016 Volume 21, Issue 2 Pages 157–291

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

[Reviewed earlier]

UN Chronicle

Vol. LII No. 3 2015 December 2015

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

Sustainable Energy

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

Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies

An International Interdisciplinary Journal for Research, Policy and Care

Volume 11, Issue 1, 2016

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

Original Articles

Borderline personality disorder typical symptoms among Brazilian adolescents in a foster care institution

pages 13-23

DOI:10.1080/17450128.2016.1151093

Published online: 03 Mar 2016

Julia L. Schäfer, Vinícius G. Dornelles & Rogério L. Horta

ABSTRACT

Borderline personality disorder (BPD) symptoms usually emerge during adolescence. Because it is a highly dysfunctional disorder, this study aimed to identify the presence of BPD typical symptoms in Brazilian adolescents in a foster care institution. This research was conducted with 44 adolescents ranging from 12 to 17 years old from a foster care institution in south of Brazil. The adolescents answered the instrument Borderline Symptoms List-23 to assess BPD symptomatology, and the psychologist of the institution answered a questionnaire about the adolescents regarding sex, age, education, the process of entering the institution and mental health history. The sample was divided in two groups: one composed of adolescents with problematic levels of symptoms, showing an intense presentation of BPD symptoms, and the other made of adolescents with non-problematic levels of symptoms, showing a slight presentation of BPD symptoms. Comparisons between sex and the instrument total scores showed that girls had significant higher means than boys ($p < 0.05$). Through regression analysis, the adolescents presenting problematic levels of symptoms were those who entered the foster care institution at 12 years old or older ($p < 0.05$), and were in high school ($p < 0.05$). The results of this study indicate the presence of different levels of BPD symptoms in Brazilian adolescents in the foster care institution suggesting the importance of the development of interventions aiming mental health promotion.

Challenges faced by caregivers of vulnerable children in Cross River State and Abuja Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria

pages 24-32

DOI:10.1080/17450128.2016.1151094

Published online: 03 Mar 2016

Catherine Gana, Edward Oladele, Mariya Saleh, Osagbemi Makanjuola, Diana Gimba, Doreen Magaji, Temitayo Odusote, Hadiza Khamofu & Kwasi Torpey

ABSTRACT

This study describes the characteristics of caregivers, examines the relationships between caregivers and their children and analyzes the experiences and challenges of caring for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) faced by caregivers in the community. Using a combination of questionnaire, informant interviews and focus group discussions, data were collected from 150 female and male caregivers in Cross Rivers State and the Federal Capital Territory selected through convenient sampling. Careful analysis of the data revealed that majority of the caregivers were women, mostly widows caring for about 3–6 children. They were largely married with primary or no formal education. Most of them were engaged in petty trading and

farming. Their incomes were generally low, less than 10,000 naira (approximately 52 dollars) per annum. Challenges of caring for children were listed to include; lack of access to education, nutrition, inadequate clothing and shelter and lack of psychosocial support in that order. Family supports to these caregivers have either dwindled considerably or non-existent. In the words of these caregivers, our relatives have their own problems in this era of economic crisis to bother about the problems of other people. A few of the organized supports came from non-governmental organizations and faith-based organizations in the form of handouts to meet needs of food and school supplies. These do not address the root cause of caregivers' problems of lack of skills and income generation for sustainable care. The study recommends empowering caregivers as a sustainable approach to the problem of vulnerable children in the community.

World Heritage Review

n°78 - February 2016

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

[World Heritage and gender equality](#)

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

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