

The Sentinel

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

Week ending 16 April 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.

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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.

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Editor's Note:

As we approach the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul on 23-24 May 2016, we are encountering analyses on the state of humanitarian response and humanitarianism overall. Below are summaries of new reports by ODI and ActionAid International on behalf of the Transforming Surge Capacity Project.

World Humanitarian Summit: https://consultations.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs_about

Time to let go: remaking humanitarian action for the modern era

ODI - Humanitarian Policy Group

Research reports and studies - April 2016 :: 84 pages

Team leader and main author: Christina Bennett; Editor and co-author: Matthew Foley

Pdf: http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/time_to_let_go_report.pdf

Foreword

This report reflects a growing sense, both from our own research on the 'changing humanitarian landscape' and in conversations with colleagues, that the 'traditional' humanitarian sector is on the cusp of a decisive moment in its history.

For three-quarters of a century, the stalwarts of humanitarian assistance and emergency relief – Western donors and non-governmental organisations, the Red Cross Movement and UN agencies – have seen themselves as the essential heart of humanitarian action: indispensable players, both as implementing agencies and as the arbiters of the norms and standards governing the conduct of relief.

What became increasingly plain as our research progressed was that this centrality and indispensability was, if not an illusion, then at least a very partial picture of the reality of global humanitarian assistance. Northern NGOs, the UN system and the Red Cross are by no means redundant – the billions of dollars still being channelled through them is testament to that – but they are just one part of a much broader universe of assistance made up of a myriad of other actors, with their own distinctive traditions and cultures of care.

Drawing on recent HPG research, this report – a collective effort by the HPG team, as well as the fruit of insights from thinkers and doers in humanitarianism from around the world – reflects on this complexity, and sketches out some of its implications, both for the practical business of emergency assistance and for the principles, ethos and culture that underpin it.

If humanitarianism really is the broad church we believe it to be, what does the concept of 'humanitarian' even mean? How should we respond to these challenges, and is change desirable or even possible? These are very large questions, and this report cannot provide complete answers. Hopefully, though, it will contribute to a fuller and more constructive debate on the future direction of humanitarian policy and practice.

Sara Pantuliano

Director, Humanitarian Policy Group

April 2016

Press Release

[Time to let go: remaking humanitarian action for the modern era](#)

As the international humanitarian system faces a crisis of legitimacy, the Humanitarian Policy Group's landmark report proposes a new model of humanitarian action.

...The humanitarian sector is suffering a crisis of legitimacy.

Despite a decade of system-wide reforms, the sector is failing to adapt to meet the needs of people in crises. As humanitarian emergencies become more frequent, more complex and last longer, the need for radical change is ever growing.

Drawing on four years of research, this report argues that the humanitarian system needs to let go of some fundamental – but outdated – assumptions, structures and behaviours to respond effectively to modern day crises. It argues for a new model of humanitarian action, one that requires letting go of the current paradigm.

First, the UN and large international NGOs need to let go of power and control, to enable national and local aid organisations to lead crisis response.

Second, the humanitarian system needs to let go of the incentives that place organisational drives for greater resources and visibility above the needs of crisis-affected people.

Third, the humanitarian system needs to let go of its own exceptionalism and accept that different forms of relief – from development organisations, religious organisations and private sector companies – can co-exist and can be equally legitimate...

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[State of Surge Capacity in the Humanitarian Sector](#)

ActionAid International on behalf of the Transforming Surge Capacity Project

April 2016 :: 56 pages

REPORT AUTHORS: LOIS AUSTIN AND GLENN O'NEIL

Pdf: <http://www.chsalliance.org/files/files/Resources/Articles-and-Research/Surge-Humanitarian-Report-Final.pdf>

Executive Summary [excerpts]

RESEARCH BACKGROUND

This research report is one part of the Transforming Surge Capacity Project of the Start Network. The project aims to improve the capacity of humanitarian organisations to scale up resources for emergency response, and to pilot and build evidence of ways of working that are collaborative and locally focused and which engage with a range of different stakeholders involved in humanitarian response. Led by ActionAid, the project brings together eleven agencies – Action Against Hunger, CAFOD, CARE, Christian Aid, International Medical Corps, Islamic Relief, Muslim Aid, Plan, Save the Children and Tearfund. CHS Alliance is a technical partner for the project and is responsible for this research. The Communicating with Disaster Affected Communities (CDAC) Network is also a technical partner.

The report presents an analysis of the current state of surge across the humanitarian sector, drawing from aid agency views on working collectively on surge and providing an assessment of changes in surge practice since 2007. The research aims to provide an update of a 2007 review of surge capacity and surge capacity mechanisms within international NGOs, which was commissioned by the Emergency Capacity Building Project and was carried out by People In Aid. The 2007 research highlighted the need for global aid organisations to be able to scale up

human, financial and material resources in order to effectively fulfil their humanitarian mandates and recommended increased collaboration across the sector in order to improve surge capacity. Another core recommendation was the need to develop surge capacity at country and regional levels as well as at global headquarters...

...CONCLUSIONS

The key conclusions meaning from this research on the current state of surge within the humanitarian sector are as follows:

Conclusion 1

Demand and response: The last decade has seen a rising demand for surge responses, due to the rise in the number of natural disasters, the number of people affected by conflict and their cross-border and regional implications. As a result, humanitarian agencies have to increasingly deploy for surge across multiple crises, simultaneously stretching resources and capacity.

Conclusion 2

Local capacity: There is a need for increased funding and capacity building of local actors. Capacity needs to focus on the ability of aid agencies to maintain sufficient skilled staff, to have flexible internal systems and to support the capacity of partners. Maintaining a pool of qualified staff for surge is a critical issue, particularly at the national level. At the same time, many agencies relying on local partners for surge delivery are concerned with their capacity and are looking for more sustainable ways to support them. This is additionally challenging due to the sporadic and often unpredictable nature of surge.

Conclusion 3

New and emerging surge response models: A number of new models for implementing effective surge responses have been developed in the last decade. These include the creation of specialist support and service providers such as the Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS), MapAction and the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS) – organisations that are able to provide rapid, specialised and detailed services to support the surge responses of operational humanitarian organisations.

In addition, the growth of specialised technical and sector rosters focusing on humanitarian communication - also known as communicating with communities such as CDAC-N¹, gender, protection and cash transfer programming for example have facilitated the humanitarian sector (and in particular the UN system) in ensuring that specific HR surge needs are met.

Conclusion 4

Improved coordination: There has been an improvement with regard to internal coordination within a number of humanitarian networks and organisations such as the UN and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. However, there remain ongoing challenges relating to coordination with national governments and new actors. There is a need for the humanitarian sector to address this challenge which goes beyond surge and impacts on humanitarian work in general.

Conclusion 5

Internal organisational coordination: Having organisation-wide and cross-organisation clarity relating to management structures during a response is considered to be beneficial for response operations. A number of humanitarian organisations have developed organisation-wide

approaches to surge in the last decade including the implementation of surge policies and plans; accelerated decision-making procedures; and rapid access to financing. There remains room to further advance internal coordination, particularly in relation to coordination with HR, logistics and administration in order to support effective surge responses.

Conclusion 6

Surge staffing and management: The majority of aid agencies have appointed teams or individuals responsible for surge at their global HQs. Many larger agencies have reinforced their international emergency response teams and internal rosters with an increased reliance on expensive yet effective permanent stand-by surge personnel. Ensuring and maintaining consistent surge set-up at national level remains a challenge where agencies are still testing different approaches.

Conclusion 7

Collaboration: There are examples of positive surge collaboration, particularly with federated networks, partnering on rosters and those organisations that operate through local partners, and to a lesser extent with the private sector. However, there are few examples of inter-organisational collaboration (particularly at the global level), resulting in continued uncoordinated and duplicative surge responses. The advantages of increased collaboration – such as cost effectiveness, increased coverage of humanitarian needs, and capacity building in new areas – highlight a clear link to more effective addressing of humanitarian needs. However, humanitarian organisations stress that there are complications and disadvantages to collaboration. These disadvantages are primarily organisational as opposed to needs-related, and include differences in policy and mandate, diverse operational working modalities and competition for resources and staff. There is increased collaboration at the national as opposed to global level, with HQ focusing on finding, organising and mobilising staff and resources and national surge focusing on getting those resources to people in need. This is an area where humanitarian organisations could further learn from national public sector bodies that have developed coordinated collaboration practices.

Conclusion 8

Surge learning: There is a large appetite within the humanitarian aid sector to share learning, knowledge and ideas on surge responses. There is currently no forum or community of practice for this sharing. A major step towards collaboration and reducing duplication would be to develop such a forum or a community for surge practitioners and interested organisations.

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Development aid rises again in 2015, spending on refugees doubles - OECD

13/04/2016 - Development aid totalled USD 131.6 billion in 2015, representing a rise of 6.9% from 2014 in real terms as aid spent on refugees in host countries more than doubled in real terms to USD 12 billion. Stripping out funds spent on refugees, aid was still up 1.7% in real terms, according to official data collected by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

Official development assistance (ODA) from the 28 countries in the DAC averaged 0.30% of gross national income, the same level as in 2014. Measured in real terms – correcting for

inflation and for a sharp depreciation in many DAC country currencies against the dollar last year – ODA is up 83% since 2000, when the Millennium Development Goals were agreed.

The 2015 data show that bilateral aid to the poorest countries rose by 4% in real terms, in line with commitments by DAC donors to reverse recent declines. Bilateral aid, making up around two-thirds of ODA, is aid provided by one country to another country. A survey of donor spending plans through 2019 suggests flows to the poorest countries will keep rising.

Funds spent on hosting or processing refugees in donor countries accounted for 9.1% of ODA in 2015, up from 4.8% in 2014, when in-donor refugee costs totalled USD 6.6 billion. The rise in refugee costs did not significantly eat into development programmes, with around half of donor countries using money from outside their aid budgets to cover refugee costs.

"Countries have had to find large sums to cover the costs of an historic refugee crisis in Europe, and most have so far avoided diverting money from development programmes. These efforts must continue. We also welcome that more aid is being provided to the poorest countries," said OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría. "Governments must ensure that development aid keeps rising. They also need to develop long-term options for meeting future refugee costs and the integration of refugees in our societies, while ensuring at the same time that ODA reaches those countries and people that need it the most."

An unprecedented 1.5 million refugees claimed asylum in OECD countries in 2015, more than a million in Europe. DAC rules allow member countries to count certain refugee-related expenses as ODA for the first year after their arrival. Three countries – Australia, Korea and Luxembourg – do not count refugee costs as ODA. Others – Austria, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden – saw refugee costs account for more than 20% of their ODA in 2015.

Humanitarian aid also rose by 11% in real terms in 2015 to USD 13.6 billion.

The 2015 data shows ODA rose in 22 countries, with the biggest increases in Greece, Sweden and Germany. Six countries reported lower ODA, with the steepest declines in Portugal and Australia. Of the several non-DAC members who report their aid flows to the OECD body, the United Arab Emirates posted the highest ODA/GNI ratio in 2015 at 1.09%

Only six of the 28 DAC countries - Denmark, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom – met a United Nations target to keep ODA at or above 0.7% of GNI.

ODA makes up more than two thirds of external finance for least-developed countries and the DAC is pushing for it to be used more as a lever to generate private investment and domestic tax revenues in poor countries. The DAC is also looking at clarifying the rules for which refugee costs can be counted as ODA.

"We need to remember that the best way to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and avoid future refugee crises is to continue the current momentum of aid flows, particularly to the neediest and most fragile countries," said DAC Chair Erik Solheim. "I am glad that we have reversed the recent declines in aid to the poorest countries and that most countries aren't spending large amounts of their ODA on hosting refugees."

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Syria; EU Turkey Agreement; Refugees

Editor's Note:

We aggregate below a number of announcements and calls-to-action addressing the continuing refugee-migrant crisis.

UNHCR statement on violence on the Greece-FYROM border on 10 April

11 April 2016

(This statement is attributable to UNHCR Spokesperson Adrian Edwards)

Yesterday's violence at the Greece-Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia border near Eidomeni and the extensive scenes we have all seen of teargas in use are a matter of great worry to UNHCR. It should be too for all who are concerned with Europe's response to the situation of refugees and migrants.

Time and again in recent months we have seen tension unfolding at various European borders, between security forces on the one hand and people fleeing war and in need of help on the other. People get hurt and property is damaged. Harm is done to perceptions of refugees and to Europe's image alike. Everyone loses.

In recent days media and public attention has focused on how the EU-Turkey agreement is being implemented in the Aegean islands and in Turkey. We should not forget the many other refugees and migrants who continue to be affected by the situation, especially the nearly 46,000 on the Greek mainland who arrived before the agreement took effect. At Eidomeni, about 11,000 have been sleeping for many weeks now in the open in dismal conditions, fuelling hopelessness and despair.

UNHCR is ready to support the voluntary transfer of people to sites to be put in place by the Greek Government, including with the necessary services while registration and processing is taking place. This is urgent. In the meantime, in Eidomeni, UNHCR together with the Greek Government, Greek NGOs and other partners are providing food, medical support, help for persons with specific needs, and prevention and response to sexual and gender based violence.

A wider solution – namely to relocate those who may qualify for international protection to other European States – has been agreed for many months. It needs action.

Violence is wrong whatever the circumstances. UNHCR hopes Europe will take the necessary steps now, and we stand ready to help governments further in fulfilling their obligations to refugees.

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Relocation and Resettlement: EU Member States urgently need to deliver

European Commission - Press release

Strasbourg, 12 April 2016

Relocation and Resettlement: EU Member States urgently need to deliver

Today, the Commission gives an update on the progress made up until 11 April 2016 and assesses the actions undertaken by Member States to implement the emergency relocation and European resettlement schemes. Overall, progress since the Commission's first report has been unsatisfactory: on relocation, little progress has been made since mid-March, while we see good progress on resettlement. Good progress on resettlement is also the result of the EU-Turkey agreement which has shifted greater focus onto resettlement efforts. Greater efforts on relocation, however, are increasingly urgent in view of the humanitarian situation in Greece.

Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris Avramopoulos said: "EU Member States need to urgently deliver on their political and legal commitment to relocate persons in need of international protection from Greece and Italy. We cannot be satisfied with the results achieved so far. Relocation efforts have to be increased dramatically to reply to the urgent humanitarian situation in Greece and to prevent any deterioration of the situation in Italy. Member States also need to speed up and increase their resettlement efforts. To effectively close the backdoor to irregular and dangerous migration routes, we have to open safe and legal routes to Europe for people in need of international protection. With the EU-Turkey agreement and the 1:1 mechanism in force, it has become even more urgent for Member States to deliver swiftly on their resettlement commitments."...

International Community Endorses New Initiative to Support Refugees, Host Communities, Recovery and Reconstruction in the Middle East and North Africa

WASHINGTON, April 15, 2016 – Eight nations and the European Commission today pledged a package of more than US\$1 billion -- US\$141 million in grants, US\$1 billion in soft loans, US\$500 million in guarantees – to a World Bank-led financing initiative in support of Syrian refugees and host communities in Jordan and Lebanon, as well as recovery and reconstruction across the region. The package means that the new facility will be able to generate up to US\$800 million in concessional loans in the next year.

Japan, France, the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway and the European Commission each pledged their initial financial contributions to the New Financing Initiative to Support the Middle East and North Africa Region. The pledging occurred at a ministerial conference co-chaired by the President of the World Bank Group, the Secretary General of the United Nations and the President of the Islamic Development Bank Group. The conference brought together ministers from G7, Gulf Cooperation Council, European and MENA countries, as well as the heads of various multilateral development banks and international organizations.

"Today's strong show of support for the people of the Middle East and North Africa is an example of how the international community can come together to address major challenges," said World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim. "These grants mean we can now begin expanding programs to help Jordan and Lebanon cope with the impact of the Syrian refugee crisis, while guarantees will allow multi-lateral development banks to increase their financing in support of countries across the region confronting the multiple consequences of instability. I am confident of mobilizing additional support for recovery and reconstruction, and reaching our goal of raising US\$1 billion in grants over the next five years, which we will leverage to create US\$3 to 4 billion in much needed concessional financing."

The new financing initiative was launched jointly by the World Bank Group, the United Nations and the Islamic Development Bank Group in October of last year. The goal of the initiative is to rally the international community and improve coordination among international organizations, to meet the scale of both the MENA region's humanitarian and development needs. The three organizations formed a working group which over the last six months, together with representatives of 26 supporting and benefitting countries, as well as nine regional and international organizations, has focused on developing the structure of the initiative and a roadmap for its implementation.

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Meeting the Real Needs of Syrian Civilians: A Message to the Humanitarian Task Force

April 14, 2016

It has been 60 days since the U.S. and Russia signed the Munich agreement, calling for increased attention to address the dire humanitarian conditions inside Syria. In this time the Humanitarian Task Force (HTF)—established by the 23-member International Syria Support Group (ISSG)—has helped push for UN convoys to enter 31 communities designated by the UN as besieged and hard-to-reach areas delivering short-term supplies for 400,000 people since the beginning of the year, less than 10 percent of people in need in those areas.

This is positive, but it is nowhere near enough. Parties to the conflict continue to prevent access to many areas and even when convoys are approved, vital items such as medical supplies continue to be removed. The Syrian conflict is among the worst catastrophe in modern times and reflects the absolute failure of the international community to halt the brutal and unnecessary cycle of violence. At this critical time, we must not let Syria also be a humanitarian failure. The international community must redouble efforts to hold parties to the conflict accountable and press for humanitarian breakthroughs that can have a real impact for Syria's civilians struggling to meet their basic needs. The ISSG and HTF are central to achieving this aim.

NGOs working in Syria have four key messages for the ISSG and the HTF:

.1. Focus beyond delivery of commodities to enable humanitarian activities that support the resilience of Syrians in the longer term.

The recent convoys are welcomed, but they do not represent sustained, humanitarian access. Humanitarian access is not a one-off or periodic delivery of commodities. And we are concerned that an over-emphasis on the convoys has detracted from other types of assistance that are needed just as urgently, including medical, health, water, sanitation, education, psychosocial support, and child protection services. Humanitarian access should mean that doctors and health care workers have regular access and supplies to tend to the sick and evacuate those in urgent need of care, that farmers have access to seeds and fertilizer, that clean water is available and sanitation services provided, and that children no longer have to resort to eating grass out of hunger.

Syrian organizations on the front lines consistently say communities require these ongoing services and the ability to produce and grow their own food. The delivery of food parcels, shelter and household items, while important, is the most basic option. While necessary in some places, humanitarians, if allowed, can also engage in more sustainable and efficient approaches.

In addition to emergency assistance, the focus should also be on the planting season, the provision of livestock, the winter harvest and the development of supply chains for services. Humanitarian organizations have the capacity to develop seed banks and markets during war, even in besieged or conflict-affected communities. In Aleppo governorate, for example, NGOs have supported farmers in planting 3,900 hectares of wheat in the past several months and have provided seeds and fertilizer purchased from the local markets. These efforts can help assist with emergency needs and help Syrians to be active participants in providing for their families and communities.

.2. Ensure future convoys are more effective in meeting the priority needs of Syrians and place increased emphasis on full humanitarian access.

Any success in bringing life-saving assistance to those in besieged and hard-to-reach areas should be welcomed, but their effectiveness could be significantly improved. Most importantly, future convoys must be informed and driven by impartial needs assessment, which will only be possible if local Syrian organizations and local stakeholders are permitted access. They should include personnel to deliver services and repair infrastructure, such as water and health infrastructure. They should insist on the ability to evacuate those needing urgent medical attention, as well as delivering medicine, surgical equipment and other medical supplies. They should deliver inputs for food production and other items contributing to greater resilience. They should include the ability to independently assess and monitor aid delivery to ensure it responds to what is most needed. Finally, the convoys should carry with them dedicated protection monitors who can report back with much-needed information about vulnerable groups, particularly women and children, to enable better protection services.

.3. Push for access negotiations that extend to all humanitarian actors, not just UN agencies.

The ISSG should focus on freedom of movement for aid to reach communities by those best placed to reach them. This should extend in particular to Syrian humanitarian actors that are serving their communities with emergency and longer-term support—both those that are registered with Damascus and those that are not able to obtain registration. Many Syrian humanitarian workers are placing themselves at great risk to serve their communities.

Unregistered humanitarians are currently cast as criminals. Humanitarian staff and partners should not have to work under the threat of prosecution, aerial bombardments, arrests, abduction, or detention simply for serving civilians. The ISSG should prioritize the protection of aid workers and recognition by all parties of the impartiality of aid agencies, in line with customary international law.

.4. Reject the use of humanitarian aid as a political bargaining chip or a weapon of war.

To date, it is clear that the approval for UN cross line convoys is thoroughly linked to political negotiations. We are concerned that convoy permission is being used as a means of enticing populations into entering or maintaining localized truce agreements, while simultaneously penalizing those that will not. The continued exclusion of places like Darayya, Duma, and Moadamiya from the approved list of convoys suggests that approvals are tied to the political process and control of these high priority areas – not based on humanitarian need.

Besiegement cannot continue to be used as a weapon against civilians and humanitarian aid cannot be a tool for political wrangling by a state. Fundamental humanitarian values are being challenged and this is a test of the international community's commitment to humanitarian

principles. The ISSG should resist and prevent any future attempts to link humanitarian access to other political negotiations. Humanitarian values should not be compromised by political agendas.

This framework is achievable if parties to the conflict are finally held accountable for their obligations—we owe it to the Syrian women, men and children suffering from this seemingly intractable conflict to uphold these standards. When humanitarian standards are not met and when humanitarian assistance is not responsive to the real needs on the ground, not sufficiently coordinated, and not effectively monitored it brings a terrible human cost. Failing to live up to these standards means well-intentioned aid is less effective, or at worst, even harmful. There must be a stronger focus on scaling up assistance that is based on locally-driven assessments, rooted in local partnerships, and strengthening local markets where they are functioning. Parties to the conflict must be pressed to allow these interventions to take place.

Syrians have endured five years of brutal conflict, but they have not lost their resilience or their hope. We have seen Syrians adapt and cope with the most intolerable conditions—and we will do our best to support them in every way possible. As humanitarians, it is not within our power to end the war—but we can speak loudly about our commitment to serve those in need and not give up on the values we hold closely. We call on parties to the conflict to urgently come to the negotiating table and commit to end the violence once and for all, as the only way to finally end the massive human suffering. In the meantime, there must be a firm commitment to regaining the momentum on humanitarian access that was seen in the days after the Munich Agreement. The ISSG and HTF must make this a top priority, and do much better to meet the needs of Syrian civilians.

The following organizations, many of whom are operational in besieged and hard-to-reach areas, support this statement:

Bihar Relief
Bonyan Organization
CARE International
Caritas Switzerland
Choubbak Amal
Cham for Development
Elaff Union for Relief and Development
Emissa
International Humanitarian Relief
Live 4 Syria (L4S)
Maram Foundation
Maddad
Mercy Corps
Nabea Al Hayat
Olive Branch
Space of Hope
Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS)
Syrian NGO Alliance
Syria Relief and Development
Syria Relief Network
Qatar Red Crescent

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Deportations of refugees and migrants from Greece must be halted

15 April 2016

Deportations of refugees and migrants from Greece to Turkey must be halted immediately and people wanting to seek asylum should not be kept in detention, said Oxfam, Norwegian Refugee Council and Solidarity Now.

Refugees could be returned to Turkey without having had a proper asylum hearing or without receiving the necessary information about their legal rights, the aid agencies warn. Forced returns to Turkey were restarted after a pause last week.

Over 6,300 refugees and migrants have arrived on the Greek islands since the EU-Turkey deal came into effect on 20 March, and are being arbitrarily held in detention camps. The majority of these new arrivals have applied for asylum. While the European Commission said on 4 April that Greece had sent 1,500 asylum case officers and police officers to the islands, there is no evidence of this additional capacity on the ground.

The Greek Asylum Service remains severely understaffed with only a handful of officials and caseworkers on the island to process cases, who are struggling to cope with the demand of asylum requests. Unless the promised additional capacity arrives, the quality of the asylum process will be severely compromised.

Compounding the pressure are new 'emergency measures' adopted into law by the Greek Government on 3 April, which includes an expedited 'fast track' asylum hearing to determine admissibility. Under these new procedures, Greek asylum officials must undertake complex asylum examinations, including decisions on whether or not Turkey is considered a safe country for return. These complex reviews that determine a person's future take place in just one day.

Farah Karimi, Oxfam Executive Director said: "Thousands are being held in squalid detention centres on the Greek Islands - this is the state of Europe in 2016 - while the returns deal was pushed through to the detriment of these stranded suffering people by the EU which claims to be a bastion for human rights. Shame on the EU for prioritizing detention and deportation over people's rights to safety and dignity."

Even with the support of this promised extra staff, it will take weeks to process the asylum claims of the more than 6,300 people currently being held in overcrowded detention centres on the Greek islands.

Jan Egeland, Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council said, "It is shocking to see how Europe is mistreating men, women and children fleeing to our continent for protection from war and persecution. Asylum seekers are kept with migrants in overcrowded detention camps deprived of dignity and basic human rights. Disgraceful conditions are placing people at risk. European politicians hold the keys to this crisis, and should immediately open the camps."

The aid agencies claim that living conditions in the detention centres are deteriorating rapidly with many people sleeping outdoors or in cramped shelters.

Epaminondas Farmakis, Managing Director of SolidarityNow said: "Europe can no longer look away from this inhumane situation in which people continue to risk their lives. It must ensure that the people on the move will live in open and secure structures as long as they remain in the country. It is more important, however, to immediately stop deportations to Turkey and to guarantee that these people can exercise their basic right- that of asylum."

There remains no routine identification of vulnerable people and aid agencies report ongoing detention of children, pregnant women, people with disabilities and those with medical needs. In Lesbos and Chios, Pakistanis who perceive their treatment to be discriminatory have threatened to commit suicide.

There is, additionally, growing insecurity as a result of rising frustration and tensions. There have already been incidents of violence at night and women in particular are extremely vulnerable under such circumstances.

Aid agencies are calling on Europe to:

- Immediately halt all returns from Greece to Turkey.
- Immediately open all camps where people have expressed intention to seek asylum.
- Immediately improve security to ensure a protective environment for all people inside the closed facility.
- Maintain the integrity of the asylum claims process and ensure people have access to legal aid as a matter of urgency.
- Increase the number of staff working with the Greek Asylum Service on the islands to process these claims and ensure people are able to access their right to claim asylum before any deportation order is issued.
- Put an end to arbitrary arrests and detentions. The increasing use of detention as a restriction of the freedom of movement of asylum-seekers on the grounds of their irregular entry is a major concern.

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Editor's Note:

Again this week, we highlight announcements by the World Bank Group reflecting our view of their scale, impact and aspiration.

World Bank Group, UNICEF urge greater investment in early childhood development

WASHINGTON, April 14, 2016 – World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim and UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake today jointly urged global and national leaders to step up and accelerate action and investments in nutrition and early childhood development (ECD) programmes as a critical foundation for equitable development and economic growth.

The two organizations announced the establishment of a new alliance that aims to make ECD a global policy, programming and public spending priority, to give all young children access to quality services that improve their health, nutrition, learning ability and emotional well-being.

Advances in neuroscience and recent economic studies show that early childhood experiences have a profound impact on brain development and on subsequent learning, health, and adult earnings. Children who are poorly nourished and nurtured, or those who do not receive early stimulation, are likely to learn less in school and earn less as adults.

Globally, millions of children under the age of five are at risk of never reaching their full developmental potential. One out of four children under five (159 million) are stunted due to poor nutrition, with numbers significantly higher in parts of Africa and South Asia. Nearly half of all 3 to 6 year olds don't have access to pre-primary education. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 80 percent are not enrolled in pre-primary programmes.

"The time has come to treat childhood stunting as a development and an economic emergency," said World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim. "How will countries compete in what will certainly be a more digitalized global economy in the future if a third or more of their children are stunted? Our failure to make the right investments in early childhood development is condemning millions of children to lives of exclusion. We can't promise to equalize development outcomes, but we can insist on equalizing opportunity."...

African Partners, World Bank Commit to Provide Identification to Millions

WASHINGTON, April 14, 2016 —African leaders and development partners agreed on a common approach for accelerating the provision of unique identification to millions of people in Africa as a means to foster more inclusive economies and greater regional integration.

At a high-level meeting on Wednesday during the World Bank-IMF Spring Meetings, representatives from the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the East African Community, African Ministers of Finance, development partners and the World Bank Group committed to join efforts in providing identification to millions of people across Africa through a more integrated and regional approach.

"Identification provides a foundation for other rights and gives a voice to the voiceless," said World Bank Vice President for Africa Makhtar Diop. "It is indispensable for ensuring access to education, financial services, and health and social benefits."

The World Bank will work with countries in collaboration with regional bodies like the African Union to develop a set of harmonized standards to support interoperability between national identification systems and mutual recognition of identification documents.

"People have a right to legal identity and recognition which are essential prerequisites for decent work, livelihoods and well-being," said African Union Commission Deputy Chairperson, Erastus Mwencha. "Those issues are at the core of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals, and require access to technology, resources, as well as advocacy and capacity."...

Investing in treatment for depression and anxiety leads to fourfold return

World Health Organization/World Bank Group press release - Depression and anxiety disorders cost the global economy US\$1 trillion each year

12 April 2016, Washington DC, USA -- Every US\$ 1 invested in scaling up treatment for depression and anxiety leads to a return of US\$ 4 in better health and ability to work, according to a new WHO-led study which estimates, for the first time, both the health and economic benefits of investing in treatment of the most common forms of mental illness globally. The study, published today in *The Lancet Psychiatry*, provides a strong argument for greater investment in mental health services in countries of all income levels.

"We know that treatment of depression and anxiety makes good sense for health and wellbeing; this new study confirms that it makes sound economic sense too," said Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO). "We must now find ways to make sure that access to mental health services becomes a reality for all men, women and children, wherever they live."

Depression and anxiety are increasing

Common mental disorders are increasing worldwide. Between 1990 and 2013, the number of people suffering from depression and/or anxiety increased by nearly 50%, from 416 million to 615 million. Close to 10% of the world's population is affected, and mental disorders account for 30% of the global non-fatal disease burden. Humanitarian emergencies and ongoing conflict add further to the need for scale-up of treatment options. WHO estimates that, during emergencies, as many as 1 in 5 people are affected by depression and anxiety.

Returns on investment in treatment far outweigh the costs

The new study calculated treatment costs and health outcomes in 36 low-, middle- and high-income countries for the fifteen years from 2016-2030. The estimated costs of scaling up treatment, primarily psychosocial counselling and anti-depressant medication, amounted to US\$ 147 billion. Yet the returns far outweigh the costs. A five percent improvement in labour force participation and productivity is valued at US\$ 399 billion, and improved health adds another US\$ 310 billion in returns.

However, current investment in mental health services is far lower than what is needed. According to WHO's Mental Health Atlas 2014 survey, governments spend on average 3% of their health budgets on mental health, ranging from less than 1% in low-income countries to 5% in high-income countries.

"Despite hundreds of millions of people around the world living with mental disorders, mental health has remained in the shadows," said Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank Group. "This is not just a public health issue—it's a development issue. We need to act now because the lost productivity is something the global economy simply cannot afford. "...

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New figures on growing inequality among children in high-income countries – UNICEF

FLORENCE/NEW YORK, 14 April 2016 – A new UNICEF report presents evidence on how inequality affects children in high-income countries.

Innocenti Report Card 13, Fairness for Children: A league table of inequality in child well-being

in rich countries, ranks 41 EU and OECD countries according to how far children at the bottom of the distribution fall below their peers in the middle. The report looks at bottom end inequality of income, educational achievement, self-reported health and life satisfaction.

Denmark is at the top of the overall league table with the lowest inequality among children. Israel ranked lowest across all domains. In 19 out of 41 countries covered by the data, more than 10 per cent of children live in households with less than half the median income. While inequality in children's self-reported health symptoms increased in almost all countries between 2002 and 2014, inequality in physical activity and poor diet decreased in a majority of countries. Bottom-end inequality has also narrowed in reading achievement in the majority of countries. When children rank their life satisfaction on a scale of 1 – 10 the median score is 8; however, children at the lower end of the distribution fall far behind their peers. In every country, girls aged 13 and 15 report lower life satisfaction than boys.

Innocenti Report Card 13 proposes the following key areas for government action to strengthen child well-being:

- :: Protect the incomes of households with the poorest children.
- :: Improve the educational achievements of disadvantaged learners.
- :: Promote and support healthy lifestyles for all children.
- :: Take subjective well-being seriously.
- :: Place equity at the heart of child well-being agendas.

"The Report Card provides a clear reminder that the well-being of children in any country is not an inevitable outcome of individual circumstances or of the level of economic development but is shaped by policy choices," said Dr. Sarah Cook, Director of the UNICEF Office of Research - Innocenti. "As our understanding of the long term impact of inequality grows, it becomes increasingly clear that governments must place priority on enhancing the well-being of all children today, and give them the opportunity to achieve their potential."

Other significant findings include:

- :: Two of the world's wealthiest countries, Japan and the United States, were positioned in the bottom third of the league table for income inequality. In both countries, the household income of a child in the 10th percentile is roughly 40 per cent of that of a child in the middle of the income distribution.
- :: Only Spain and the United States improved in all four health indicators since 2002.
- :: Only four countries – Estonia, Ireland, Latvia and Poland – managed to lower education inequality while also allowing fewer children to fall below minimum proficiency standards.
- :: Among 10 countries where data on country of birth was collected 7 showed lower life satisfaction among migrant children.

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Protecting Cultural Heritage Threads through United Nations Peacekeeping Strategy, Secretary-General Tells Yale University Colloquium

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's remarks, as prepared for delivery, to the Global Colloquium of University Presidents on the Preservation of Cultural Heritage: Challenges and Strategies, at Yale University, in New Haven, United States, today.

12 April 2016

SG/SM/17664

[Excerpt]

...Cultural diversity, like biodiversity, plays a quantifiable and crucial part in the health of the human species. An attack on cultural heritage in one part of the world is an attack on us all.

But, cultural diversity is under grave threat around the globe. Who could fail to be outraged by the destruction of the magnificent Buddhas of Bamyan, the monuments of Palmyra, the mosques and cultural artefacts of northern Mali? This wanton vandalism is not collateral damage. It is part of a ruthless wave of cultural and ethnic cleansing, inseparable from the persecution of the communities that created these cultural gems. It is also part of a cycle of theft and profit that finances the activities of extremists and terrorists.

As a human family, we cannot let them erase our history and identity. Any loss of cultural heritage is a loss of our common memory. It impairs our ability to learn, to build experience and to apply the lessons of the past to the present and the future. Culture is also one of the strongest driving forces for building societies and imbuing them with values. It knits communities together with a sense of continuity.

Extremists and terrorists have known this throughout the ages. They have always understood that by attacking and destroying cultural artefacts, buildings and monuments, they can divide people, erase their common values, shred the social fabric and create greater fragility and vulnerability to their cynical ideology.

In our response, we must be even more determined to safeguard and preserve culture than the extremists are to destroy it. This must be central to our strategy for tackling violent extremism, building peace and restoring security.

The United Nations system is working to strengthen the links between the protection of cultural heritage, peacebuilding missions and humanitarian emergency response. In Mali, for example, I saw the destruction caused by extremist militants to mausoleums and manuscripts when they took over Timbuktu in 2012. It was not only about stones, buildings and papers. It was about identity and dignity.

I will never forget speaking to the Grand Imam, representatives from the Christian community, the local government, young people and women's representatives. They all said they had lived together in a diverse community for years. They all wanted education, jobs and, above all, peace.

As soon as Timbuktu was liberated, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and the Malian Government launched a restoration operation, with logistical support from the "blue helmets" of our United Nations peacekeeping mission. Like destruction, restoration is not only about buildings. It is about history, identity, culture and the promise of the future. I am proud to say that 14 mausoleums have now been completely restored. The town's people talk of the rebirth of Timbuktu.

UNESCO stands ready to travel to Palmyra, which was liberated just weeks ago, to help evaluate the damage and protect the city's priceless cultural heritage. I hope that one day,

Palmyra, Aleppo, Nineveh and the other devastated cities of Syria and Iraq will again serve as symbols of unity and diversity.

The United Nations Security Council has recognized the important links between cultural heritage, peace and security in a landmark resolution passed last year. The Council condemned the destruction of cultural heritage in Iraq and Syria and adopted legally binding measures to combat the illicit trafficking of antiquities and cultural artefacts from these countries. This was a rare show of unity from the Council, which had been in a deadly deadlock over Syria. Now we must build on these major steps, to advance the cause of peace...

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Skoll, Ford and BRITDOC Launch Flex Fund to Expand Impact of Storytelling

News — 14 April 2016

Through the Flex Fund, the three foundations will provide second-stage funding for joint projects by social entrepreneurs and filmmakers.

At the Ford Foundation, we believe creative visual storytelling is vital to the pursuit of justice and equity in the 21st century. We have a long history of partnering with courageous visionaries, whose powerful stories inspire imaginations, disrupt stereotypes, and help transform attitudes that perpetuate injustice.

We're pleased to announce a new collaboration with Skoll and the BRITDOC Foundation that will build upon this legacy.

Through the Flex Fund, the three foundations will provide second-stage funding for joint projects by social entrepreneurs and filmmakers. The fund is open to projects that are well positioned to further, widen, or deepen their impact, and projects that propose to explore new arenas of experimentation informed by rigorous data and evidence. The first funding round will be focused on Skoll and Ford's common grantees, with the goal of giving promising storytelling projects a boost to the next level of impact.

Why do we need the Flex Fund? Storytelling for impact remains more art than science, with expertise fragmented across a small number of funders, artists, and impact producers. Like many in the not-for-profit world, filmmakers often must assemble a mosaic of funding from different sources, each with their own agenda and expectations. Knitting these together into a coherent whole is difficult enough. Actually leveraging the story and effecting change in the world is hardly a foregone conclusion.

But what if we could experiment with alignment, and do so with some of the smartest visual storytellers? Create a portfolio of promising storytelling projects, partnered with some of the most effective social entrepreneurs in the world, and give them not only funding but also access to the knowledge, experience, and contacts they need. What if we built on existing efforts, like Sundance Stories of Change, rather than competing with them? This is the promise of the Flex Fund.

For now, the Flex Fund is a pilot project that expects to make four to five grants in its first year, each ranging from \$25,000 to \$75,000. Ford and Skoll are funding the project equally.

BRITDOC will bring its remarkable acumen and network to bear, providing direct management of the portfolio in consultation with Skoll and Ford...

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:: Agency/Government/IGO Watch

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

United Nations – Secretary General, Security Council, General Assembly

[to 16 April 2016]

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

Selected Press Releases/Meetings Coverage

15 April 2016

SC/12325

Special Envoy for Yemen Seeks Security Council's Support for New Round of Face-to-Face Talks Aimed at Reviving Political Dialogue

The Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Yemen asked the Security Council today for its support in the weeks and months ahead as parties to the conflict in that country prepared to embark on a fresh round of face-to-face negotiations, building on the cessation of hostilities that began on 10 April.

15 April 2016

SC/12324

New Government of Central African Republic Must Capitalize on Positive Momentum Generated by Elections, Peacekeeping Chief Tells Security Council

Following peaceful elections bearing the promise of ushering stability and democracy into the Central African Republic, the Government must capitalize on the positive momentum by instituting key economic, judicial and security reforms, the head of United Nations peacekeeping told the Security Council this morning.

12 April 2016

SG/SM/17664

Protecting Cultural Heritage Threads through United Nations Peacekeeping Strategy, Secretary-General Tells Yale University Colloquium

Following are UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's remarks, as prepared for delivery, to the Global Colloquium of University Presidents on the Preservation of Cultural Heritage: Challenges and Strategies, at Yale University, in New Haven, United States, today.

[See Week in Review above for more detail]

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

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

Selected Press Releases

Zeid calls for an end to executions for drug offences in Iran

GENEVA (14 April 2016) – UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein on Thursday appealed to Iran to halt executions for drug offences until Parliament debates a new law that would remove the mandatory death penalty for drug crimes...

Alarming reports of human rights violations in the Republic of Congo – Zeid

GENEVA (13 April 2016) – Statement by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein on the situation in the Republic of Congo:

"Very alarming reports have been coming out of the Republic of Congo regarding an apparent Government security operation in an area of southern Brazzaville known as "the Pool". Since the March 20 presidential election, there have been reports that security operations have been conducted against opposition leaders and supporters who allegedly attacked a police station and areas in the southern part of the capital on 4 April. The Government has announced that 17 people died in security operations, including three members of security forces, with several others wounded.

There have been reports of mass arrests and torture in detention, as well as the killing and displacement of people from the Pool. The reports have been difficult to verify, given a lack of access to the area by independent actors...

Spotlight on mega sporting events

UN Asia Regional Forum on Business & Human Rights / 19-20 April 2016 - Qatar

GENEVA (14 April 2016) – The human rights issues associated with mega sporting events will be one of the topics discussed at the United Nations Asia Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights, from 19 to 20 April in Doha.

Professor John Ruggie, the author of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, will talk about his report, commissioned by FIFA, in which he makes recommendations on how FIFA can integrate human rights into its policies and practices.

"The scale of FIFA's global activities and relationships means that acting on its commitments to respect human rights has the potential to be a landmark for advancing human dignity through sports around the world," said John Ruggie, who is a Professor at Harvard University...

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

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

No new digest content identified.

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

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

13 Apr 2016

Bring Back Our Girls. Bring Back Our Children.

Statement by Leila Zerrougui, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict on the two-year anniversary of the abduction of 276 girls in Chibok, Nigeria

10 Apr 2016

STATEMENT attributable to Ms. Leila Zerrougui, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and Dr. Peter Salama, UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa

NEW YORK/AMMAN- "The children of Yemen are bearing the brunt of a brutal conflict. The cessation of hostilities that has come into effect today is an opportunity for parties to take action to improve their protection.

"In the past year, the United Nations verified a significant increase in grave violations against children by all parties to the conflict in Yemen. According to recent figures, 900 children were killed, a seven fold increase compared with 2014. Child recruitment increased five times, with 848 cases verified. Meanwhile, attacks on schools and hospitals have doubled, bringing the total number to over 115. The disruption in the delivery of basic services has deprived thousands of children of their fundamental rights to education and health.

"The incidents that the United Nations was able to verify represent the tip of the iceberg, but they do reveal some very concerning trends. First, it is estimated that children represent around one-third of all civilians killed and close to a quarter of those injured. Second, attacks on civilian infrastructure, especially schools and health clinics, have become commonplace. Third, children are now playing a more active role in combat and manning checkpoints including on the front-lines.

"Taken together these data represent a disturbing pattern of flagrant disregard for international humanitarian law and the rights of children in Yemen. These patterns have far-reaching implications for the stability of Yemen and the future of its children...

Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Health/Pages/SRRightHealthIndex.aspx>

No new digest content identified.

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

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

No new digest content identified.

UN OCHA [to 16 April 2016]

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

15 Apr 2016

Yemen: Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Kyung-Wha Kang statement to the Security Council on the Humanitarian Situation in Yemen

14 Apr 2016

Nigeria: 2 years on from Chibok abductions, huge numbers of women and girls still at risk in North-East Nigeria

Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Country: Nigeria

(Abuja, 14 April 2016) Two years on from their abduction, the fate of 219 of the Chibok schoolgirls is still unknown, but their plight is sadly all too common in the conflict-affected communities of the North-East. "Humanitarian agencies are concerned that two years have passed, and still the fate of the Chibok girls and the many, many other abductees is unknown," said the Humanitarian Coordinator for Nigeria...

13 April 2016

Malawi: Declaration of a State of National Disaster caused by prolonged dry spells during the 2015/2016 season by his Excellency Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi

12 April 2016

Nigeria: Donors called on to support the United Nations as it reaches communities in rural Borno

Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Country: Nigeria

(Abuja and Dakar, 12 April 2016): UN agencies and non-governmental organisations are increasing their footprint in Nigeria's Borno State, and the UN has now reached people struck by crisis in rural parts of the region.

11 April 2016

occupied Palestinian territory: OCHA Flash Update: Gaza's sole power plant shut down triggering up to 20 hours of outage a day

Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Country: occupied Palestinian territory On 8 April, the Gaza Power Plant (GPP) was forced to shut down completely after exhausting its fuel reserves and being unable to replenish them due to a shortage of funds. This has triggered electricity blackouts of 18-20 hours per day, up from 12 hours previously, further undermining the delivery of basic services.

UNICEF [to 16 April 2016]

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

Selected Press Releases

Polio-Free World in Sight as Largest Vaccine Rollout in History Kicks Off

GENEVA, 14 April 2016 – Next week marks the beginning of the largest and fastest globally coordinated rollout of a vaccine into routine immunization programs in history. Between 17 April and 1 May, 155 countries and territories around the world will stop using the trivalent oral polio vaccine (tOPV), which protects against all three strains of wild poliovirus, and replace it with bivalent OPV (bOPV), which protects against the remaining two wild polio strains, types 1 and 3. This effort will provide better protection for children against polio, particularly those most vulnerable to infection.

World Bank Group, UNICEF urge greater investment in early childhood development

WASHINGTON, April 14, 2016 – World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim and UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake today jointly urged global and national leaders to step up and

accelerate action and investments in nutrition and early childhood development (ECD) programmes as a critical foundation for equitable development and economic growth.

New figures on growing inequality among children in high-income countries – UNICEF

FLORENCE/NEW YORK, 14 April 2016 – A new UNICEF report presents evidence on how inequality affects children in high income countries.

[See Week in Review above for more detail]

Nigeria regional conflict: 10-fold increase in number of children used in 'suicide' attacks

DAKAR, Senegal/NEW YORK/GENEVA, 12 April 2016 – The number of children involved in 'suicide' attacks in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger has risen sharply over the past year, from 4 in 2014 to 44 in 2015, according to a UNICEF report released today. More than 75 per cent of the children involved in the attacks are girls.

UNICEF and WFP respond to needs of drought-affected people in Somaliland and Puntland

NAIROBI, Kenya, 11 April 2016 – In northern Somalia, UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP) are stepping up efforts to help communities cope with a severe drought exacerbated by El Niño conditions in Somaliland and Puntland.

Yemen children bearing the brunt of brutal conflict – UN

NEW YORK/AMMAN, Jordan, 10 April 2016 – "The children of Yemen are bearing the brunt of a brutal conflict. The cessation of hostilities that has come into effect today is an opportunity for parties to take action to improve their protection.

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

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

Press Releases

16 April 2016

UNHCR lauds Pope's solidarity with refugees

UNHCR welcomes the Pope's demonstration of solidarity with the world's refugees today on his visit to the Greek island of Lesvos and by offering a home to three Syrian families.

Pope Francis travelled back to Rome from Lesvos today with 12 Syrians, including three women, three men and six children aged from four to 14 years of age. The Vatican is sponsoring the group's move to Rome and ensuring a home for the refugees who had arrived on Lesvos on 18 March and had been waiting for relocation to another European country. The Syrian families (two from Damascus and one from Dier ez-Zor) arrived just before the EU-Turkey agreement came into force on 20 March.

Today, the Pope visited refugees and migrants at a centre in Moria, Lesvos, and greeted children, women, and men who have fled war and human rights violations. At least two refugees broke down in tears as they approached the Pontiff to get his blessing...

15 April 2016

UNHCR and GPE Agree on Closer Collaboration to Ensure Children's Education During Crisis

Washington, D.C., – The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) signed a milestone agreement today that will strengthen their collaboration to support education for refugee children and youth

11 April 2016

UNHCR statement on violence on the Greece-FYROM border on 10 April

[See Week in Review above for more detail]

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

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

04/15/16

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals in 2016: 177, 207; Deaths: 732

Greece - IOM reports that an estimated 177,207 migrants and refugees have entered Europe by sea in 2016, arriving in Italy, Greece, Cyprus and Spain, through April 13.

"What is the Price of a Human Being?": IOM Helsinki Campaign

04/15/16

Finland - IOM Helsinki has launched a new counter trafficking public information campaign: "What is the price of a human being?"

IOM Highlights Humanitarian Needs of 2.4 Million Displaced in Northeast Nigeria

04/15/16

Nigeria - IOM is working with its partners to help the Nigerian government to support some 2.4 million people in the country's northeastern states displaced by the Boko Haram insurgency.

IOM Targets Vulnerable Populations in Remote Areas of South Sudan

04/15/16

South Sudan - IOM rapid response teams are addressing the humanitarian needs of crisis-affected populations outside of displacement sites in South Sudan. Expanding the reach of lifesaving aid is crucial as the two-year conflict continues to increase vulnerability among internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities across the country.

IOM's Swing Visits Conflict-Scarred Syria, Calls for Humanitarian Access, Increased Aid

04/12/16

Syria - IOM's Director General William Swing today concluded a three day visit to Syria calling for humanitarian access to all areas of conflict.

Yemen Cease Fire, Upcoming Talks Offer Hope for Internally Displaced in Taizz

04/12/16

Yemen - Despite reports of renewed fighting in Yemen yesterday, hours after a ceasefire, IOM is responding to an influx of internally displaced people in Taizz governorate.

UN Women [to 16 April 2016]

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

Date: 12 April 2016

[Women police climb the ranks across Africa](#)

Across the globe, women are still only a tiny portion of the security sector, but across Africa, some inroads are being made.

WHO & Regional Offices [to 16 April 2016]

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

- :: [14 April 2016](#) Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Saudi Arabia
- :: [13 April 2016](#) Yellow fever – Angola
- :: [12 April 2016](#) Zika virus infection – Viet Nam
- :: [11 April 2016](#) Yellow Fever – Democratic Republic of the Congo
- :: [9 April 2016](#) Microcephaly – France - Martinique

Highlights

[WHO and partners protect more than 1 million people from cholera](#)

April 2016 -- In 2015, more than 1 million people in 7 high-risk countries received the oral cholera vaccine. This extraordinary measure was taken to contain several cholera outbreaks from spreading further.

[WHO scales up malaria response in Yemen](#)

April 2016 -- The risk of a malaria epidemic is high in Yemen, with high fuel costs, shortages of health workers, violence, and internal displacement preventing an effective and timely response. WHO is working closely with the Ministry of Public Health and Population to address these challenges.

:: WHO Regional Offices

[WHO African Region AFRO](#)

:: [WHO regional office for Africa - Call for Nominations: Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Group \(RITAG\)](#)

12 April 2016

[WHO Region of the Americas PAHO](#)

No new digest content identified.

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

No new digest content identified.

[WHO European Region EURO](#)

:: [Health information at your fingertips](#) 15-04-2016

:: [Europe shapes new action plans on HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis](#) 12-04-2016

:: [European Health Information Initiative expands by 7 members at 4th Steering Group Meeting](#)
12-04-2016

[WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO](#)

:: [Updated guidelines for chronic hepatitis C infection](#) 14 April 2016

:: [WHO scales up malaria response in Yemen](#) 13 April 2016

:: [Investing in treatment for depression and anxiety leads to fourfold return](#) 13 April 2016

WHO Western Pacific Region

No new digest content identified.

UNAIDS [to 16 April 2016]

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

15 April 201

[UNAIDS urges countries to adopt a people-, rights- and health-centred approach to reverse the HIV epidemic among people who inject drugs](#)

A new UNAIDS report says insufficient coverage of harm reduction programmes and policies that criminalize and marginalize people who inject drugs are failing to reduce new HIV infections

GENEVA, 15 April 2016—Ahead of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem, which will take place from 19 to 21 April in New York, United States of America, UNAIDS has released a new report entitled [Do no harm: health, human rights and people who use drugs](#).

The report shows that the failure of many countries to adopt health- and rights-based approaches resulted in no reduction in the global number of new HIV infections among people who inject drugs between 2010 and 2014. The world has missed the United Nations General Assembly's target set in 2011 to reduce HIV transmission among people who inject drugs by 50% by 2015.

“Business as usual is clearly getting us nowhere,” said Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of UNAIDS. “The world must learn the lessons of the past 15 years, following the example of countries that have reversed their HIV epidemics among people who inject drugs by adopting harm reduction approaches that prioritize people’s health and human rights.”

The UNAIDS report presents the evidence base for five policy recommendations and 10 operational recommendations that countries should apply to turn around their HIV epidemics among people who inject drugs. These recommendations include the implementation of harm reduction programmes to scale and the decriminalization of the consumption and possession of drugs for personal use...

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund [to 16 April 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNDP United Nations Development Programme [to 16 April 2016]

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

[UNDP and Japan agree to expand support for restoring access to electricity in Syria](#)

Apr 15, 2016

The United Nations Development Programme’s Regional Bureau for Arab States and the Government of Japan signed today a US\$11.5 million agreement to expand efforts to restore reliable electricity to Syrian communities affected by the crisis in Syria.

Helen Clark: Keynote speech on Combating Inequalities and Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Apr 13, 2016 United Nations - New York, USA

UNDP tops global index for international aid transparency for second consecutive year

Apr 12, 2016

UNDP remains the most transparent aid organisation in the world, according to a leading global ranking released today.

Helen Clark: Statement at the UN Inter-agency Taskforce Meeting on Chernobyl

Apr 11, 2016 New York, USA

UN Division for Sustainable Development [to 16 April 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) [to 16 April 2016]

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

April 11, 2016

Jeffrey Cheah Foundation's \$10 Million Gift Launches the "Jeffrey D. Sachs Center on Sustainable Development" in Kuala Lumpur

Gift by Malaysia-Based Jeffrey Cheah Foundation Supports the Establishment of New Center and Curriculum Focused on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

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

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

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

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

25 - 26 MAY 2016 Budapest

Fifth meeting of the HLG

The fifth meeting of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG), is being held on 25-26 May 2016 in Budapest, Hungary.

The main objectives of the fifth meeting of the HLG are to review and discuss the Global Action Plan for Data and incorporate key points from issue partners, and further define the next steps in the organization of the UN World Data Forum, including an update by the host country.

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme [to 16 April 2016]

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

16/04/2016

Green Finance Symposium Explores Financial Mechanisms to Promote Low-Carbon Global Economic Growth

Hank Paulson underscores need for green finance, technologies to achieve global climate targets

UN Environment Programme and Partners Launch Sustainable Diving Guide to Protect Marine Assets

UNEP Video on Sustainable Dive Tourism Featuring Renowned Cartoonist Jim Toomey also Released
15/04/2016

Harnessing Africa's Rich Natural Capital Tops Agenda at High-level African Conference on the Environment

Sustainable use of Africa's natural capital could result in savings of up to \$103 billion every year and drive Africa's economic growth.
15/04/2016

New UN Web Tool Demonstrates Climate Benefits of Protecting Apes

Protecting great apes in Africa and Asia can help countries fight climate change.
14/04/2016

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

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

12 Apr 2016

Private sector hammers out resilience plans

GENEVA,– An international business group working to reduce the impact of natural and man-made hazards has pledged to ensure that the private sector plays its part in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The UNISDR Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies, or ARISE, today held a meeting to hammer out plans to help companies get involved in achieving the goals of the Sendai Framework, a 15-year agreement that seeks to curb disaster deaths and economic losses.

Americas step up Sendai Framework drive

WASHINGTON, 11 April 2016 – Paraguay is set to host a key meeting to step up the Americas' drive to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, a global agreement on saving lives and livelihoods from natural and man-made hazards.

The first Ministerial and High Level Authorities Meeting on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas is scheduled to take place on 8-9 June in the Paraguayan capital Asunción, delegates heard at a session of the 35-country Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington.

UN DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 16 April 2016]

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

15 April 2016, New York

Turning pledges into reality to finance sustainable development

"Let's demonstrate our commitment to realizing the sustainable development goals through financing for development," said Oh Joon, President of the United Nations Economic and Social

Council (ECOSOC), ahead of the inaugural ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum, which will be held in New York on 18-20 April under the theme "Financing for sustainable development: follow-up to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda."

UNESCO [to 16 April 2016]

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

Selected Press Releases/News

15 April 2016

Executive Board strengthens UNESCO to lead 2030 Agenda

14 April 2016

New director for science policy and capacity building

Prof. Romain Murenzi (Rwanda) has been appointed to the post of Director of UNESCO's Division of Science Policy and Capacity Building by the Director General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova...

The Division leads UNESCO's work in assisting its member states in the formulation and upgrading of their science policies, the strengthening of the science policy interface, the building of institutional and human capacities in science, innovation and engineering, in addition to mobilizing local and indigenous knowledge with the aim of contributing to the international sustainable development agenda and frameworks, at global, regional and national levels. It also focuses on small island developing states (SIDS) and implements its programmes through, among other means, cooperation with the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) and TWAS. The Division is also responsible for the production of the flagship UNESCO Science Report, the UNESCO Engineering Report and the Global Science Policy Information Network (GO-SPIN)...

12 April 2016

Cultural Heritage Preservation at the core of UN and Universities concerted efforts

On 11 April at Yale University, Irina Bokova, the Director-General of UNESCO, gave a public lecture on "Culture in Crisis" on confronting significant threats to the world's cultural heritage. Her talk was part of the week long events being held on campus in conjunction with the Global Colloquium of University Presidents, including a series of workshops on "Culture in Crisis" by the Yale Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage and the Victoria & Albert Museum as a follow up to joint colloquium they held in London in 2015 under the patronage of UNESCO.

12 April 2016

Protecting cultural heritage in Syria

UNESCO reiterates call for unity and coordination to protect Syrian Cultural Heritage

In the context of the ongoing destruction and rapidly evolving situation of World Heritage sites in the Syrian Arab Republic, UNESCO held several information meetings in April to assess the situation and discuss the way forward...

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

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

11/04/2016

Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the World Drug Problem

The United Nations General Assembly will hold a Special Session on the World Drug Problem from 19 to 21 April 2016. The session will review progress and discuss challenges in countering the world drug problem and in implementing the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, which defined actions to be taken by Member States as well as goals to be achieved by 2019. The event will consist of a plenary and multi-stakeholder roundtables...

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

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

Posted April 15, 2016

Record downloads of the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning

Nairobi 13 April 2016—The English version of the International Guidelines on Urban Territorial Planning (IG-UTP) has been downloaded over 100,000 times from the UN-Habitat website, making these Guidelines the most popular publications ever in less than a year of availability...

FAO Food & Agriculture Organization [to 16 April 2016]

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

15-04-2016

Google and FAO aim to usher in new era of environmental literacy for all

FAO and Google are working together to make high-resolution satellite data an everyday tool in managing the world's natural resources in a joint effort to boost "environmental literacy". The recently-established partnership already allows resource managers and researchers in many countries to gauge changing land uses of individual field-sized plots seen by eye-in-the-sky satellites.

FAO and partners ramp up efforts to track and prevent spread of damaging wheat rusts

The ongoing spread of wheat rusts, a group of fungal plant diseases that stymy the production of the staple grain and other crops, is raising concern in Central Asia and the Middle East and sparking closer international collaboration to study, detect and prevent the threat from advancing further.

14-04-2016

Desert Locust outbreak in Yemen leaves surrounding countries potentially at risk

Groups of juvenile wingless hoppers and adults as well as hopper bands and at least one swarm formed on the southern coast of Yemen in March where heavy rains associated with tropical cyclones Chapala and Megh fell in November 2015.

12-04-2016

ILO International Labour Organization [to 16 April 2016]

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

12 April 2016

Promoting Safe Migration from Pakistan

Pakistan's first Migrant Resource Centre inaugurated in Islamabad

The momentous occasion of the official opening of the Pakistan's first-ever Migrant Resource Centre (MRC), was held on the 12th of April 2016 in the presence of the representatives from government departments, civil society, INGOs, NGOs and media. Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development has established this centre in collaboration with the ILO, EU and ICMPD.

Islamabad (Joint ILO, EU and ICMPD News) - One of the most effective ways to combat common abuses of migrants such as underpayment of wages, confiscation of passports, substandard working conditions and confinement in the workplace, is to ensure that migrants are equipped with knowledge and strategies to safeguard their labour- and human rights throughout the migration cycle.

Recognizing this, the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development established the Migrant Resource Center (MRC) in Islamabad in 2015 with the support from the ILO-EU funded "South Asia Labour Migration Governance Project (SALM)" and the ICMPD-EU funded project "Silk Routes Partnership for Migration".

While MRCs already exists in other labour sending countries in South Asia, the center in Islamabad was the first ever to be established in Pakistan. The MRC provides a range of support services to (potential) migrants, migrant workers, and their families including information, counseling, referral and pre-departure orientation...

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization [to 16 April 2016]

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

12/4/16

ICAO Secretary General Stresses Links between Business Aviation Growth and Sustainable Development Objectives at ABACE2016

MONTRÉAL,– ICAO Secretary General Dr. Fang Liu highlighted the unique qualities and important role of business aviation to global development today, as she provided her keynote address to the 2016 Asian Business Aviation Conference and Exhibition (ABACE) in Shanghai, China....

Dr. Liu commented that business aviation is an important contributor to air transport's many positive impacts, and ultimately to many of the Sustainable Development Goals being pursued today under the United Nations' Agenda 2030, especially given its well-recognized role in promoting economic growth and international trade.

"In less developed and rural regions, including landlocked and small-island States, where a lack of stable demand, infrastructure constraints, and other challenges can often impede the viability of commercial operations, business aviation helps to establish vital links enabling improved connectivity," she remarked...

IMO International Maritime Organization [to 16 April 2016]

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

11/04/2016

Mandatory electronic data exchange for international shipping adopted

Mandatory requirements for the electronic exchange of information on cargo, crew and passengers have been adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), as part of a revised and modernized annex to the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic (FAL), which aims to harmonize procedures for ship's arrival, stay and departure from port.

The new standard relating to the obligation of public authorities to establish systems for the electronic exchange of information, within a period of three years after the adoption of the amendments, is among important changes in the revised Annex, which is expected to enter into force on 1 January 2018, under the tacit acceptance procedure.

There will be a transitional period of 12 months from the date of the introduction of such systems to make electronic transmission mandatory, during which period paper and electronic documents would be allowed...

WMO World Meteorological Organization [to 16 April 2016]

<http://public.wmo.int/en>

14 April 2016

IPCC agrees special reports, AR6 workplan

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has decided the strategy and timeline for its next series of reports, the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), and the special reports that will be prepared in the next few years.

The Panel responded positively to the invitation from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to provide a special report in 2018 on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways.

13 April 2016

Abdalah Mokssit of Morocco appointed as IPCC Secretary

The appointment of Mr Abdalah Mokssit as Secretary of the WMO/UNEP Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has been announced at the 43rd Session of the IPCC, which is taking place in Nairobi this week...

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

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

No new digest content identified.

International Organization for Standardization (ISO) [to 16 April 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNWTO World Tourism Organization [to 16 April 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

ITU International Telecommunications Union [to 16 April 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 16 April 2016]

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

April 20 – 22, 2016 (Geneva, Switzerland)

WIPO Conference on the Global Digital Content Market

The creative content economy has seen radical change to access and business models for more than a decade. The tensions between increased access and a sustainable economic value chain are the essence of this conference, which will explore:

- :: copyright in the digital age
- :: the impact of the digital environment on creators
- :: the role for publishers, producers and distribution platforms
- :: digital markets, access, and participation

Join the discussion with creators and experts from around the world. Limited space is available for members of the public. Registration is subject to confirmation that a seat has been assigned to you.

Meeting documents

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity [to 16 April 2016]

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

2016-04-11

Mexico urges early ratification of the international treaty on access and benefit-sharing

Montreal, 11 April 2016 – Rafael Pacchiano Alamán, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico, as the incoming president of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in a joint letter with Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, CBD Executive Secretary, urged his global counterparts to ratify the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity as soon as possible.

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USAID [to 16 April 2016]

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

April 13, 2016

USAID Announces \$30 Million Grand Challenge to Combat Zika and Future Disease Threats

Call for ideas now open; initial focus on improved tools to prevent and respond to Zika

Today the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) launched Combating Zika and Future Threats: A Grand Challenge for Development, calling innovators around the world to submit groundbreaking ideas to enhance our ability to respond to the current Zika outbreak and generate cutting-edge technologies and approaches that better prepare the world to address the disease threats of tomorrow.

April 12, 2016

USAID Awards \$5 Million for New Ways to End Extreme Poverty

Eight Organizations Supported Through the Development Innovation Ventures Program

The U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) U.S. Global Development Lab has announced \$5 million in new grants to eight organizations from around the world. The awards are funded through the Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) program, a year-round open competition that seeks innovative, breakthrough development solutions.

DFID [to 16 April 2016]

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

14 April 2016

[UK's continued support to Nigeria in the fight against Boko Haram](#)

DFID and FCO Press release

ECHO [to 16 April 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

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African Union [to 16 April 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]

Website not responding at inquiry.

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

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

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

[Statement by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini and Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides following the earthquakes in Japan](#)

Date: 16/04/2016 European Commission - Statement

Brussels, 16 April 2016 We express our condolences to the families and friends of those who have lost loved ones, following the earthquakes that have struck Japan. The European Union stands in full solidarity with the Japanese people and authorities.

[Europe-wide campaign launched to promote sustainable work and healthy ageing for all](#)

Date: 15/04/2016 European Commission - Press release

Brussels, 15 April 2016 Europe-wide campaign launched to promote sustainable work and healthy ageing for all Today in Brussels, the European Commission and the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) in cooperation with the Netherlands EU Presidency launched a two-year Europe-wide campaign...

Speech by President Jean-Claude Juncker at the 2016 Spring Meetings of the IMF, World Bank flagship event on 'Forced Displacement: A Global Development Challenge'

Date: 15/04/2016 European Commission - Speech –

Relocation and Resettlement: EU Member States urgently need to deliver

Date: 12/04/2016

European Commission - Press release

Strasbourg, 12 April 2016

[See Week in Review above for more detail]

OECD [to 16 April 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]

14-April-2016

Concrete actions needed to advance global tax transparency, OECD says

The international community should call time on all remaining holdouts who have yet to implement internationally agreed tax transparency standards, OECD Secretary General Angel Gurría said in a new report to the G20.

13-April-2016

Tax administrations meet on "Panama Papers"

A special project meeting of the Joint International Tax Shelter Information and Collaboration (JITSIC) Network took place at the OECD in Paris on Wednesday 13 April, bringing together senior tax administration officials from countries worldwide to discuss opportunities for obtaining data, co-operation and information-sharing in light of the "Panama Papers" revelations.

12-April-2016

Development aid rises again in 2015, spending on refugees doubles

Development aid totalled USD 131.6 billion in 2015, representing a rise of 6.9% from 2014 in real terms as aid spent on refugees in host countries more than doubled in real terms to USD 12 billion. Stripping out funds spent on refugees, aid was still up 1.7% in real terms, according to official data collected by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

[See Week in Review above for more detail]

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

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

April 15, 2016

Statement by OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro after meeting with the Constitutional President of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff

Today in Brasilia I discussed with President Dilma Rousseff the current situation in the country, some regional issues and the role played by the Organization of American States.

In addition, President Rousseff referred to the political situation in Brazil and the impeachment process she may have to face.

Our Organization has made a detailed analysis of the impeachment process against Dilma, and has concluded that it does not fit within the rules that govern this process.

There is no criminal accusation against the President; rather she has been accused of the poor administration of public resources in 2014. This is an accusation that is political in character, and that does not merit an impeachment process...

April 11, 2016

Peru: OAS Observation Mission Recommends Deep Electoral Reform

The Electoral Observation Mission of the Organization of American States (EOM/OAS) to the general elections in Peru today presented its preliminary technical report on Sunday's election, in which it recommends a deep electoral reform, including the system of disqualification of candidates.

In the report, the Mission makes a detailed analysis of the system of disqualifications. As was observed in the regional and municipal elections of 2014, the EOM notes that the current system does not provide guarantees because it transmits legal and political insecurity to the citizenry, and at times can put at risk the political rights of voters and candidates.

The report contains observations and recommendations with the aim of highlighting progress and identifying opportunities for improvement in the Peruvian electoral processes. The day of the election, the Mission deployed 79 international observers, who visited 463 voting centers in the various departments of the country. Moreover, two observers witnessed the voting in Virginia and Washington, DC in the United States.

The OAS Mission reiterates its condemnation of the attacks that left 10 people dead in Junín the day before the election...

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

<http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv3/news/?lan=en>

[Selected Press Releases, Announcements]

15/04/2016

FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE 13TH ISLAMIC SUMMIT OF THE HEADS OF STATE/GOVERNMENT OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES

1. The Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held their Summit (13th Islamic Summit titled 'Unity and Solidarity for Justice and Peace') in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey. The Summit Conference was chaired by H. E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoan, President of the Republic of Turkey....

[Selected Paragraphs regarding Syria]

49. The Conference expressed serious concern over the ongoing violence and bloodshed in the Syrian Arab Republic, and stressed the need to preserve Syria's unity, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. It reaffirmed its support for a political settlement of the conflict based on the Geneva Communiqu and supported the political process under the auspices of the UN, with a view to implementing a Syrian-led and Syrian owned political transition that would allow building a new Syrian State based on a pluralist, non-sectarian,

democratic and civilian system where the principles of equality before the law, rule of law and respect for human rights prevail...

51. The Conference welcomed the unanimous adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution No. 2254 on Syria endorsing an international roadmap for a peace process in Syria. Adoption of the resolution showed the global unity on a conflict that has claimed almost 300,000 lives. The Conference stressed the need to implement this resolution.

52. The Conference expressed its hope that the negotiations of the Syrian parties starting on 13 April 2016 in Geneva would lead to constructive and positive outcomes that will help in resolving the Syrian crisis as soon as possible. It commended in this regard the efforts of the United Nations envoy Staffande Mistura in encouraging political dialogue between the Syrian government and opposition.

53. The Conference reiterated its appreciation to the neighboring countries notably Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey for generously hosting of Syrian refugees, and commended also other friendly States for the support extended to these refugees.

54. The Conference called on the international community and OIC Member States to support Syrian refugees and countries hosting them as soon as possible, and to develop resettlement programmes for Syrian refugees in order to alleviate their plights and that of the hosting States...

Group of 77 [to 16 April 2016]

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

(New York, 11 April 2016)

Statement by H.E. Mr. Virachai Plasai, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand to the United Nations, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, at the Forty-ninth Session of the Commission on Population and Development on Agenda Item 4:

National experience in population matters: "Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda"

UNCTAD [to 16 April 2016]

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

12 Apr 2016

What impact does e-commerce have on trade and development?

UNCTAD/PRESS/PR/2016/008

Geneva, Switzerland

The impact on trade and development of the shift to online commerce will be at the heart of discussions between more than 200 experts from governments, leading e-commerce enterprises, consumer organizations and international development agencies in Geneva on 18–22 April 2016.

The second UNCTAD E-Commerce Week tackles topical issues such as online data privacy, policy discussions about cross-border transfers of data, the growth of e-commerce, and concerns over waning trust in online transactions. The event will also feature consultations with stakeholders on a new global initiative aimed at enhancing the capacity of developing countries to engage in and reap benefits from e-commerce...

World Trade Organisation [to 16 April 2016]

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

[We generally limit coverage to regional and global level initiatives, recognizing that a number of country-level announcements are added each week]
No new digest content identified.

IPU Inter-Parliamentary Union [to 16 April 2016]

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

11 APRIL 2016

IPU draft strategy sets out vision for future

IPU is inviting feedback from Members on its draft strategy for 2017-2021. The document, *Strong democratic parliaments serving the people* sets out a vision of a world where every voice counts, and where democracy and parliaments are at the service of citizens for peace and development. The strategy is built on the principles of equality, inclusiveness, respect, integrity and solidarity. It sets out IPU's commitment to gender equality, youth empowerment, human rights, the global development agenda, peace-building, fostering stronger relationships between parliaments, and bridging the democracy gap in international relations by bringing a parliamentary perspective to global decision-making. IPU Secretary General Martin Chungong told delegates at IPU's Lusaka Assembly that the strategy would continue to promote strong parliaments and would help them deliver on the expectations of citizens. *Please send feedback to postbox@ipu.org by 15 July 2016.*

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

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

08/04/2016

Official Opening of the ICC Permanent Premises on 19 April 2016

His Majesty King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands will officially open the permanent premises of the International Criminal Court ("ICC" or "Court") during a ceremony hosted by the ICC President, Judge Silvia Fernández, and H.E. Mr Sidiki Kaba, President of the Assembly of States Parties. H.E. Mr Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, will also attend the event that will be held on Tuesday, 19 April 2016, from 15:00 to 16:30 (The Hague local time) at the seat of the Court in The Hague (Netherlands).

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World Bank [to 16 April 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]

Unprecedented Collaboration among Development Partners to Improve Infrastructure Implementation

WASHINGTON, April 16, 2016—The inaugural Global Infrastructure Forum 2016 convening here today brings together for the first time the leaders of the multilateral development banks (MDBs) -- African Development...

Date: April 16, 2016 Type: Press Release

European Commission and World Bank Sign Agreement on Catastrophe Risk Insurance for Caribbean and Central American countries

European Union contributes Euro 14 million to Multi-Donor Trust Fund to facilitate access by Central American countries and the DR to insurance facility

Date: April 15, 2016 Type: Press Release

Victoria Kwakwa Appointed World Bank Vice President for East Asia and Pacific Region

WASHINGTON, April 15, 2016 – World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim has appointed Victoria Kwakwa as the new Regional Vice President for East Asia and Pacific, effective today.

Date: April 15, 2016 Type: Press Release

International Community Endorses New Initiative to Support Refugees, Host Communities, Recovery and Reconstruction in the Middle East and North Africa

WASHINGTON, April 15, 2016 – Eight nations and the European Commission today pledged a package of more than US\$1 billion -- US\$141 million in grants, US\$1 billion in soft loans, US\$500 million in...

Date: April 15, 2016 Type: Press Release

[See Week in Review above for more detail]

World Bank Group, UNICEF urge greater investment in early childhood development

WASHINGTON, April 14, 2016 – World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim and UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake today jointly urged global and national leaders to step up and accelerate action and investments...

Date: April 14, 2016 Type: Press Release

[See Week in Review above for more detail]

African Partners, World Bank Commit to Provide Identification to Millions

WASHINGTON, April 14, 2016 —African leaders and development partners agreed on a common approach for accelerating the provision of unique identification to millions of people in Africa as a means...

Date: April 14, 2016 Type: Press Release

[See Week in Review above for more detail]

Investing in treatment for depression and anxiety leads to fourfold return

World Health Organization/World Bank Group press release - Depression and anxiety disorders cost the global economy US\$1 trillion each year; countries and development partners to discuss way forward during...

Date: April 12, 2016 Type: Press Release

[See Week in Review above for more detail]

World Bank in Romania Condemns Acts of Racism Against the Roma

BUCHAREST, April 9, 2016 - The World Bank Group expresses its regret for the acts of hatred towards the Roma community in Romania manifested last night through the vandalism of the National Center for...

Date: April 9, 2016 Type: Press Release

IMF [to 16 April 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]

No new digest content identified.

African Development Bank Group [to 16 April 2016]

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

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

Unprecedented Collaboration among Development Partners to Improve Infrastructure Implementation

16/04/2016 - The inaugural Global Infrastructure Forum 2016 convening here today brings together for the first time the leaders of the multilateral development banks (MDBs) -- African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, Inter-American Development Bank Group, Islamic Development Bank, New Development Bank, and the World Bank Group -- as well as development partners and representatives of the G20, G24, and G77, to enhance multilateral collaborative mechanisms to improve infrastructure delivery globally. The Forum is organized in close partnership with the United Nations. Following the meeting, a Chairman's Statement will be issued, setting forth the next steps in this unprecedented collaboration.

"You can count on the AfDB as partner in delivering education for Africa", says Adesina

14/04/2016 - Partnership – between the public, the private and the 'third' sector of NGOs and Foundations – was the theme of an event hosted by the Global Business Coalition for Education on Thursday in Washington. "We need to preach revolution, as things have to change", said the Portland Trust. The Wellbeing Foundation continued: "We cannot exist; we cannot pursue; we cannot progress without partnerships."

The future of food

13/04/2016 - "We need to look afresh at agriculture in Africa as a series of systems, and to see it not as a way of life, but a business", said African Development Bank Acting Vice-President for Operations, Kapil Kapoor, at a World Bank Spring Meetings panel on 'The Future of Food' on Wednesday. But the challenges of food and agriculture are global: while 2 billion people in the world are undernourished, 2 billion are obese or overweight. The world wastes one-third of the food it produces.

Asian Development Bank [to 16 April 2016]

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

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

16 April 2016

Unprecedented Collaboration Among Development Partners to Improve Infrastructure Implementation

The inaugural Global Infrastructure Forum 2016 convening here today aims to enhance collaborative mechanisms to improve infrastructure delivery globally.

14 April 2016

Construction Begins on Lengana Wharf in Western Province

Rehabilitation work has begun on Lengana Wharf in Western Province, making it the thirteenth to be upgraded under the Domestic Maritime Support Project supported by ADB, Australia and New Zealand.

13 April 2016

Asian Economies Must Build Resilience to Growing Risks

Emerging risks and destabilizers as diverse as widening income inequality, slower growth, and climate change are reshaping Asia's economic landscape at such a rapid pace says Independent Evaluation at ADB.

11 April 2016

ADB Approves \$2 Million for Herders Hit By Mongolian Climate Disaster

ADB Country Director Robert Schoellhammer and Mongolia Finance Minister Bolor Bayarbaatar signed a \$2 million grant agreement for herders afflicted by a protracted climate disaster in Mongolia known as a "dzud."

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank [to 16 April 2016]

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

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

04/14/2016

Mr. Hamid Sharif appointed as Director General of the Compliance, Effectiveness and Integrity Unit

04/14/2016

AIIB and World Bank Sign First Co-Financing Framework Agreement

Close cooperation between the two institutions will support economic development

WASHINGTON, April 13, 2016—Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank President Jin Liqun and World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim today signed the first co-financing framework agreement between the two institutions.

The agreement outlines the co-financing parameters of AIIB-World Bank investment projects, and paves the way for the two institutions to jointly develop projects this year. In 2016, the AIIB expects to approve about \$1.2 billion in financing, with World Bank joint projects anticipated to account for a sizable share.

"I am very pleased today to sign this co-financing agreement together with World Bank Group President Kim," Jin said. "The AIIB is very grateful for the generous and timely support offered by the World Bank Group throughout our establishment process, and we look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with ongoing cooperation in project co-financing and other areas."

The AIIB and the World Bank are currently discussing nearly one dozen co-financed projects in sectors that include transport, water and energy in Central Asia, South Asia and East Asia. Under the agreement, the World Bank will prepare and supervise the co-financed projects in

accordance with its policies and procedures in areas like procurement, environment and social safeguards...

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

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

12 April 2016

Smallholder farmers to benefit from \$65 million tea and rubber revitalization project in Sri Lanka

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:: INGO/Consortia/Joint Initiatives Watch

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

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

Amref Health Africa [to 16 April 2016]

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

14 April 2016

FGM Ambassador Selected for the 2016 YALI Training.

Amref Health Africa congratulates Ms Nice Nailantei Leng'ete for having been selected to participate in the 2016 Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders.

Nailantei will join thousands of young leaders from the sub-Saharan Africa and the United States in a six week leadership training and later participate in a three day interactive session with U.S. leaders in business, government and non-profit sector Mandela Washington Fellowship Summit hosted by the U.S. President Barrack Obama.

Nailantei, who has been working as a project officer under the Amref Health Africa in Kenya Alternative Rite of Passage project for the last three years, continues to play a key role in the fight against Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C)to ensure girls and women in her maasai community transition to womanhood without undergoing the cut. She also acts as a role model to help the girls and escape early pregnancies and marriage and realise their education dream...

Aravind Eye Care System [to 16 April 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

BRAC [to 16 April 2016]

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

Monday, 11 April 2016 00:00

BRAC launches the prestigious Manthan Awards

BRAC launched the prestigious Manthan Digital Innovation Award (BMDIA) 2016, on 10 April, for the first time in Bangladesh. The award, an off-shoot of the Manthan Awards in India, promotes the use of technology for the development and focuses on newer digital and mobile innovations.

BRAC in partnership with Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF), an India-based non-profit launched the awards on National Press club today. Manthan Award, initiated in 2004 by Digital Empowerment Foundation promotes and recognises the contributions of individuals and organisations in the field of ICT for development...

CARE International [to 16 April 2016]

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

14th Apr 2016

Southern Africa drought threatens humanitarian catastrophe, warn aid agencies

Aid agencies in Mozambique warn that available resources are insufficient to address the scale of the needs.

Meeting the Real Needs of Syrian Civilians: A Message to the Humanitarian Task Force

14th Apr 2016 *Syria*

The Syrian conflict is among the worst catastrophe in modern times and reflects the absolute failure of the international community to halt the brutal and unnecessary cycle of violence.
[See Week in Review above for more detail]

Yemen: Ceasefire must hold or thousands more will die

10th Apr 2016 *Yemen*

An agreed cessation of hostilities in Yemen comes at a crucial moment when an entire country is on the brink.

Casa Alianza [to 16 April 2016]

Covenant House [to 16 April 2016]

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

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

04/13/2016

Looking Forward to Helping Homeless Youth in Chicago

With an estimated 11,000 homeless youth between the ages of 14 to 21 in Chicago over the course of a year, help is needed to provide more outreach, more beds and more hope. Soon Covenant House will stand side by side with other service providers in Chicago to help meet this urgent need.

Clubhouse International [to 16 April 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Danish Refugee Council [to 16 April 2016]

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

10.04.2016

Yemen: Ceasefire must hold or thousands more will die

The agreed cessation of hostilities in Yemen, beginning today, comes at a crucial moment when an entire country is on the brink. Humanitarian agencies warned today that should the ceasefire break down again, as previous ones did, the consequences would be catastrophic.

ECPAT [to 16 April 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Fountain House [to 16 April 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Handicap International [to 16 April 2016]

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

Posted on April 15, 2016 10:04 AM

Statement on the Deaths of three Haitian Women with Disabilities

In late March, three deaf Haitian women lost their lives in an alleged assassination. The event sent shockwaves across the Caribbean nation.

Handicap International stresses the need to protect the most vulnerable individuals, particularly people with disabilities, who may be more exposed to violence as a result of their disability. In Port-au-Prince, Handicap International's team joined a demonstration in support of the victims, in coordination with its local partners....

Heifer International [to 16 April 2016]

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

Tuesday, Apr 12, 2016

Heifer International Weekly

HelpAge International [to 16 April 2016]

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

Posted: 14 April 2016

HelpAge International welcomes universal pension in Zanzibar

The first government funded universal pension in East Africa is to be launched in Zanzibar this Friday (15 April).

ICRC [to 16 April 2016]

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

Selected News Releases and Articles

Jordan: Officials discuss better health care for detainees

News release

07 April 2016

Amman (ICRC) – The third regional conference on health care in detention organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in cooperation with Jordan's Public Security Directorate and Ministry of Health, drew to a close today.

Ukraine: ICRC concerned by repeated attacks against civilian infrastructure in east

News release

06 April 2016

Kiev (ICRC) – Intensified shelling in eastern Ukraine is compounding the hardship of displaced and local people living in the vicinity of the line of contact. In particular, repairs to a gas pipeline which was damaged in the summer of 2014 are now being held up by security incidents in the Marinka area. On 31 March, for the second time in two weeks, technicians laying some 3,000 metres of underground pipe came under fire.

Nagorno-Karabakh: ICRC ready to act as a neutral intermediary

News release

03 April 2016

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is concerned about the humanitarian impact of fighting along the line of contact in Nagorno-Karabakh, which seriously deteriorated on 2 April 2016. Casualties reported on both sides included civilians.

IFRC [to 16 April 2016]

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

16 April 2016

Red Cross: Without immediate support, the worst is yet to come for food insecure families across southern Africa

Nairobi, 16 April 2016 – With another season of inadequate rainfall, missed plantings, and failed harvests, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is warning that the number of families dependent on food aid across southern Africa will most certainly increase in the coming months.

An estimated 28 million people are currently food insecure across the region. That figure is expected to increase to 49 million before the end of the year.

“These figures are quite conservative,” said Michael Charles, acting regional representative for IFRC, southern Africa. “Farmers have missed three seasons now, due to insufficient rains.

Missed harvests mean there is no new food on the table, nor income in their pockets. To avoid a crisis of even larger proportions, we need to ramp up our interventions to ensure those most vulnerable get the support they need, now...

15 April 2016

Red Cross partners agree on one-year recovery plan to support 65,000 people affected by Tropical Cyclone Winston

IRC International Rescue Committee [to 16 April 2016]

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

16 April 2016

Pope Francis visits Lesbos to meet with some of the 4,000 refugees living in limbo on the island

10 April 2016

International Rescue Committee responds to reports of violence on the northern borders of Greece

In the informal camp of Idomeni, an estimated 11,000 people wait by the closed border between Greece and the Former Republic of Yugoslavia Macedonia. Refugees today reported widespread use of tear gas and rubber bullets as some people protested at the border fence.

Jane Waite, Deputy Director of International Rescue Committee in Greece, responds from northern Greece:

"Refugees are telling our teams that tear gas filled areas where vulnerable people are camped near the border – women, children and the disabled. Men were left choking and collapsed to the floor. These are people that have fled homes destroyed by war and travelled in desperation to seek safety. Yet now they face new dangers. Lack of information means that many do not know their options, with access to asylum officials available only via Skype in camps with intermittent electricity and internet connection. Safe routes for refugees must be created and soon – the current EU-Turkey agreement is illogical and the cracks are already beginning to show."

IRCT [to 16 April 2016]

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

Statements & declarations

IRCT joins call to ensure protection and rehabilitation of torture victims in Hong Kong

12 April 2016

The IRCT has joined more than 90 organisations and 70 prominent individuals in calling for the cessation of hostility and stereotyping of refugees in Hong Kong.

In a statement released yesterday, the organisations reject the Hong Kong Government's proposals to withdraw from the United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT) and to create closed detention camps for refugees as ill-advised, harmful, and a potential breach of international laws.

"We are shocked to learn that the Hong Kong Government is contemplating a withdrawal from the UNCAT. No country has ever withdrawn from the UNCAT, and to do so because they are not willing to protect torture victims from further abuse is shameful," said Asger Kjaerum, Director of Advocacy.

Rather than incarcerating refugees, including high numbers of torture survivors, the IRCT recommends that current refugee processing procedures are reviewed and revised to ensure prompt identification, documentation and rehabilitation for victims of torture and ill-treatment.

"Instituting a proper system of forensic evaluation of torture allegations will help the Government effectively identify torture survivors and ensure that they receive adequate support during and after the asylum process. This must include prompt access to rehabilitation services and asylum procedures sensitive to the vulnerable situation," concludes Mr. Kjaerum.

Joint statement

News

New issue of Torture Journal calls for more research

11 April 2016

Islamic Relief [to 16 April 2016]

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

April 10, 2016

Yemen: Ceasefire must hold or thousands more will die

Latest News /

Today's agreed cessation of hostilities in Yemen comes at a crucial moment when an entire country is on the brink. Humanitarian agencies warned today that should the ceasefire break down again, as previous ones did, the consequences would be catastrophic.

[Undated]

Swedish communities unite to support Syrian refugees

Christian and Muslim communities are coming together to support Syrian refugees.

...With aid stations established in major rail and ferry terminals in Malmö, Gothenburg and Stockholm, Islamic Relief Sweden has been at the forefront offering food, shelter and advice to all those in search of safety...

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières [to 16 April 2016]

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

Press release

Syria: New Offensives Bring More Suffering, Displacement to Aleppo Governorate

April 15, 2016

Fighting in Aleppo Governorate has grown increasingly intense over the past week, as new offensives have brought even more misery and uncertainty to the region. This past Thursday, the frontlines reached the outskirts of displacement camps in the area, and some camps in Azaz District were attacked.

The new offensives have again forced tens of thousands of people to flee towards the Turkish border in search of safety, but whether or not they will be able to find sanctuary remains an open question.

Press release

MSF Opens Rome Rehabilitation Center for Survivors of Torture and Inhumane Treatment

April 14, 2016

New York/Rome—Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) teams in Rome have opened a rehabilitation center for survivors of torture and other forms of inhumane treatment. The center will offer medical, psychological, and socio-legal assistance to any migrant, refugee, or asylum seeker who was tortured or subjected to other forms of targeted violence, regardless of their place of origin or current legal status.

Press release

More than 50 Groups Call on US Congress to Stop TPP, the Worst Trade Deal Ever for Access to Affordable Medicines

April 12, 2016

More than fifty groups have come together to demand that the US Congress reject the Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Deal (TPP) due to provisions it contains that would undermine public health. In a letter sent to Congress today, the groups outlined the damaging effects the trade deal would have on public health, and said lawmakers should not vote for the TPP unless damaging provisions are removed.

Field news

Refugees in Greece: "Will They Kill Us Here in Europe?"

April 13, 2016

Since the European Union (EU) agreement with Turkey came into force on March 20, so-called "hotspots" set up on the main islands in Greece in October 2015 to screen and register asylum seekers were transformed overnight into detention centers run by the Greek army and police, where many are now trapped.

Field news

MSF Treats Hundreds After Greek-FYROM Border Violence

April 10, 2016

Medical teams for the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) treated hundreds of people today, April 10, following violence at the border between Greece and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). At least 10 people have reported to MSF teams that they were beaten by FYROM police; around 40 people were injured by rubber bullets.

Mercy Corps [to 16 April 2016]

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

April 14, 2016

Meeting the Real Needs of Syrian Civilians: A Message to the Humanitarian Task Force

[See Week in Review above for more detail]

Operation Smile [to 16 April 2016]

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

Program Schedule

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

OXFAM [to 16 April 2016]

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

15 April 2016

Deportations of refugees and migrants from Greece must be halted as fears of human rights violations grow

Deportations of refugees and migrants from Greece to Turkey must be halted immediately and people wanting to seek asylum should not be kept in detention, said Oxfam, Norwegian Refugee Council and Solidarity Now today in Greece.

[See Week in Review above for more detail]

Fifty biggest global US companies stash \$1.3 trillion offshore

14 April 2016

The 50 biggest US companies have more than a trillion dollars hidden offshore according to a new report published by Oxfam today. This is more than the entire GDP of countries such as Spain, Mexico or Australia.

World Bank and IMF must help bring an end to tax havens

12 April 2016

Following the abuses revealed in the Panama Papers, world leaders attending the Spring Meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund this week must seize the moment to take decisive action and help end the era of tax havens, said Oxfam today.

Majority of World Bank's private investments go to companies that have a presence in tax havens

11 April 2016

Fifty one of the 68 companies that were lent money by the World Bank's private lending arm in 2015 to finance investments in sub-Saharan Africa use tax havens, Oxfam revealed today.

Norwegian Refugee Council [to 16 April 2016]

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

Greece

Deportations of refugees and migrants from Greece must be halted

15. april 2016

Deportations of refugees and migrants from Greece to Turkey must be halted immediately and people wanting to seek asylum should not be kept in detention, said Oxfam, Norwegian Refugee Council and Solidarity Now.

[See Week in Review above for more detail]

Conference on Solutions to Displacement

A conference to inspire

13. april 2016

With the NRC hosting the Conference on Solutions to Displacement, the keynote speakers will be UN High Commissioner for refugees, Filippo Grandi and Norwegian State Secretary Tore Hattrem.

The Conference on Solutions to Displacement takes place on April 21st at Samfunnssalen, Arbeidersamfunnets plass 1, Oslo...

Pact [to 16 April 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Partners In Health [to 16 April 2016]

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

Apr 15, 2016

Going the Distance to Keep Mothers Healthy

Eneles Manyamba, a PIH village health worker, played a vital role ensuring Violet Paulo gave birth to a healthy daughter. [Read More ▶](#)

Apr 15, 2016

Working in Global Health: Islande Cadichon

Islande Cadichon, a senior human resources coordinator, was born at a PIH-supported clinic in Haiti and says working for the organization is a "dream come true." [Read More ▶](#)

Apr 15, 2016

A Baby's Battle with XDR-TB in Peru

Six-month-old Hans Veliz was diagnosed with extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis in the same year his father died of the disease. [Read More ▶](#)

Apr 14, 2016

Building a Future of Care in Malawi

We're about to embark on a new, major improvement to Neno District Hospital that will significantly expand our level of care. [Read More ▶](#)

Apr 13, 2016

PIH Patient Turned Staffer Pays it Forward in Malawi

Steve Mtewa was close to death when he visited a PIH-supported hospital in Malawi. Now he helps build health clinics there. [Read More ▶](#)

PATH [to 16 April 2016]

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

Press release | April 11, 2016

Innovative partnership brings to market new tools for neglected tropical diseases

New tools will support disease elimination for both river blindness and elephantiasis

Seattle and Seoul, April 11, 2016 – PATH and Standard Diagnostics (SD)/Alere announced today the commercial availability of two rapid diagnostic tools for onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis. Designed for use in disease surveillance, the antibody-based tests are part of a suite of diagnostic innovations intended to support the elimination of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), a group of illnesses that affect more than a billion people worldwide...

Plan International [to 16 April 2016]

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

Press releases

UN and Plan International in global action for girls

7 April 2016

Plan International and UN Women are partnering to help girls and young women across the world to increase their political voice, better realise their human rights and develop their skills and economic potential.

Plan International and UN Women will work together on programming, campaigning, advocacy and fundraising to increase the leadership and political participation of adolescent girls and young women..

...The partnership will draw on the experience of Because I am a Girl, Plan International's girls' rights movement and UN Women's Youth and Gender Equality Strategy framework...

Save The Children [to 16 April 2016]

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

April, 12, 2016

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

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April, 12, 2016) — Save the Children today praised the House of Representatives for passing the bipartisan Global Food Security Act of 2016 (H.R. 1567) and all the Members of Congress who lead the way in the fight against global hunger and malnutrition.

Joining together with nearly 70 other organizations, we now urge the Senate to swiftly pass this important, bipartisan bill that will advance U.S. leadership in tackling global hunger and malnutrition around the world...

SOS-Kinderdorf International [to 16 April 2016]

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

8 April 2016

Croatian woman and Brazilian man win 2016 Hermann Gmeiner Award

Nearly 13,000 online voters chose the winners of the 2016 award, which honours people making a positive impact in their communities.

The winners of the Hermann Gmeiner Award for 2016 were announced today: Daliborka Matanovic from Croatia and William Silva dos Santos from Brazil...

... The bi-annual Hermann Gmeiner Award celebrates the positive impact that alumni of SOS Children's Villages programmes make in their communities...

Tostan [to 16 April 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Women for Women International [to 16 April 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

:::::

ChildFund Alliance [to 16 April 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

CONCORD [to 16 April 2016]

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

[European NGO confederation for relief and development]

Apr 15, 2016

Better results for the most marginalised – revision of the financial regulation

In the framework of the Revision of the EU Financial Regulation, Seamus Jeffreson, CONCORD director, took a part in an Awareness raising event. Discover his views and his recommendations on the revision, considering the decrease of public funding for NGOs and the increase of development and humanitarian challenges at the same time.

Spotlight Report on EU Policy Coherence for Development

Apr 15, 2016 |

EU policies are continuing to seriously undermine rights in developing countries. The report published in November 2011, shows incoherencies between EU development objectives and other policies, coming at an important time as the EU reforms its agricultural, trade and...

The Development of a Globally Fair Region: Guidebook

Apr 12, 2016 |

This new publication from Sudwind, elaborated in the frame of the European Year for Development 2015, will provide you some practical tips on how to develop a region to a globally fair one.

2015 EU aid statistics heavily inflated by in-donor refugee costs

Apr 13, 2016 |

PRESS RELEASE: In reaction to the OECD DAC statistics, CONCORD Europe raises concern about the growing diversion of ODA for security and refugees costs. The confederation wants to highlight again this major threat to poverty eradication and the failure of EU leaders to respect their commitment.

Disasters Emergency Committee [to 16 April 2016]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

The Elders [to 16 April 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

END Fund [to 16 April 2016]

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

Press Releases and Major Announcements

No new digest content identified.

Gavi [to 16 April 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Global Fund [to 16 April 2016]

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

13 April 2016

Global Fund Named as Leader in Aid Transparency

GENEVA – The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria was ranked among the top five organizations and nations that are major donors of global aid for its transparency and accountability, a report published on Wednesday showed.

Released by the non-profit Publish What You Fund, the AID Transparency Index also showed that the Global Fund ranked first in three of the operational categories – performance, related documents, and basic information.

Mark Dybul, Executive Director of the Global Fund, said the results of the report underlined the organization's unwavering commitment to transparency and accountability as it pursues its mandate to end AIDS, TB and malaria as epidemics...

11 April 2016

New Zealand Announces Early Contribution to the Global Fund

GENEVA – New Zealand has announced that it will make an early contribution to the Global Fund, one of the first countries to pledge in support of the Global Fund's replenishment for the three-year period beginning in 2017.

Ambassador Vangelis Vitalis announced the contribution during a meeting at the Global Fund offices in Geneva. "Lifting the burden of HIV, tuberculosis and malaria helps build prosperity and security, both in the Pacific and around the world. New Zealand is pleased to play its part in the Global Fund partnership," Dr. Vitalis said.

Marijke Wijnroks, Chief of Staff of the Global Fund, signed the agreement with Dr. Vitalis on 8 April. "We are very pleased that New Zealand is in the Global Fund partnership in this important year."

New Zealand's contribution is worth NZ\$1 million. The announcement followed news in March 2016 that the European Union pledged a significant increase in its contribution to the Global Fund for the next three years...

Hilton Prize Coalition [to 16 April 2016]

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

An Alliance of Hilton Prize Recipients

No new digest content identified.

InterAction [to 16 April 2016]

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

Apr 14, 2016

InterAction Community Honors Leaders

WASHINGTON – Today, InterAction formally announced the list of individuals and groups to be honored at InterAction's April Forum for outstanding leadership in the efforts to help the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities.

This year's Forum award recipients have made significant contributions to respective efforts to help end global hunger, protect civilians in the Syrian civil war, safeguard relief workers in Sierra Leone, advocate for the rights of older and disabled persons and build continued support in Congress for a robust U.S. foreign policy. Honorees this year include:

- :: David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World -- Julia Vadala Taft Outstanding Leadership Award
- :: Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), senior U.S. senator, South Carolina -- InterAction Congressional Leadership Award
- : Davidson Jonah (Sierra Leone), global field operations director for ChildFund International -- InterAction Security Advisory Group Distinguished Achievement Award
- :: Raed Saleh (Syria), head of Syria Civil Defense -- InterAction Humanitarian Award
- :: HelpAge USA -- InterAction Disability Inclusion Award
- :: Abhijit Dey (India), photographer -- InterAction Effective Assistance Photography Award

All awards will be presented during InterAction's annual Forum (April 18-20) at the Washington Marriott, Wardman Park...

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 16 April 2016]

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

[Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies]

No new digest content identified.

Muslim Charities Forum [to 16 April 2016]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

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

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

No new digest content identified.

CHS Alliance [to 16 April 2016]

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

12/04/2016

The State of Surge Capacity in the Humanitarian Sector report launches in London, April 2016

The Transforming Surge Capacity Project launched the seminal research report, "The State of Surge Capacity in the Humanitarian Sector", at an event in London on 7 April. The project brings together 11 Start Network agencies with ActionAid leading and the CHS Alliance as technical partner.

[See Week in Review above for more detail]

EHLRA/R2HC [to 16 April 2016]

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

12.04.2016

Calling innovators to tackle Surface Water Drainage in Humanitarian Camps

Take Part in the *Surface Water Drainage Challenge* Do you have ideas for how camp drainage conditions can be improved? Funding of between £25,000-£150,000 is available for projects that respond...

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

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

Date: 2016/04/12

Malawi – Mozambique refugees

Report Synopsis

On 12 April 2016 we responded to a funding alert in response to the Mozambican refugees escaping conflict to Malawi.

Since mid-December 2015, approximately 11,000 asylum seekers from Mozambique have arrived in Malawi in order to escape clashes between government forces and the Mozambican National Resistance (RENAMO).

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)'s Financial Tracking System (FTS), donors have committed/contributed US\$10.1 million to Malawi so far in 2016. Malawi has no current UN-coordinated appeal or humanitarian country-based pooled funds.

[Read our full analysis of the current funding situation.](#)

The Sphere Project [to 16 April 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

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

<https://phap.org/>

No new digest content identified.

:::::

Center for Global Development [to 16 April 2016]

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

Selected Press Releases, Blog Posts, Publications

Making Room for Mental Health: Recommendations for Improving Mental Health Care in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

4/13/16

Victoria de Menil and Amanda Glassman

Development assistance for health has increased dramatically over the last decade, but investment in mental health has been minimal. Less than 1 percent of development assistance for health goes to mental disorders although they represent at least one-fourth of the years lost to disability and about 10 percent of the global burden of disease. Spending a little on mental health could achieve a lot.

More Than a Lightbulb: Five Recommendations to Make Modern Energy Access Meaningful for People and Prosperity (brief)

4/12/16

Energy Access Targets Working Group

Visit the report page for a full interactive version and video. "Modern energy access" is finally on the international agenda, but the current common definition of 100 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per capita per year is far too low.

Testimony on the US Response to the Ebola Epidemic in West Africa

4/8/16

Amanda Glassman

On April 7, 2016, CGD's vice president for programs and director of global health policy Amanda Glassman testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy at a hearing examining progress made in addressing the West Africa Ebola epidemic and its secondary effects.

ODI [to 16 April 2016]

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

Briefing papers

Migration in Libya: transit zone or final destination?

April 2016 | Eva Svoboda

This policy brief examines migration to and through Libya, exploring migrant's motivations, journeys, challenges and support systems.

Mapping current incentives and investment in Ghana's agriculture sector: lessons for private climate finance

Working and discussion papers | April 2016 | Marigold Norman, Emily Darko, Shelagh Whitley, Simon Bawakyillenuo and Felix Nyamedor

This paper explores the outcomes of utilising the ODI methodology for mapping current incentives and investment in Ghana's agriculture sector.

Projecting progress: the SDGs in sub-Saharan Africa

Research reports and studies | April 2016 | Susan Nicolai, Christopher Hoy, Tanvi Bhatkal and Thomas Aedy

This paper shows how sub-Saharan Africa is likely to progress across the SDG agenda by 2030, if current trends continue.

Starting strong: the first 1000 days of the SDGs

Briefing papers | April 2016 | Paula Lucci, Steven Lally

This paper looks at key topics ahead of Development Progress' regional dialogue events on implementation in the first 1000 days of the SDGs.

Time to let go: remaking humanitarian action for the modern era

Research reports and studies | April 2016 | Humanitarian Policy Group

As the international humanitarian system faces a crisis of legitimacy, the Humanitarian Policy Group's landmark report proposes a new model of humanitarian action.

[See *Week in Review* above for more detail]

Urban Institute [to 16 April 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

World Economic Forum [to 16 April 2016]

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

News 8 Apr 2016

Reforms to Accelerate the Delivery of India's Smart Cities

:: The World Economic Forum has released a new report on *Reforms to Accelerate the Development of India's Smart Cities*

:: The report highlights the reforms required at state and local levels to implement smart cities in India

:: The report recommends institutional, business-environment and sector-specific reforms to enhance public-private collaboration in India's urban development programmes such as 100

:: The full report is available [here](#)

* * * *

:: 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 16 April 2016]

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

Press Releases

Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into the Development Planning Process in Afghanistan

13 April 2016 - With the aim of promoting disaster resilience in the development and rehabilitation of Afghanistan, Focus Humanitarian Assistance (FOCUS) in Afghanistan and the Afghan government organised a conference on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into the Development Planning Process.

BMGF - Gates Foundation [to 16 April 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Annie E. Casey Foundation [to 16 April 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Clinton Foundation [to 16 April 2016]

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

Press Release

Clinton Foundation Celebrates Global Youth Service Day with a Lego Brick Drive and a Day of Action

April 13, 2016

Every year, the Clinton Foundation celebrates Global Youth Service Day with a special service learning program and service opportunity, "Day of Action," for Arkansas high school juniors and seniors.

Ford Foundation [to 16 April 2016]

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

News — 14 April 2016

Skoll, Ford and BRITDOC Launch Flex Fund to Expand Impact of Storytelling

Through the Flex Fund, the three foundations will provide second-stage funding for joint projects by social entrepreneurs and filmmakers.

[See Week in Review above for more detail]

GHIT Fund [to 16 April 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 16 April 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation [to 16 April 2016]

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

Our News

Keeping Alcohol in Focus to Reduce Youth Substance Use

By Alexa Eggleston, April 12, 2016

...Our Substance Use Prevention Strategic Initiative is helping to develop knowledge related to screening and early intervention for young people by testing various approaches designed to inform training, delivery, and evaluation of youth-related substance use prevention and early intervention activities. Observations from a round of recent interviews with our grantees indicate the Strategic Initiative is helping address three broad areas of need:

:: Awareness: Building expertise in preventing youth substance use among a broad range of youth-serving organizations, many of whom did not have prior work in the area

:: Adaptation: Modifying the traditional SBIRT approach for non-primary care settings so they can develop a fit that can be sustained as part of routine practice

:: Access: Linking young people to community-based services such as job training, mentoring, or mental health programs as part of the intervention and referral process...

Grameen Foundation [to 16 April 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

IKEA Foundation [to 16 April 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

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

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

Research [April 14, 2016]

Learning How the Brain Recovers from Disruptions

New research from Janelia scientists suggests the brain is organized into modules that work together to maintain critical functions, even in the face of disturbances.

Science Education [April 11, 2016]

HHMI Searches for the Next Million-Dollar Professors

Up to 15 new HHMI professors will receive \$1 million over five years to develop innovative approaches to teaching undergraduate science.

Kellogg Foundation [to 16 April 2016]

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

April 14, 2016

Statement on Battle Creek becoming a 'Welcoming City'

La June Montgomery Tabron, president and CEO, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) applauds the City of Battle Creek for becoming the 13th city or county to join the statewide "Welcoming Michigan" campaign.

Welcoming Michigan is coordinated by the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, a WKKF grantee, and partners with local governments and community leaders to build immigrant-friendly communities, promoting mutual respect and cooperation among foreign-born and U.S.-born Americans. Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids and Detroit have also joined this campaign.

From the legacy of Sojourner Truth and the Underground Railroad to the recent growth of the city's Burmese community, Battle Creek has a rich history of welcoming people looking for opportunity in the face of oppression and persecution. The Kellogg Foundation is proud of its hometown for continuing this strong tradition to become the latest Welcoming Michigan city, where equity to employment, education and resources is provided for all children to thrive...

MacArthur Foundation [to 16 April 2016]

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

Press release

20 Diverse Communities Receive MacArthur Support to Reduce Jail Populations, Improve Local Systems, and Model Reforms for the Nation

Published April 12, 2016

MacArthur today announced nearly \$25 million in support for ambitious plans to create fairer, more effective local justice systems across the country. The Foundation is awarding 11 jurisdictions grants between \$1.5M and \$3.5M over two years to reduce their jail populations and address racial and ethnic disparities in their justice systems. An additional nine jurisdictions will be given \$150,000 grants to continue their reform work and to participate in a growing, collaborative network of cities, counties, and states driving local justice reform.

The grants are part of the Safety and Justice Challenge, a national initiative supported by the Foundation with an initial \$75 million to reduce over-incarceration by changing the way America thinks about and uses jails. The Challenge is establishing a network of jurisdictions to model and inspire effective local criminal justice reforms across the country. Last May, MacArthur chose 20 jurisdictions for initial grants and expert counsel to develop plans for reform after a highly competitive selection process that drew applications from nearly 200 jurisdictions in 45 states and territories. All 20 of these Safety and Justice Challenge Network jurisdictions will be eligible for further funding. Depending on continued commitment and significant progress, sites receiving implementation awards will be eligible for additional funding after the initial two years. The remaining jurisdictions are encouraged to sustain their momentum for reform and will be considered for implementation support in 2017.

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 16 April 2016]

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

April 14, 2016

How forest certificates can impact environmental conservation in Brazil

With support from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Woods Hole Research Center recently co-authored a research article that analyses the potential opportunities and challenges surrounding payments for ecosystem services that are embedded in the new Forest Code. The research shows that while the forest certificates market has great potential for environmental conservation, it must be implemented with great care, in connection with other key programs. Read the full research article in PLoS ONE [here](#).

April 14, 2016

Study examines seasonal carbon and water balances in the Cerrado environment of Brazil

With support from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, grantees at the Woods Hole Research Center published a study that examines past, present and future influences of land cover and land use. The study focuses on seasonal carbon and water balances of the Cerrado environment.

The study ultimately showed that historical landscape conversions reduce biomass by about 50% and evapotranspiration (ET) by about 25%.

Read the study abstract online [here](#).

April 13, 2016

Revolutionizing research communication through a new academic publishing platform

The way that researchers communicate their work has not changed significantly in the last few centuries; academic publishing still relies on journal articles and has not kept up with technological advances, new analytical tools, or the globalization of research. To help address this discrepancy, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation has granted Collaborative Knowledge Foundation, or CKF, \$1.3M to develop a new open source, modular platform for scholarly knowledge production and academic publishing.

Open Society Foundation [to 16 April 2016]

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

April 8, 2016

Voices

The Investigative Journalism Collaboration That Produced the Panama Papers

by Maria Teresa Ronderos, Algirdas Lipstas23

The bombshell reports detailing how offshore companies enable financial secrecy were made possible by a global effort of hundreds of journalists working in tandem.

David and Lucile Packard Foundation [to 16 April 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Pew Charitable Trusts [to 16 April 2016]

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

Press Release

Pew Applauds Kansas Leaders for Comprehensive Juvenile Justice Reform

April 11, 2016 *Public Safety Performance Project*

WASHINGTON—Kansas Governor Sam Brownback signed into law today comprehensive juvenile justice legislation that will increase public safety, improve outcomes for young offenders, protect public safety, and reduce costs for taxpayers. The legislation, Senate Bill 367, is expected to reduce the number of youth sent to out-of-home facilities by more than half and save \$72 million over the next five years.

“Senate Bill 367 represents an important step forward for juvenile justice in Kansas,” said Adam Gelb, director of The Pew Charitable Trusts’ public safety performance project. “By letting facts drive the discussion, Kansas policymakers have crafted a new direction for the system that will maximize the state’s return on investment—for youth, for their families, and for public safety.”...

Rockefeller Foundation [to 16 April 2016]

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

April 13, 2016

Musical’s Cast and The Rockefeller Foundation Welcome 1300 Students to First-Ever Exclusive Student Matinee of HAMILTON on Broadway

:: Partnership with HAMILTON, The Rockefeller Foundation, NYC Department of Education and Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Provides 20,000 Students Tickets to See Musical

:: Student representatives from 12 New York City high schools will perform songs, rap, poetry, scenes and monologues, created as part of HAMILTON curriculum.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [to 16 April 2016]

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

No new digest content identified.

Wellcome Trust [to 16 April 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 Infection Control

April 2016 Volume 44, Issue 4, p373-494, e37-e58

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Preventive Medicine

April 2016 Volume 50, Issue 4, p427-552, e91-e122

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Public Health

Volume 106, Issue 4 (April 2016)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

April 2016; 94 (4)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Annals of Internal Medicine

5 April 2016, Vol. 164. No. 7

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

[Reviewed earlier]

BMC Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation

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

(Accessed 16 April 2016)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Health Services Research

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

(Accessed 16 April 2016)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Infectious Diseases

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

(Accessed 16 April 2016)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Medical Ethics

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

(Accessed 16 April 2016)

[No new content]

BMC Medicine

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

(Accessed 16 April 2016)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

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

(Accessed 16 April 2016)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMC Public Health

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

(Accessed 16 April 2016)

Research article

[Effect of pay for performance to improve quality of maternal and child care in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review](#)

Pay for Performance (P4P) mechanisms to health facilities and providers are currently being tested in several low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) to improve maternal and child health (MCH).

Ashis Das, Saji S. Gopalan and Daniel Chandramohan

BMC Public Health 2016 16:321

Published on: 14 April 2016

Research article

[Projected economic evaluation of the national implementation of a hypothetical HIV vaccination program among adolescents in South Africa, 2012](#)

Nishila Moodley, Glenda Gray and Melanie Bertram

BMC Public Health 2016 16:330

Published on: 14 April 2016

Abstract

Background

Adolescents in South Africa are at high risk of acquiring HIV. The HIV vaccination of adolescents could reduce HIV incidence and mortality. The potential impact and cost-effectiveness of a national school-based HIV vaccination program among adolescents was determined.

Method

The national HIV disease and cost burden was compared with (intervention) and without HIV vaccination (comparator) given to school-going adolescents using a semi-Markov model. Life table analysis was conducted to determine the impact of the intervention on life expectancy. Model inputs included measures of disease and cost burden and hypothetical assumptions of vaccine characteristics. The base-case HIV vaccine modelled cost at US\$ 12 per dose; vaccine efficacy of 50 %; duration of protection of 10 years achieved at a coverage rate of 60 % and required annual boosters. Incremental cost-effectiveness ratios (ICER) were calculated using life years gained (LYG) serving as the outcome measure. Sensitivity analyses were conducted on the vaccine characteristics to assess parameter uncertainty.

Results

The HIV vaccination model yielded an ICER of US\$ 5 per LYG (95 % CI ZAR 2.77–11.61) compared with the comparator, which is considerably less than the national willingness-to-pay threshold of cost-effectiveness. This translated to an 11 % increase in per capita costs from US\$ 80 to US\$ 89. National implementation of this intervention could potentially result in an estimated cumulative gain of 23.6 million years of life (95 % CI 8.48–34.3 million years) among adolescents age 10–19 years that were vaccinated. The 10 year absolute risk reduction projected by vaccine implementation was 0.42 % for HIV incidence and 0.41 % for HIV mortality, with an increase in life expectancy noted across all age groups. The ICER was sensitive to the vaccine efficacy, coverage and vaccine pricing in the sensitivity analysis.

Conclusions

A national HIV vaccination program would be cost-effective and would avert new HIV infections and decrease the mortality and morbidity associated with HIV disease. Decision makers would have to discern how these findings, derived from local data and reflective of the South African epidemic, can be integrated into the national long term health planning should a HIV vaccine become available.

Research article

Measles susceptibility in young Thai men suggests need for young adult measles vaccination: a cross sectional study

Siriphan Gonwong, Thippawan Chuenchitra, Patchariya Khantapura, Dilara Islam and Carl J. Mason

BMC Public Health 2016 16:309

Published on: 11 April 2016

Abstract

Background

Measles remains a major public health concern in Thailand despite the introduction of vaccination since 1984. Similar to other countries, Thailand has experienced numerous measles outbreaks including adult communities such as university student dormitories, prisons, refugee camps, and military recruit camps. These outbreaks raise questions on the seroprotective antibody level in Thai adults.

Methods

To better understand measles susceptibility in young Thai adults, a retrospective measles seroprevalence study on repository serum specimens obtained with informed consent from young Thai men entering the Royal Thai Army (RTA) during 2007–2008 was conducted. A total

of 7760 stratified randomized samples were chosen by residence province. Measles IgG titer was measured using a commercial IgG quantitative ELISA kit following the manufacturer's instructions. An antibody level \geq 250 International Units per Liter (IU/L) was interpreted as seropositive.

Results

The overall measles seroprevalence was 78.5 % (95 % Confidence Interval: 77.6–79.4 %) with geometric mean titer of 738 IU/L (95 % Confidence Interval: 716–760 IU/L). The measles seroprevalence by province ranged from 59.6 % to 93.1 %. A trend of decreasing seroprevalence in the younger cohorts despite increasing immunization coverage was found. Lower seroprevalence than vaccination coverage was observed in the youngest age group.

Conclusions

To achieve long term measles control and elimination, an integrated two doses vaccination strategy has been implemented in children in Thailand. This nationwide measles seroprevalence study in young adult RTA recruits found a measles seroprevalence lower than WHO's recommendation for measles outbreak prevention and elimination. These results raise concerns for measles control in Thailand. Supplementary immunization in young adults is essential especially in high-risk and densely populated communities to establish herd immunity for outbreak prevention and elimination.

BMC Research Notes

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

(Accessed 16 April 2016)

[No new relevant content identified]

BMJ Open

2016, Volume 6, Issue 4

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

[Reviewed earlier]

British Medical Journal

16 April 2016 (vol 352, issue 8053)

<http://www.bmjjournals.org/content/352/8053>

Research Update

[Clinical features and neuroimaging \(CT and MRI\) findings in presumed Zika virus related congenital infection and microcephaly: retrospective case series study](#)

BMJ 2016; 353 :i1901 (Published 13 April 2016)

Maria de Fatima Vasco Aragao, neuroradiologist and professor of radiology¹, Vanessa van der Linden, paediatric neurologist², Alessandra Mertens Brainer-Lima, neuroradiologist and professor of radiology³, Regina Ramos Coeli, paediatric infectologist and professor⁴, Maria Angela Rocha, infectologist⁴, Paula Sobral da Silva, paediatric neurologist⁴, Maria Durce Costa Gomes de Carvalho, paediatric neurologist⁴, Ana van der Linden, paediatric neurologist⁵, Arthur Cesario de Holanda, medical student⁶, Marcelo Moraes Valenca, neurosurgeon and full professor of neurology and neurosurgery⁷

Abstract

Objective

To report radiological findings observed in computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans of the first cases of congenital infection and microcephaly presumably associated with the Zika virus in the current Brazilian epidemic.

Design

Retrospective study with a case series.

Setting

Association for Assistance of Disabled Children (AACD), Pernambuco state, Brazil.

Participants

23 children with a diagnosis of congenital infection presumably associated with the Zika virus during the Brazilian microcephaly epidemic.

Main outcome measures

Types of abnormalities and the radiological pattern of lesions identified on CT and MRI brain scans.

Results

Six of the 23 children tested positive for IgM antibodies to Zika virus in cerebrospinal fluid. The other 17 children met the protocol criteria for congenital infection presumably associated with the Zika virus, even without being tested for IgM antibodies to the virus—the test was not yet available on a routine basis. Of the 23 children, 15 underwent CT, seven underwent both CT and MRI, and one underwent MRI. Of the 22 children who underwent CT, all had calcifications in the junction between cortical and subcortical white matter, 21 (95%) had malformations of cortical development, 20 (91%) had a decreased brain volume, 19 (86%) had ventriculomegaly, and 11 (50%) had hypoplasia of the cerebellum or brainstem. Of the eight children who underwent MRI, all had calcifications in the junction between cortical and subcortical white matter, malformations of cortical development occurring predominantly in the frontal lobes, and ventriculomegaly. Seven of the eight (88%) children had enlarged cisterna magna, seven (88%) delayed myelination, and six each (75%) a moderate to severe decrease in brain volume, simplified gyral pattern, and abnormalities of the corpus callosum (38% hypogenesis and 38% hypoplasia). Malformations were symmetrical in 75% of the cases.

Conclusion

Severe cerebral damage was found on imaging in most of the children in this case series with congenital infection presumably associated with the Zika virus. The features most commonly found were brain calcifications in the junction between cortical and subcortical white matter associated with malformations of cortical development, often with a simplified gyral pattern and predominance of pachygryia or polymicrogyria in the frontal lobes. Additional findings were enlarged cisterna magna, abnormalities of corpus callosum (hypoplasia or hypogenesis), ventriculomegaly, delayed myelination, and hypoplasia of the cerebellum and the brainstem.

Bulletin of the World Health Organization

Volume 94, Number 4, April 2016, 233-308

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/94/4/en/>

[Reviewed earlier]

Child Care, Health and Development

March 2016 Volume 42, Issue 2 Pages 149–295

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cch.v42.2/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

Complexity

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

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Conflict and Health

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

[Accessed 16 April 2016]

[No new content]

Current Opinion in Infectious Diseases

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Developing World Bioethics

April 2016 Volume 16, Issue 1 Pages 1–60

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Development in Practice

Volume 26, Issue 2, 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Development Policy Review

March 2016 Volume 34, Issue 2 Pages 177–319

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology

Volume 11, Issue 4, 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness

Volume 10 - Issue 02 - April 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Disasters

April 2016 Volume 40, Issue 2 Pages 183–383

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Emergency Medicine Journal

March 2016, Volume 33, Issue 3

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Epidemics

Volume 15, In Progress (June 2016)

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

[No new relevant content]

End of Life Journal

2016, Volume 6, Issue 1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Epidemiology and Infection

Volume 144 - Issue 07 - May 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Ethics & International Affairs

Spring 2016 (Issue 30.1) | March 10, 2016

<http://www.ethicsandinternationalaffairs.org/2016/spring-2016-issue-30-1/>

[Reviewed earlier]

The European Journal of Public Health

Volume 26, Issue 2, 1 April 2016

<http://eurpub.oxfordjournals.org/content/26/2?current-issue=y>

[Reviewed earlier]

Eurosurveillance

Volume 21, Issue 15, 14 April 2016

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

Special issue on impact of anthropogenic changes to water on human pathogens

Five articles exemplifying effects of anthropogenic changes to water on epidemiology of human infectious disease

Editorials

A note from the editors: impact of anthropogenic changes to water on human pathogens

by Eurosurveillance editorial team

Food Policy

Volume 61, In Progress (May 2016)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Food Security

Volume 8, Issue 2, April 2016

<http://link.springer.com/journal/12571/8/2/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

Forum for Development Studies

Volume 43, Issue 1, 2016

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

Special Issue: Frontiers of Research on Development and the Environment

[Reviewed earlier]

Genocide Studies International

Volume 10, Issue 1, Spring 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Global Health: Science and Practice (GHSP)

March 2016 | Volume 4 | Issue 1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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 16 April 2016]

[No new content]

Health Affairs

March 2016; Volume 35, Issue 3

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

Issue Focus: Physicians, Prescription Drugs, ACOs & More

[Reviewed earlier]

Health and Human Rights

Volume 17, Issue 2 December 2015

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Economics, Policy and Law

Volume 11 - Issue 02 - April 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Policy and Planning

Volume 31 Issue 3 April 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Research Policy and Systems

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

[Accessed 16 April 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]

Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics (formerly Human Vaccines)

Volume 12, Issue 2, 2016
<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/khvi20/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.idpjurnal.com/content>
[Accessed 16 April 2016]
[No new relevant content identified]

International Health
Volume 8 Issue 2 March 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](#)
Int. Health (2016) 8 (2): 77-82 doi:10.1093/inthealth/ihv047
Neil B. Oldridge, Maureen T. Pakosh, and Randal J. Thomas
Abstract

[Experiences from the field: maternal, reproductive and child health data collection in humanitarian and emergency situations](#)

Fiona M. Dickinson*, Thidar Pyone and Nynke van den Broek

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Received December 12, 2014.

Revision received May 21, 2015.

Accepted May 22, 2015.

Abstract

Background Humanitarian emergencies can disproportionately affect women of reproductive age, and children. Good data on reproductive maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH) are

vital to plan and deliver programmes to address RMNCH needs. There is currently a lack of information regarding the availability, use and applicability of data collection tools.

Methods Key informant interviews (KII) were conducted with participants with experience of data collection in humanitarian settings, identified from relevant publications. Data were analysed using the thematic framework approach.

Results All participants reported challenges, especially in the acute phase of an emergency and when there is insufficient security. Four common themes were identified: the importance of a mixed methods approach, language both with regard to development of data collection tools and data collection, the need to modify existing tools and build local capacity for data collection. Qualitative data collection was noted to be time consuming but considered to be important to understand the local context. Both those who have experienced trauma (including sexual violence) and data collectors require debriefing after documenting these experiences.

Conclusions There were numerous challenges associated with data collection assessing the health status of, and services available, to women and children in humanitarian settings, and researchers should be well prepared.

Spillover effect of HIV-specific foreign aid on immunization services in Nigeria

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Received December 13, 2014.

Revision received April 20, 2015.

Accepted April 20, 2015.

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

April 2016 Volume 45, In Progress

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology

Volume 23, Issue 3, 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Migration Review

Spring 2016 Volume 50, Issue 1 Pages 1–266, e1–e16

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/imre.2016.50.issue-1/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

Intervention – Journal of Mental Health and Psychological Support in Conflict Affected Areas

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

JAMA

April 12, 2016, Vol 315, No. 14

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

Viewpoint

[Neglected Dimensions of Global Security: The Global Health Risk Framework](#)**[Commission](#)**

Lawrence O. Gostin, JD; Carmen C. Mundaca-Shah, MD, DrPH; Patrick W. Kelley, MD, DrPH

This Viewpoint discusses the Global Health Risk Framework Commission's strategy to safeguard human and economic security from pandemic threats.

The world has experienced global health crises ranging from novel influenzas (H5N1 and H1N1) and coronaviruses (SARS and MERS) to the Ebola and Zika viruses. In each case, governments and international organizations seemed unable to react quickly and decisively. Health crises have unmasked critical vulnerabilities—weak health systems, failures of leadership, and political overreaction and underreaction. The Global Health Risk Framework Commission, for which the National Academy of Medicine served as the secretariat, recently set out a comprehensive strategy to safeguard human and economic security from pandemic threats (eTable in the Supplement).¹

JAMA Pediatrics

April 2016, Vol 170, No. 4

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Community Health

Volume 41, Issue 2, April 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Development Economics

Volume 120, Pages 1-224 (May 2016)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/03043878/120>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Human Trafficking

Volume 2, Issue 1, 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health

April 2016, Volume 70, Issue 4

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Global Ethics

Volume 12, Issue 1, 2016

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjge20/.U2V-Elf4L01#.VAJEj2N4WF8>

Articles

Exploitative, irresistible, and coercive offers: why research participants should be paid well or not at all

Sara Belfrage

pages 69-86

DOI:10.1080/17449626.2016.1150318

ABSTRACT

This paper begins with the assumption that it is morally problematic when people in need are offered money in exchange for research participation if the amount offered is unfair. Such offers are called 'coercive', and the degree of coerciveness is determined by the offer's potential to cause exploitation and its irresistibility. Depending on what view we take on the possibility to compensate for the sacrifices made by research participants, a wish to avoid 'coercive offers' leads to policy recommendations concerning payment for participation. For sacrifices considered compensable, we ought to offer either no payment or payment at a level deemed fair, while for sacrifices deemed incompensable, we always ought to offer no payment because as compensation appears and increases, so too does coercion. This article provides a model for thinking of the way in which degrees of exploitativeness, irresistibility, and coerciveness interact with the size of the reward for compensable and incompensable cases. The conclusions are of particular relevance in contexts where potential research participants are poor or in other ways lack reasonably good options, as is often the case when international pharmaceutical companies or researchers based in the Global North place clinical trials in the Global South.

Journal of Global Infectious Diseases (JGID)

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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

Volume 27, Number 1, February 2016 Supplement

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Management

Volume 6 Issue 1 2016

<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/toc/jhlscm/6/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health

Volume 18, Issue 2, April 2016

<http://link.springer.com/journal/10903/18/2/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies

Volume 14, Issue 1, 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Infectious Diseases

Volume 213 Issue 7 April 1, 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of International Development

March 2016 Volume 28, Issue 2 Pages 159–308

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

[Reviewed earlier]

The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics

Winter 2015 Volume 43, Issue 4 Pages 673–913

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

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

[14 articles]

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Medical Ethics

April 2016, Volume 42, Issue 4

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (JPIDS)

Volume 5 Issue 1 March 2016

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

[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 March 2016; volume 13, issue 116

<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

Apr 16, 2016 Volume 387 Number 10028 p1591-1692
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/issue/current>

Comment

[Yellow fever vaccine supply: a possible solution](#)

Thomas P Monath, Jack P Woodall, Duane J Gubler, Thomas M Yuill, John S Mackenzie, Reinaldo M Martins, Paul Reiter, David L Heymann

Summary

The global threat of the emerging epidemic of yellow fever in Angola¹ is underscored by the recent spread of similar Aedes aegypti mosquito-borne viruses including dengue, chikungunya, and now Zika. Since their emergence in the 1950s, dengue virus infection has been reported from more than 128 countries, the chikungunya virus has been reported from over 60 countries,^{2,3} while yellow fever, first identified as a viral infection in 1900, has been reported from more than 57 countries and is on the move once again.

The Lancet Infectious Diseases

Apr 2016 Volume 16 Number 4 p385-506 e34-e63
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/issue/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Global Health

Apr 2016 Volume 4 Number 4 e215-e286
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/issue/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Maternal and Child Health Journal

Volume 20, Issue 4, April 2016
<http://link.springer.com/journal/10995/20/4/page/1>
[Reviewed earlier]

Medical Decision Making (MDM)

April 2016; 36 (3)
<http://mdm.sagepub.com/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

The Milbank Quarterly

A Multidisciplinary Journal of Population Health and Health Policy
March 2016 Volume 94, Issue 1 Pages 1–223
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1468-0009.2016.94.issue-1/issuetoc>

Op-Ed

Global Health Security After Ebola: Four Global Commissions (pages 34–38)

LAWRENCE O. GOSTIN

Article first published online: 14 MAR 2016 | DOI: 10.1111/1468-0009.12176

Nature

Volume 532 Number 7598 pp147-276 14 April 2016

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Nature Medicine

April 2016, Volume 22 No 4 pp325-446

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

[Reviewed earlier]

New England Journal of Medicine

April 14, 2016 Vol. 374 No. 15

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

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly

April 2016; 45 (2)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration

OxMo – Vol. 5, No. 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Pediatrics

April 2016, VOLUME 137 / ISSUE 4

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Pharmacoeconomics

Volume 34, Issue 4, April 2016

<http://link.springer.com/journal/40273/34/4/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

PLOS Currents: Disasters

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

[Accessed 16 April 2016]

[No new content]

PLoS Currents: Outbreaks

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

(Accessed 16 April 2016)

Research Article

[Clinical and Epidemiological Characterization of Laboratory-Confirmed Autochthonous Cases of Zika Virus Disease in Mexico](#)

April 15, 2016 ·

Introduction: Since 2014, autochthonous circulation of Zika virus (ZIKV) in the Americas was detected (Easter Island, Chile). In May 2015, Brazil confirmed autochthonous transmission and in October of that year Colombia reported their first cases. Now more than 52 countries have reported cases, including Mexico. To deal with this contingency in Mexico, several surveillance systems, in addition to systems for vector-borne diseases were strengthened with the participation of all health institutions. Also, the Ministry of Health defined an Action Plan against ZIKV for the whole country.

Methods: We analyzed 93 autochthonous cases of ZIKV disease identified by Epidemiological Surveillance System for Zika Virus in Mexico. All autochthonous cases confirmed by laboratory since November 25, 2015 to February 19, 2016 were included. A description of clinical and epidemiological characteristics of 93 cases of ZIKV disease are presenting and, we describe the Action Plan against this public health emergency.

Results: The distribution of cases by sex was 61 men and 32 women; mean age was 35 years old (S.D. 15, range 6-90). The main clinical features in the 93 cases were fever (96.6%), rash (93.3%), non-purulent conjunctivitis (88.8%), headache (85.4%), and myalgia (84.3%). No deaths were reported.

Conclusion: The ZIKV epidemic poses new challenges to public health systems. The information provided for basic, clinical, and epidemiological research, in addition to the data derived from epidemiological surveillance is essential. However, there are still many unanswered questions regarding mechanisms of transmission, complications, and impact of this virus.

PLoS Medicine

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

(Accessed 16 April 2016)

Health in Action

[Mobile Phones As Surveillance Tools: Implementing and Evaluating a Large-Scale Intersectoral Surveillance System for Rabies in Tanzania](#)

Zacharia Mtema, Joel Changalucha, Sarah Cleaveland, Martin Elias, Heather M. Ferguson, Jo E. B. Halliday, Daniel T. Haydon, Gurdeep Jaswant, Rudovick Kazwala, Gerry F. Killeen, Tiziana Lembo, Kennedy Lushasi, Alpha D. Malishee, Rebecca Mancy, Matthew Maziku, Eberhard M. Mbunda, Geofrey J. M. Mchau, Roderick Murray-Smith, Kristyna Rysava, Khadija Said, Maganga Sambo, Elizabeth Shayo, Lwitiko Sikana, Sunny E Townsend, Honorathy Urassa, Katie Hampson | published 12 Apr 2016 | PLOS Medicine

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1002002>

Summary Points

- :: Surveillance is critical to manage preventative health services and control infectious diseases. Integrated surveillance involving public health, veterinary, and environmental sectors is urgently needed to effectively manage zoonoses and vector-borne diseases. However, most surveillance in low-income countries is paper-based, provides negligible timely feedback, is poorly incentivised, and results in delays, limited reporting, inaccurate data, and costly processing.
- :: The potential of mobile technologies for improving health system surveillance has been demonstrated through small-scale pilots, but large-scale evaluations under programmatic implementation remain rare.
- :: An intersectoral mobile-phone-based system was developed and implemented for rabies surveillance across southern Tanzania. Since 2011, the system has facilitated near real-time reporting of animal bites and human and animal vaccine use (almost 30,000 reports) by over 300 frontline health and veterinary workers across a catchment area of 150,000 km² with >10 million inhabitants, improving data quality, timeliness, and completeness while reducing costs.
- :: The surveillance system infrastructure is a platform that can be further developed to improve services and deliver health interventions; for example, generating automated personalized text messages (SMS) to alert patients to their vaccination schedules improved their compliance with regimens. Other interventions targeting patients and health workers can now be implemented easily.
- :: The system has become an integrated, popular, and valuable tool across sectors, used routinely throughout southern Tanzania to evaluate the impacts of rabies control and prevention activities and to improve their management, directly informed by the experiences of frontline users.

We discuss challenges encountered during development and deployment, how we overcame these, and our recommendations for scaling up mobile-phone-based health (mHealth) interventions in low-income countries.

Policy Forum

Building Learning Health Systems to Accelerate Research and Improve Outcomes of Clinical Care in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Mike English, Grace Irimu, Ambrose Agweyu, David Gathara, Jacquie Oliwa, Philip Ayieko, Fred Were, Chris Paton, Sean Tunis, Christopher B. Forrest

| published 12 Apr 2016 | PLOS Medicine

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1001991>

Summary Points

- :: Achieving universal coverage that supports high-quality care will require that health systems are designed to integrate the delivery of health services with the generation of new knowledge about the effectiveness of these services.
- :: System strengthening and research will need to be better integrated to achieve this in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) so that changes in coverage, quality, and impact are measured, costs are contained, and health systems are responsive to users' needs and concerns.
- :: In high-income countries, learning health systems (LHS) are emerging to meet similar needs. The LHS vision aspires to engage policy makers, researchers, service providers, and patients in learning that uses and strengthens routinely collected data to conduct pragmatic, contextually appropriate research, promote rapid adoption of findings to improve quality and outcomes, and promote continuous learning.

:: Although there are significant challenges, we should begin to develop LHS in LMIC for their immediate and longer term benefits and to avoid having to retrofit health systems with the capability to promote learning at a later date and even greater cost.

:: A global coalition on how to build LHS effectively that shares accumulating learning could enable such a strategy.

PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases

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

(Accessed 16 April 2016)

Research Article

[Zika Virus Outbreak in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: Clinical Characterization, Epidemiological and Virological Aspects](#)

Patrícia Brasil, Guilherme Amaral Calvet, André Machado Siqueira, Mayumi Wakimoto, Patrícia Carvalho de Sequeira, Aline Nobre, Marcel de Souza Borges Quintana, Marco Cesar Lima de Mendonça, Otilia Lupi, Rogerio Valls de Souza, Carolina Romero, Heruza Zogbi, Cláisse da Silveira Bressan, Simone Sampaio Alves, Ricardo Lourenço-de-Oliveira, Rita Maria Ribeiro Nogueira, Marilia Sá Carvalho, Ana Maria Bispo de Filippis, Thomas Jaenisch

| published 12 Apr 2016 | PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0004636>

PLoS One

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

[Accessed 16 April 2016]

Research Article

[Health Service Utilization among Syrian Refugees with Chronic Health Conditions in Jordan](#)

Shannon Doocy, Emily Lyles, Laila Akhu-Zaheya, Arwa Oweis, Nada Al Ward, Ann Burton

Research Article | published 13 Apr 2016 | PLOS ONE

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0150088>

Abstract

Introduction

The influx of Syrian refugees into Jordan presents an immense burden to the Jordanian health system, particularly in treating chronic health conditions. This study was undertaken to assess utilization of health services for chronic health conditions among Syrian refugees in non-camp settings.

Methods

A survey of Syrian refugees in Jordan was undertaken in June 2014 to characterize health seeking behaviors and issues related to accessing care for hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases, and arthritis. A cluster design with probability proportional to size sampling was used to attain a nationally representative sample of 1550 non-camp Syrian refugee households.

Results

Of 1363 cases with a chronic health condition diagnosis, 84.7% had received care in Jordan. Public facilities faced a heavy burden serving over half (53.9%) of care-seekers; the remainder received care in the private (29.6%) and NGO/charity (16.6%) sectors. Individuals with non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the central region of Jordan and with arthritis had the lowest

rates of care-seeking when compared to other regions and conditions. Overall, 31.6% of care-seekers had an out-of-pocket payment for the most recent care-seeking event which averaged 18.8 USD (median = 0 USD), excluding cost of medications.

Discussion

Forced displacement presents major challenges to those with NCDs, which have the potential to seriously impact both the quality of life and life expectancy amongst refugees. NCD patterns among Syrian refugees indicate the importance of continuing support to public sector services in Jordan to adequately meet expanding needs and ensure appropriate prevention and control of priority NCDs.

PLoS Pathogens

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

(Accessed 16 April 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 16 April 2016)

[No new relevant content identified]

Prehospital & Disaster Medicine

Volume 31 - Issue 02 - April 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Preventive Medicine

Volume 85, Pages 1-118 (April 2016)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/00917435/85>

[New issue; No relevant content identified]

Public Health Ethics

Volume 9 Issue 1 April 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Public Health Reports

Volume 131 , Issue Number 2 March/April 2016

<http://www.publichealthreports.org/issuecontents.cfm?Volume=131&Issue=2>

[Reviewed earlier]

Qualitative Health Research

April 2016; 26 (5)

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

Special Issue: Qualitative Contributions to Quantitative Inquiry

[Reviewed earlier]

Refugee Survey Quarterly

Volume 35 Issue 1 March 2016

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

Special Issue: The Challenge of Asylum Detention to Refugee Protection

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Reproductive Health

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

[Accessed 16 April 2016]

Research

[Incidence and risk factors for postpartum hemorrhage in Uganda](#)

Sam Ononge, Florence Mirembe, Julius Wandabwa and Oona M. R. Campbell

Published on: 14 April 2016

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

February 2016 Vol. 39, No. 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Risk Analysis

March 2016 Volume 36, Issue 3 Pages 431–638

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/risa.2016.36.issue-3/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

Science

15 April 2016 Vol 352, Issue 6283

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

Policy Forum

[Opportunities for advances in climate change economics](#)

By M. Burke, M. Craxton, C. D. Kolstad, C. Onda, H. Alcott, E. Baker, L. Barrage, R. Carson, K. Gillingham, J. Graff-Zivin, M. Greenstone, S. Hallegatte, W. M. Hanemann, G. Heal, S. Hsiang, B. Jones, D. L. Kelly, R. Kopp, M. Kotchen, R. Mendelsohn, K. Meng, G. Metcalf, J. Moreno-Cruz, R. Pindyck, S. Rose, I. Rudik, J. Stock, R. S. J. Tol

Science15 Apr 2016 : 292-293

Target carbon's costs, policy designs, and developing countries

Summary

There have been dramatic advances in understanding the physical science of climate change, facilitated by substantial and reliable research support. The social value of these advances depends on understanding their implications for society, an arena where research support has been more modest and research progress slower. Some advances have been made in understanding and formalizing climate-economy linkages, but knowledge gaps remain [e.g., as discussed in (1, 2)]. We outline three areas where we believe research progress on climate economics is both sorely needed, in light of policy relevance, and possible within the next few years given appropriate funding: (i) refining the social cost of carbon (SCC), (ii) improving understanding of the consequences of particular policies, and (iii) better understanding of the economic impacts and policy choices in developing economies.

Reports

Zika virus in the Americas: Early epidemiological and genetic findings

By Nuno Rodrigues Faria, Raimunda do Socorro da Silva Azevedo, Moritz U. G. Kraemer, Renato Souza, Mariana Sequetin Cunha, Sarah C. Hill, Julien Thézé, Michael B. Bonsall, Thomas A. Bowden, Ilona Rissanen, Iray Maria Rocco, Juliana Silva Nogueira, Adriana Yurika Maeda, Fernanda Giseli da Silva Vasami, Fernando Luiz de Lima Macedo, Akemi Suzuki, Sueli Guerreiro Rodrigues, Ana Cecilia Ribeiro Cruz, Bruno Tardeli Nunes, Daniele Barbosa de Almeida Medeiros, Daniela Sueli Guerreiro Rodrigues, Alice Louize Nunes Queiroz, Eliana Vieira Pinto da Silva, Daniele Freitas Henriques, Elisabeth Salbe Travassos da Rosa, Consuelo Silva de Oliveira, Livia Caricio Martins, Helena Baldez Vasconcelos, Livia Medeiros Neves Casseb, Darlene de Brito Simith, Jane P. Messina, Leandro Abade, José Lourenço, Luiz Carlos Junior Alcantara, Maricélia Maia de Lima, Marta Giovanetti, Simon I. Hay, Rodrigo Santos de Oliveira, Poliana da Silva Lemos, Layanna Freitas de Oliveira, Clayton Pereira Silva de Lima, Sandro Patroca da Silva, Janaina Mota de Vasconcelos, Luciano Franco, Jedson Ferreira Cardoso, João Lídio da Silva Gonçalves Vianez-Júnior, Daiana Mir, Gonzalo Bello, Edson Delatorre, Kamran Khan, Marisa Creatore, Giovanini Evelim Coelho, Wanderson Kleber de Oliveira, Robert Tesh, Oliver G. Pybus, Marcio R. T. Nunes, Pedro F. C. Vasconcelos

Science15 Apr 2016 : 345-349

Zika virus genomes from Brazil

The Zika virus outbreak is a major cause for concern in Brazil, where it has been linked with increased reports of otherwise rare birth defects and neuropathology. In a phylogenetic analysis, Faria et al. infer a single introduction of Zika to the Americas and estimated the introduction date to be about May to December 2013—some 12 months earlier than the virus was reported. This timing correlates with major events in the Brazilian cultural calendar associated with increased traveler numbers from areas where Zika virus has been circulating. A correlation was also observed between incidences of microcephaly and week 17 of pregnancy.

Abstract

Brazil has experienced an unprecedented epidemic of Zika virus (ZIKV), with ~30,000 cases reported to date. ZIKV was first detected in Brazil in May 2015, and cases of microcephaly potentially associated with ZIKV infection were identified in November 2015. We performed next-generation sequencing to generate seven Brazilian ZIKV genomes sampled from four self-limited cases, one blood donor, one fatal adult case, and one newborn with microcephaly and congenital malformations. Results of phylogenetic and molecular clock analyses show a single introduction of ZIKV into the Americas, which we estimated to have occurred between May and December 2013, more than 12 months before the detection of ZIKV in Brazil. The estimated date of origin coincides with an increase in air passengers to Brazil from ZIKV-endemic areas, as

well as with reported outbreaks in the Pacific Islands. ZIKV genomes from Brazil are phylogenetically interspersed with those from other South American and Caribbean countries. Mapping mutations onto existing structural models revealed the context of viral amino acid changes present in the outbreak lineage; however, no shared amino acid changes were found among the three currently available virus genomes from microcephaly cases. Municipality-level incidence data indicate that reports of suspected microcephaly in Brazil best correlate with ZIKV incidence around week 17 of pregnancy, although this correlation does not demonstrate causation. Our genetic description and analysis of ZIKV isolates in Brazil provide a baseline for future studies of the evolution and molecular epidemiology of this emerging virus in the Americas.

Social Science & Medicine

Volume 153, Pages 1-266 (March 2016)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/02779536/153>

[Reviewed earlier]

Stability: International Journal of Security & Development

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

[accessed 16 April 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/2071-1050/8/2>

[Reviewed earlier]

TORTURE Journal

Volume 26, Nr. 1, 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Tropical Medicine & International Health

April 2016 Volume 21, Issue 4 Pages 455–567

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/tmi.2016.21.issue-3/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

UN Chronicle

Vol. LII No. 4 2015 April 2016

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

Implementing the 2030 Agenda: The Challenge of Conflict

This issue looks at the link between conflict and the implementation and attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. The articles examine, among other things, children and armed conflict, climate change, terrorism and food security.

Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies

An International Interdisciplinary Journal for Research, Policy and Care

Volume 11, Issue 1, 2016

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

[Reviewed earlier]

World Heritage Review

n°78 - February 2016

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

World Heritage and gender equality

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

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