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governance, ethics, evidence, policy, practice

The Sentinel

**Human Rights Action :: Humanitarian Response :: Health :: Education ::
Heritage Stewardship :: Sustainable Development**

Period ending 24 March 2018

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

The Sentinel is a service of the Center for Governance, Evidence, Ethics, Policy & Practice, a program of the GE2P2 Global Foundation, which is solely responsible for its content. Comments and suggestions should be directed to:

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

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

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

:: Week in Review

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

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Heritage Stewardship – Biodiversity

Scientific assessments by Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) confirm need for imperative actions to safeguard life on Earth

*:: Reports shows that biodiversity continues to decline in every region of the world
:: Loss of biodiversity undermines nature's ability to ensure quality of life everywhere
:: Actions to safeguard biodiversity are being undertaken, but more needed
:: IPBES regional assessment reports are a central part of the knowledge base for biodiversity policy at national and international levels.*

23 March 2018 - Landmark regional scientific reports were issued today in Colombia on the status of biodiversity in the following regions of the world: the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Africa as well as Europe and Central Asia. They show that pressures on biodiversity and resulting loss of biodiversity continue to increase in all of the regions. If unchecked, such loss will affect the ability of nature to support people and planet.

The regional assessments by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) show that the main pressures on biodiversity continue to be habitat change, climate change, invasive alien species, pollution and unsustainable use. However the relative importance of each of these pressures varies between the regions. These declines are of concern also because of the essential role biodiversity plays in providing for people, including, food, fuel and adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

In all of the regions it is noted that actions have been taken to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity. However, it is also noted that these actions have, for the most part, been insufficient. It is further observed that while various plans and strategies have been developed for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity these have not generally been translated into actions.

These reports confirm the conclusions of work done under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and suggest directions for additional urgent actions to achieve global biodiversity targets.

The landmark science reports were approved by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), in Medellín, Colombia, at the 6th session of its Plenary on 22 March and released today. Written by more than 550 leading experts from over 100 countries, they are the result of three years of work, and include inputs from experts at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The four regional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services cover the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Africa, as well as Europe and Central Asia.

Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, CBD Executive Secretary, said: "These assessments are sobering. They show that the pressures on biodiversity and its associated ecosystem services from human activities, including climate change, are increasing. They show that the status of biodiversity is decreasing. They show that while the world is taking actions, more needs to be done to halt the loss of biodiversity."

"These regional assessment reports help us understand variations across the regions of the world. However, if the current trends on biodiversity loss and ecosystems destruction are not reversed, the prospects for life on our planet become quite grim. At the current rate of destruction not only will it be difficult to safeguard life on Earth, but will jeopardize the prospects for human development and well-being. We need a paradigm shift in the way humans interact with nature; we need transformative change and a systemic approach to address the root causes of biological destruction."...

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Climate – Migration

Groundswell : Preparing for Internal Climate Migration

Report

World Bank Group, March 2018 :: 256 pages

This report, which focuses on three regions—Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America that together represent 55 percent of the developing world's population—finds that climate change will push tens of millions of people to migrate within their countries by 2050. It projects that without concrete climate and development action, just over 143 million people—or around 2.8 percent of the population of these three regions—could be forced to move within their own countries to escape the slow-onset impacts of climate change. They will migrate from less viable areas with lower water availability and crop productivity and from areas affected by rising sea level and storm surges. The poorest and most climate vulnerable areas will be hardest hit. These trends, alongside the emergence of "hotspots" of climate in- and out-migration, will have major implications for climate-sensitive sectors and for the adequacy of infrastructure and social support systems. The report finds that internal climate migration will likely rise through 2050 and then accelerate unless there are significant cuts in greenhouse gas emissions and robust development action.

PDF:

https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/29461/WBG_ClimateChange_Final.pdf?sequence=18&isAllowed=y

Key messages

MESSAGE 1:

The scale of internal climate migration will ramp up by 2050 and then accelerate unless concerted climate and development action is taken.

Under all three scenarios in this report, there is an upward trend of internal climate migration in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America by 2050. In the worst-case or "pessimistic" scenario, the number of internal climate migrants could reach more than 143 million (around 86 million in Sub-Saharan Africa, 40 million in South Asia, and 17 million in Latin America) by 2050 (Figure 1). The poorest people and the poorest countries are the hardest hit.

In the "more inclusive development" scenario, internal climate migration across the three regions could drop to between 65 and 105 million. The "more climate-friendly" scenario projects the fewest internal climate migrants, ranging from 31 million to 72 million across the three regions.

Across all scenarios, climate change is a growing driver of internal migration. Climate change impacts (crop failure, water stress, sea level rise) increase the probability of migration under distress, creating growing challenges for human development and planning. Vulnerable people have the fewest opportunities to adapt locally or to move away from risk and, when moving,

often do so as a last resort. Others, even more vulnerable, will be unable to move, trapped in increasingly unviable areas.

Internal climate migration will intensify over the next several decades and could accelerate after 2050 under the pessimistic scenario due to stronger climate impacts combined with steep population growth in many regions.

MESSAGE 2:

Countries can expect to see “hotspots” of climate-induced in- and out- migration. This will have significant implications for countries and future development planning.

The report projects that climate-driven “out-migration” will occur in areas where livelihood systems are increasingly compromised by climate change impacts. These “hotspots” are increasingly marginal areas and can include low-lying cities, coastlines vulnerable to sea level rise, and areas of high water and agriculture stress (Figure 2 for East Africa). In the northern highlands of Ethiopia for example, deteriorating water availability and lower crop yields will drive climate migrants from rainfed cropland areas. Even Addis Ababa, Ethiopia’s largest city, could see slower population growth due to its reliance on increasingly unpredictable rainfall. The major cities of Dhaka in Bangladesh and Dar es Salaam in Tanzania will also experience dampened population growth due to rising sea level and storm surges.

Climate “in-migration” hotspots across the three regions emerge in locations with better climatic conditions for agriculture as well as cities able to provide better livelihood opportunities. For example, the southern highlands between Bangalore and Chennai in India, the central plateau around Mexico City and Guatemala City, and Nairobi in Kenya are likely to become areas of increased climate in-migration.

Both types of hotspots emerge by 2030, and their number and spatial extent increase considerably by 2050. Planning and early action could help shape these hotspots: they are not pre-destined...

MESSAGE 3:

Migration can be a sensible climate change adaptation strategy if managed carefully and supported by good development policies and targeted investments...

MESSAGE 4:

Internal climate migration may be a reality but it doesn’t have to be a crisis. Action across three major areas could help reduce the number of people being forced to move in distress...

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Food Security

[Global Report on Food Crises 2018](#)

FSIN [Food Security Information Network]

March 2018 :: 202pages

PDF:

http://vam.wfp.org/sites/data/GRFC_2018_Full_Report_EN.pdf?_ga=2.164486135.933362886.1521951778-163706612.1521951778

The 2018 Global Report on Food Crises provides the latest estimates of severe hunger in the world. An estimated 124 million people in 51 countries are currently facing Crisis food insecurity or worse (the equivalent of IPC/CH Phase 3 or above). Conflict and insecurity continued to be the primary drivers of food insecurity in 18 countries, where almost 74 million food-insecure people remain in need of urgent assistance.

Last year's report identified 108 million people in Crisis food security or worse across 48 countries. A comparison of the 45 countries included in both editions of the report reveals an increase of 11 million people – an 11 percent rise – in the number of food-insecure people across the world who require urgent humanitarian action.

Now in its third edition, the report is not a UN-owned publication but rather a public good, for use by those committed to achieving the objective of minimizing human suffering and eventually ending hunger. Prepared collectively by 12 leading global and regional institutions under the umbrella of the Food Security Information Network, the report provides thematic, country-specific, and trends analysis of food crises around the world.

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Refugees – Health/Immunization

[An unhealthy state to be in](#)

by Seth Berkley | Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance
Thomson Reuters Foundation | 20 March 2018

Most refugees are living in low- and middle-income countries which are usually in no great position to support a huge influx of people

For the millions of people living in conflict zones, often the biggest killer isn't bullets or bombs, but infectious disease. This was true of the First World War, where Spanish flu claimed four times more lives than conflict, and it is true of modern wars, even particularly brutal ones, like in Darfur. There, non-violent deaths, mainly due to infectious disease compounded by nutritional issues, were responsible for a ten-fold increase in mortality. Yet, for refugees it's a very different story. There are always exceptions, but generally those people fleeing conflict or

persecution who make it across national borders are on average no more likely to die than the residents of their new host country.

What this highlights is the vital role that aid agencies and host countries play in providing refugees with critical health interventions, such as vaccines, which may not have been available in their home country due to a breakdown of health services. As U.N. officials meet in Geneva this month to discuss a new draft global agreement on refugees, it's also a role that is now likely to come under increasing pressure in the face of growing fragility, as the number of conflicts continues to rise, displacing more and more people.

With a record high of more than 65 million people across the world now displaced from their homes, conflict is only one driving force. Climate change, in the form of land degradation, desertification, rising sea levels and extreme weather events, is also now a contributing factor, as is the poverty that often comes with it. And in the coming decades this is expected to get worse.

All this points to two worrying challenges. The first is the question of how we continue to make immunisation and other vital preventive health interventions a priority for refugees. This can be challenging at the best times, as the ongoing diphtheria outbreak among the 650,000 Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar demonstrates. But as the number of refugees continues to rise, this continuity of healthcare is likely to become less sustainable, raising difficult questions about who is responsible for providing for these essentially "stateless" people.

Indeed, given that refugee crises are rarely resolved quickly, and that it can take years before people can be safely repatriated, there is also the long-term pressure placed on host countries to consider. While headlines about the global refugee crisis mainly focus on the burden placed on wealthy nations, most refugees are living in low- and middle-income countries which are usually in no great position to support a huge influx of people. Countries like Jordan, Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda currently have millions of Syrian, Somali and Sudanese refugees in vast camp cities. Should countries like these be expected to use their limited resources or take out additional borrowing and incur sovereign debt in order to fund the needs of millions of people who are not their citizens, but are nevertheless on their territory?

The second arguably even greater challenge will be finding better ways to reach those tens of millions of people who are displaced but remain in their home country, which is the vast majority of the global total. These people are in so many ways more vulnerable, and yet harder to reach, with their health and safety often at the mercy of the same forces that drove them from their homes in the first place.

Continued fighting and a lack of basic infrastructure can make it extremely difficult for aid agencies to reach these displaced civilians populations, who are often sheltering in over-crowded situations, with limited access to food, water and sanitation, conditions that are ripe for outbreaks of disease and the vectors that spread them. If the children within that population miss out on vaccinations, such outbreaks become almost inevitable.

This is precisely what triggered the diphtheria outbreak among the Rohingya in Cox's Bazar and this is what is now unfolding in Yemen. The only difference is that while aid agencies were able to get vaccines to the Rohingya refugees when they crossed over into Bangladesh, in Yemen access to the 22 million people in need of humanitarian assistance is limited. With around 1,300 suspected cases of diphtheria and 73 deaths, there are now 7.2 million doses of the diphtheria

vaccine on their way. It remains to be seen whether they make it to each and every person at risk.

Ensuring that health remains a priority in the new global agreement on refugees is one solution. In seeking to create a global public good that eases pressure on host countries and delivers services, as well supporting self-reliance of refugees and making it easier for them to either resettle in third countries or voluntarily repatriate, should be a positive step for all parties. However, we also need to find solutions to help people on the other side of the border, those millions of internally displaced people who are ultimately more at risk. By supporting their human right to lead healthy lives through the prevention of vaccine preventable disease, we can not only reduce the risk of outbreaks, but also end the tragedy of people fleeing violence only to be struck down by disease.

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Featured Journal Content

Lancet Infectious Diseases

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

Available online 14 March 2018

In Press, Corrected Proof — Note to users

Comment

Cholera control: one dose at a time

Louise C Iversen, *b*,

[https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099\(18\)30170-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(18)30170-1)

Open Access

Cholera continues to harm the most vulnerable people worldwide.¹ As an indicator of human progress, the sustained or new presence of the disease in any region is a stark reminder of how far we, as a society, have to go to reach Sustainable Development Goal 6: ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.² Diarrhoeal diseases are a major source of preventable morbidity and mortality, and in 2015 claimed the lives of more than 1·3 million people, of whom 499,000 were children younger than 5 years.³

As a contributor to the global burden of diarrhoeal disease, *Vibrio cholerae* is a particularly harsh pathogen, causing rapid onset of severe nausea, vomiting, and profuse watery diarrhoea that can lead to death within hours—even of the healthiest young adults. Whole communities can be rapidly affected in epidemics, causing both physical harm and psychological distress. The pervasive social determinant of the problem—poor or no access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene—means that displaced people, refugee populations, and those in conflict zones are at risk of major outbreaks of the illness. Cholera also continues to occur routinely, regularly, and with great impact (although often with less media attention) in endemic countries, such as Bangladesh and now Haiti, where children and the poorest people are the most at risk of being harmed. In both epidemic and endemic circumstances, the public health role of cholera vaccination has been re-emerging with interest from policy makers over the past 8 years.

In *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, Firdausi Qadri and colleagues ⁴ describe results of 2 years of follow-up of a large, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled efficacy trial of a single dose of an inactivated whole-cell oral cholera vaccine (OCV) in Bangladesh. They found that a single dose provided protection for at least 2 years when given to adults (vaccine protective efficacy against all cholera episodes 59%, 95% CI 42–71) and to children aged 5 years or older (52%, 8–75). The findings make an important contribution to cholera control around the world, and

could help to take us one step closer to WHO's ambitious goal of reducing deaths from the disease by 90% by 2030.[5](#)

Increasing practical experiences with large-scale public health use of OCV—initially including reactive vaccination campaigns in Guinea and Haiti in 2012,[6](#) ; [7](#) revitalised WHO's support of cholera-affected countries,[8](#) and investment by GAVI, the vaccine alliance, in a global stockpile of vaccine—have resulted in millions of doses of OCV being used each year since 2014. The vaccine has most often been given in two doses, 14 days apart, as recommended by the manufacturers.[9](#) Yet giving a second dose of OCV on schedule can be challenging during crisis situations. Furthermore, multiple competing demands on the global stockpile mean that, at times, officials might have to decide if they should vaccinate a population without guarantee of the availability of the second tranche of doses.

Qadri and colleagues' trial complements findings from other important studies on the use of a single-dose OCV, which were largely secondary analyses and shorter-term prospective observational studies.[10](#) ; [11](#) Together, the evidence shows that single-dose OCV campaigns can be effective both in the short term in outbreaks and for up to 2 years in endemic settings. With these data to further support decision making on who to vaccinate against cholera and when to vaccinate them, government agencies, multilateral organisations, and non-governmental organisations should continue to invest in cholera vaccines as a part of the toolkit to control and prevent the disease.

However, a single dose of OCV did not protect children younger than 5 years compared with placebo (vaccine protective efficacy against all cholera episodes –13%, 95% CI –68 to 25),[4](#) consistent with the 6-month results of the same study.[12](#) Other studies show some, but reduced, protection of two doses of OCV in this age group as well, which has implications for strategies on the use of OCV in highly endemic regions where young children are an important risk group.[13](#) Further studies are needed to determine how best to protect the youngest individuals, and to identify the ideal dosing schedule of the vaccine.

Still more evidence is needed on how to integrate vaccination strategies into evidence-based water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions to interrupt diarrhoeal disease—a subject in which evidence of impact is surprisingly scarce.[14](#) What is notable about the discourse on OCV in 2018 are the burning questions not associated with whether vaccines should be used in endemic countries or whether they should be used during epidemics for cholera control, but rather how best to use them in a way that maximises effectiveness and efficiency in saving the lives of the most vulnerable people from this entirely preventable disease.

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Emergencies

POLIO

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)

Polio this week as of 13 March 2018 [GPEI]

:: New on www.polioeradication.org: In Nigeria, experts from the frontline of polio eradication are supporting the Lassa fever response. Meanwhile, we asked what it takes to vaccinate every child in Afghanistan.

Summary of newly-reported viruses this week:

Afghanistan: Two new cases of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) have been confirmed this week, one occurring in Kunar province, and one in Kandahar province. These cases were advance notification last week.

Pakistan: One new WPV1 positive environmental sample has been reported in Sindh province.

Democratic Republic of the Congo: One new case of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) reported, from Haut Lomami province.

Somalia: An advance notification of one new cVDPV2 positive environmental sample has been received, from Banadir province.

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WHO Grade 3 Emergencies [to 24 March 2018]

The Syrian Arab Republic

:: WHO is providing urgent health services in response to displacements from Afrin

23 March 2018, Cairo, Egypt – The World Health Organization (WHO) has deployed mobile medical clinics and critical health supplies to areas hosting newly displaced people from the northern Syrian district of Afrin, while supporting partners struggling to maintain health services in Afrin city and surrounding areas.

An estimated 167 000 people have been displaced by the recent hostilities in Afrin District in northern Aleppo Governorate. The majority have fled to Tal Refaat, while others are seeking shelter in Nubul, Zahraa and surrounding villages. The massive influx of displaced people is putting a strain on host communities and already overwhelmed health facilities...

Iraq - *No new announcements identified*

Nigeria - *No new announcements identified*

South Sudan - *No new announcements identified.*

Yemen - *No new announcements identified.*

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WHO Grade 2 Emergencies [to 24 March 2018]

Bangladesh/Myanmar: Rakhine Conflict 2017 - *No new announcements identified ...*

Cameroon - *No new announcements identified*

Central African Republic - *No new announcements identified.*

Democratic Republic of the Congo - *No new announcements identified.*

Ethiopia - *No new announcements identified.*

Libya - *No new announcements identified.*

Niger - *No new announcements identified.*

Ukraine - *No new announcements identified.*

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UN OCHA – L3 Emergencies

The UN and its humanitarian partners are currently responding to three 'L3' emergencies. This is the global humanitarian system's classification for the response to the most severe, large-scale humanitarian crises.

DRC

:: Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock: Statement to the Security Council on the humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, New York, 19 March 2018

Syrian Arab Republic

:: 23 Mar 2018 UNICEF Briefing note on the situation of children in Idlib, Afrin and Eastern Ghouta, Syria, 23 March 2018

:: 19 Mar 2018 Statement attributed to Ali Al-Za'tari, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Syria, on the catastrophic situation for people from East Ghouta and Afrin, 19 March 2018 [EN/AR]

Yemen

:: 19 Mar 2018 Yemen Humanitarian Update Covering 12 March – 18 March 2018 | Issue 7

Iraq - *No new announcements identified.*

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UN OCHA – Corporate Emergencies

When the USG/ERC declares a Corporate Emergency Response, all OCHA offices, branches and sections provide their full support to response activities both at HQ and in the field.

Ethiopia - *No new announcements identified.*

Nigeria - *No new announcements identified.*

Rohinga Refugee Crisis - *No new announcements identified.*

Somalia - *No new announcements identified.*

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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 24 March 2018]

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

23 March 2018

WOM/2145

Concluding Sixty-Second Session, Women's Commission Approves Texts on Expediting Gender Equality in Rural Areas, Releasing Female Hostages, Helping Palestinians

The Commission on the Status of Women, concluding its sixty-second session today, approved a set of Agreed Conclusions aimed at accelerating gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls, as well as resolutions on assistance to Palestinian women, the release of women and children hostages and the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and the girl child.

23 March 2018

SC/13262

Security Council Should Play Greater Role in Breaking Link between Hunger, Conflict, Stresses Under-Secretary-General, World Food Programme Head

The United Nations senior-most humanitarian official and the head of the World Food Programme (WFP) came together today to urge the Security Council to play a greater role in

breaking the link between hunger and conflict, stating that in doing so, it would make a significant contribution to famine eradication and sustainable development.

23 March 2018

SG/SM/18952-PAL/2219

[Welcoming \\$100 Million Pledged for Palestine Refugee Agency, Secretary-General Encourages More Support to Close Critical Funding Shortfall](#)

22 March 2018

SG/SM/18948-DEV/3321

[Praising Thriving, Inclusive Economy, Secretary-General Welcomes Bangladesh Graduation from Least Developed Country Status, Pledges Support](#)

22 March 2018

SC/13260-IHA/1449

[Security Council Press Statement on Humanitarian Situation in Democratic Republic of Congo](#)

20 March 2018

PI/2226

[United Nations Establishes Tableau as Visual Analytics Standard, Streamlines Global Adoption of Platform](#)

NEW YORK, 20 March (Office of Information and Communications Technology) — The United Nations and Tableau Software are proud to announce an unprecedented agreement that provides access to Tableau's world class visual analytics to professionals working in 193 Member States across the United Nations system.

19 March 2018

SC/13255

[Procedural Vote Blocks Holding of Security Council Meeting on Human Rights Situation in Syria, Briefing by High Commissioner](#)

The Security Council today failed to hold a public meeting on the human rights situation in Syria — which would have featured a briefing by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein — following a procedural vote on the matter called by the Russian Federation.

19 March 2018

SC/13253

[Humanitarian Crisis in Democratic Republic of Congo Will Worsen Without Political Transition, End to Violence, Speakers Warn Security Council](#)

The Security Council turned its attention this morning to the humanitarian aspects of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with a rural women's rights activist and an Episcopalian clergyman warning the international community of dire consequences if it failed to help to turn the tide on a conflict that had raged in the centre of Africa for two decades.

UN OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 24 March 2018]

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

Selected Press Releases – "TOP NEWS"

[Turkey: UN report details extensive human rights violations during protracted state of emergency](#)

[International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 21 March 2018](#)

[UN rights expert decries desperate state of right to health in Occupied Palestinian Territory](#)

[Poland must not further restrict sexual and reproductive health and rights, say UN experts](#)

[China: UN experts concerned about health of jailed rights lawyer Jiang Tianyong](#)

[Inter-American, African and UN human rights experts to hold dialogue on sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics](#)

[Unlawful, unjustified and disproportionate use of force against protestors in DR Congo – UN report](#)

[Inclusiveness of older persons in Georgia must be a priority - UN expert says](#)

Human Rights Council [to 24 March 2018]

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc/pages/hrcindex.aspx>

23/03/2018

[**Human Rights Council adopts 10 texts, requests a high-level panel discussion on genocide and a study on the role of capacity building in the promotion of human rights**](#)

22/03/2018

[**Human Rights Council adopts 16 texts, extends mandates on the right to privacy, albinism, the environment, and cultural rights**](#)

Committee on the Rights of the Child [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children

[to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

SRSB/CAAC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health [to 24 March 2018]

<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 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

UN OCHA [to 24 March 2018]

<https://www.unocha.org/media-centre/press-releases>

Selected Press Releases

23 March 2018

[Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock, Briefing to the Security Council on Armed Conflict and Hunger, 23 March 2018](#)

[Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock: A Casement Lecture: Towards a Better System for Humanitarian Financing](#)

22 March 2018

[Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ursula Mueller, opening remarks for the inaugural session of the French National Humanitarian Conference](#)

19 March 2018

[Statement attributed to Ali Al-Za'tari, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Syria, on the catastrophic situation for people from East Ghouta and Afrin, 19 March 2018 \[EN/AR\]](#)

[Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock: Statement to the Security Council on the humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, New York, 19 March 2018](#)

18 March 2018

[Syria - Afrin District - Facts and Figures \(Updated: 18 March 2018\) \[EN/AR\]](#)

UNICEF [to 24 March 2018]

<https://www.unicef.org/media/>

Selected Press Releases

[**Lifesaving UNICEF supplies reach Papua New Guinea to help children and families hardest hit by earthquakes**](#)

PORT MORESBY/SYDNEY, 23 March 2018 – UNICEF has this week delivered 23 metric tons of relief supplies to Papua New Guinea, including tents and tarpaulins, water purification tablets, hygiene kits, blankets and learning kits as part of ongoing efforts to help children and families who were hardest hit by recent earthquakes.

[**Geneva Palais briefing note on the situation of children in Idlib, Afrin and Eastern Ghouta, Syria**](#)

GENEVA, 23 March 2018 - This is a summary of what was said by Marixie Mercado, UNICEF spokesperson in Geneva – to whom quoted text may be attributed – at today's press briefing at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

[**Statement on the release of girls abducted from a school in Dapchi by Mohamed Malick Fall, UNICEF Representative in Nigeria**](#)

ABUJA, 21 March 2018 - "UNICEF welcomes news that the girls abducted on 19 February 2018 from a school in Dapchi, Yobe state, northeast Nigeria were returned to their families. According to unconfirmed reports, over 100 girls have been returned.

Geneva Palais briefing note on the situation of children in Afrin and Eastern Ghouta, Syria

GENEVA, 20 March 2018 - This is a summary of what was said by Marixie Mercado, UNICEF spokesperson in Geneva – to whom quoted text may be attributed – at today's press briefing at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

UNICEF and partners continue to support children in the Caribbean, six months after Hurricanes Irma and María

PANAMA CITY/GENEVA, 19 March 2018 - Thousands of children, adolescents and their families affected by the devastating effects of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, six months ago, in the Eastern Caribbean islands, Cuba and Haiti have been supported by UNICEF and its partners thanks to the US\$11.5 million raised through international donations during this time.

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [to 24 March 2018]
<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/media-centre.html>

Briefing Notes

Anglophone Cameroonians in Nigeria pass 20,000 mark 20 Mar 2018

Fierce fighting in Eastern Ghouta, rural Damascus, and Afrin causes massive new displacement of Syrian civilians 20 Mar 2018

Press releases and news comments

UNHCR and partners seek US\$504 million for Congolese refugees 23 Mar 2018

UNHCR Ambassador Cate Blanchett warns of "a race against time" to protect Rohingya refugees from upcoming monsoon rains 21 Mar 2018

IOM / International Organization for Migration [to 24 March 2018]
<http://www.iom.int/press-room/press-releases>

Selected Announcements

2018-03-23

UN Migration Agency Appeals for USD 88.5 million for Response to Ethiopian Crisis

Addis Ababa – IOM, the UN Migration Agency, has launched an appeal for USD 88,550,000 to help people in need of humanitarian assistance in Ethiopia.

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Reach 13,043 in 2018; Deaths Reach 497
2018-03-23

Geneva – IOM, the UN Migration Agency, reports that 13,043 migrants and refugees have entered Europe by sea through the first 80 days of 2018, with about 47 per cent arriving in Italy and the remainder divided between Greece (30%) Spain (22%) and Cyprus (less than 1%).

Five-year Extension of US Resettlement Agreement: IOM
2018-03-23

Geneva/Washington – On 14 March, IOM, the UN Migration Agency and the United States Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) signed an agreement

in Geneva, Switzerland, on the admission of refugees and other designated migrants during the period...

UNAIDS [to 24 March 2018]

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

Update 23 March 2018

UNAIDS Special Ambassador receives UNWDPA Leadership Award

The United Nations Women for Peace Association (UNWDPA) has honoured Lorena Castillo de Varela, the First Lady of Panama and UNAIDS Special Ambassador for AIDS in Latin America, with its Leadership Award. The award was made in recognition of her work in the response to HIV and the promotion of human rights and women's empowerment...

Update 21 March 2018

UNAIDS saddened by the death of pioneering HIV researcher David Cooper

UNAIDS is saddened by the news of the sudden death of David Cooper on 18 March. He was a pioneering HIV researcher, immunologist and professor at Australia's University of New South Wales and in 1986 became the first Director of the National Centre of HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, now known as the Kirby Institute.

Mr Cooper diagnosed the first documented case of HIV in Australia in the mid-1980s, and in 1991 was named Chair of the WHO Global Programme on AIDS' Committee on Clinical Research and Drug Development.

He was a past President of the International AIDS Society and worked with colleagues to found the HIV Netherlands Australia Thailand Research Collaboration, known as HIV-NAT, in Bangkok, Thailand.

"The world has lost a bold and compassionate leader in the response to HIV," said Michel Sidibé, UNAIDS Executive Director. "David Cooper firmly believed in health as a fundamental human right. Without the groundbreaking research and advances in treatment that he helped to make a reality, many more lives would have been lost to AIDS. Our thoughts during this difficult time are with his family, colleagues and the many people his life and work touched."...

WHO & Regional Offices [to 24 March 2018]

Latest News

Promote health, keep the world safe, serve the vulnerable

Civil society meeting on HIV, viral hepatitis, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections and universal health coverage

Statement by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General

22 March 2018

On the trail of Lassa fever in southern Nigeria

21 March 2018 – Some 3675 contacts of the 376 confirmed Lassa fever cases in Nigeria had been identified and more than three-quarters had completed their 21 days of monitoring as of 18 March. WHO, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the local government are reaching out to communities with a large-scale awareness raising campaign. This feature story tell of the importance of contact tracing in controlling the disease outbreak.

Highlights

WHO supports 16 African countries to protect against Listeriosis

March 2018 - WHO has reached out to 16 African nations to provide support for preparedness

and response to a listeriosis outbreak that started in South Africa in 2017 but is now threatening other countries on the continent.

Call for Europe's commitment to increase investment to end TB

March 2018 – The number of new tuberculosis (TB) patients has been decreasing at an average rate of 4.3% yearly in the last decade in the WHO European Region. Despite being the fastest decline in the world, the trend is insufficient to achieve the target of ending the TB epidemic by 2030.

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WHO Regional Offices

Selected Press Releases, Announcements

WHO African Region AFRO

Selected Featured News

:: Annual peer review and planning workshop for Anglophone national malaria programmes in Africa takes place in Harare 23 March 2018

WHO continues to Support Response to Cholera Outbreak in Refugee Settlement 22 March 2018 Hoima

:: ESA EPI Managers and partners meet in Kigali to deliberate on immunization
20 March 2018 Nearly two hundred participants from East and Southern African (ESA)...

WHO Region of the Americas PAHO

- *No new announcements identified.*

WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO

- *No new announcements identified.*

WHO European Region EURO

:: Time for revamped commitment by all to end TB 23-03-2018

:: Environment and Health Task Force meeting kicks off national planning in 7 key areas 22-03-2018

:: WHO supports large-scale polio and measles vaccination campaigns in northern Syria 21-03-2018

:: Safe drinking-water in Europe? 20-03-2018

:: WHO Europe/ECDC joint press release: 4% annual decrease too slow to end TB by 2030 – call for Europe's commitment to increase investment to end TB 19-03-2018

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO

:: WHO is providing urgent health services in response to displacements from Afrin 23 March 2018

:: WHO Director-General calls for urgent action to improve health conditions in Gaza, March 2018

19 March 2018

WHO Western Pacific Region

:: TB down in past decade; universal health coverage key to faster progress

MANILA, 23 March 2018 - New estimates show a 14% reduction in the incidence of tuberculosis (TB) in the World Health Organization (WHO) Western Pacific Region over the past decade, but with 1.8 million people newly infected in the Region each year, more needs to be done. On the eve of World Tuberculosis Day, WHO calls on governments to provide all citizens access to TB testing and treatment as part of universal health coverage.

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) [to 24 March 2018]

<http://www.oie.int/en/for-the-media/press-releases/2018/>

No new digest content identified.

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNDP United Nations Development Programme [to 24 March 2018]

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

Selected Press Releases/Announcements

Posted on March 21, 2018

[International Financial Policies and 2030 Agenda Must be More Aligned to Mobilise Financing and Reduce Systemic Risks, says UNDP Administrator at G20 Finance Meeting](#)

"Economic growth, macroeconomic and financial stability are a means to an end, namely advancing sustainable development of nations and leaving no one behind," said Achim Steiner during the meeting of...

UN Division for Sustainable Development [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

UN Statistical Commission :: UN Statistics Division [to 24 March 2018]

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

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

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

No new digest content identified.

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme [to 24 March 2018]

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

23 Mar 2018 *Press release*

[Historic agreement signed to protect the world's largest tropical peatland](#)

The equivalent of three years of global greenhouse gas emissions is stored in the Congo peatlands.

22 Mar 2018 *Press release*

[World looks to nature-based solutions for urgent water challenges](#)

The theme of this year's World Water Day is "Nature for Water", focusing on nature-based solutions to the water challenges in the 21st century.

21 Mar 2018 *Press release*

Ethiopian airlines pledges to plant 9 million trees: "one for every passenger"

UN Environment signed an MoU with Ethiopian Airlines, focusing on sustainability in the airline business.

21 Mar 2018 *Press release*

Brazil designates two new marine protected areas, surpassing biodiversity targets

Brazilian government has designated two new marine protected areas around the São Pedro and São Paulo archipelagos and the submarine volcanic chain that connects the Trindad

UNISDR UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 24 March 2018]

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

23 Mar 2018

UN Member States urged to adopt early warning checklist

The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) today welcomed the creation of a Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems Checklist as a major contribution to saving lives in an age of increasing exposure to extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change.

UN DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 24 March 2018]

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

23 March 2018, New York

World cannot take water for granted, say UN officials at launch of global decade for action

The United Nations on Thursday launched a decade for action on water that seeks to forge new partnerships, improve cooperation and strengthen capacity to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Most directly linked to Sustainable Development Goal 6, safe water and adequate sanitation are indispensable for healthy ecosystems, reducing poverty, and achieving inclusive growth, social well-being and sustainable livelihoods – the targets for many of the 17 Goals.

However, growing demands, poor management and climate change have increased water stresses and scarcity of water is a major problem in many parts of the world.

Furthermore, more than two billion people worldwide lack access to safe water and over 4.5 billion to adequate sanitation services, warned UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

"By 2050 at least one in four people will live in a country where the lack of fresh water will be chronic or recurrent," he said, speaking at the launch of the International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028.

"Quite simply, water is a matter of life and death. Our bodies, [...] our cities, our industries and our agriculture all depend on it."...

As cities boom, forests key to meeting demands for water, food and energy – UN

21 March 2018, New York

With two-thirds of the world's population expected to live in urban areas by 2050, forests are critical part of the solution to the unprecedented demand for water, food and energy that these cities will face, senior United Nations officials said Wednesday, on the International Day of Forests.

"How we manage forests will determine how we meet this demand," said Manoel Sobral Filho, Director of the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS).

He noted that growth and shifts in population, changes in climate, and innovation in knowledge and technology will undoubtedly impact future forests. "One thing I am certain of, investing in forests is essential for securing a sustainable future for communities the world over," he added...

UNESCO [to 24 March 2018]

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

19 March 2018

First Cultural Heritage Site to be Protected in International Waters

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme [to 24 March 2018]

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

Posted March 23, 2018

Partnership promotes the science we need for the cities we want

Nairobi, 21 March 2018 – In a joint statement, partners working on cities and climate change have laid down the foundations for better-informed city climate action and decision-making, as a result of greater engagement between the policy,...

Government of Japan and UN-Habitat to the rescue of South Sudanese refugees

Khartoum 22 March 2018– Through the support of the Government of Japan, UN-Habitat this week launched the project 'Support to Hosting Communities Affected by South Sudanese Refugees in White Nile State'. The project aims to deliver safe,...

Posted March 23, 2018

UN-Habitat celebrates World Water Day 2018

Barcelona 22 March 2018— This year's theme, 'Nature for Water', explores nature-based solutions to the water challenges we face in the 21st century. Environmental damage, together with climate change, is driving the water-related crises we see around the...

Posted March 22, 2018

UN-Habitat and partners hold discussion on improving women's tenure security

New York, 19 March 2018—On the sidelines of the ongoing Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), UN-Habitat and some of its partners held a fruitful discussion on practical tools for improving security of tenure for rural...

Posted March 19, 2018

FAO Food & Agriculture Organization [to 24 March 2018]

<http://www.fao.org/news/archive/news-by-date/2018/en/>

22-03-2018

Food crises continue to strike, and acute hunger intensifies

A new report has sounded the alarm regarding surging levels of acute hunger. Some 124 million people in 51 countries were affected by acute food insecurity during 2017 - 11 million more people than the year before - according to the latest edition of the Global Report on Food Crises.

In Somalia massive livestock losses have severely impacted livelihoods and food security

With forecasts pointing to below-average rains during April-June, urgent support is needed to build the resilience of pastoralist communities and avert a deterioration in livelihood and food security, FAO said in its Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) report.

21-03-2018

Making cities greener, healthier, happier places to live – International Day of Forests

Investing in green spaces in cities will help address urban pollution, climate change and lack of water supplies, said FAO ahead of the International Day of Forests (21 March 2018).

20-03-2018

Anticipating water woes can ease migration burden

FAO presented new research, done with Global Water Partnership and Oregon State University, USA, on the nexus between water and migration at a high-level panel at World Water Forum in Brasilia.

20-03-2018

FAO renews support to date palm production

"More than ever, regional and international cooperation is needed to promote knowledge sharing, and to mobilize the necessary funding to support date palm development," FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva said.

19-03-2018

ILO International Labour Organization [to 24 March 2018]

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

Commission of Inquiry

ILO Governing Body decides to appoint Commission of Inquiry for Venezuela

21 March 2018

A Commission of Inquiry – the ILO's highest-level investigative procedure – will examine allegations relating to the violation of international labour standards by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization [to 24 March 2018]

<http://www.icao.int/>

No new digest content identified.

IMO International Maritime Organization [to 24 March 2018]

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

21/03/2018

Energy efficiency in shipping - why it matters!

IMO video outlines how the Global MTCC Network (GMN) initiative is uniting Maritime Technology Cooperation Centres (MTCCs) in targeted regions into a global network.

WMO World Meteorological Organization [to 24 March 2018]

<https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release>

Publish Date: 23 March 2018

World Meteorological Day: Weather-ready, climate-smart

Weather-ready climate-smart is the theme of this year's World Meteorological Day on 23 March. It highlights the need for informed planning for day-to-day weather and hazards like floods as well as for naturally occurring climate variability and long-term climate change.

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 24 March 2018]

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

23 MARCH 2018

Making science, technology and innovation work for development

NEW DELHI, 23 March 2018 – "Harnessing the fruits of science, technology and innovation (STI) for development is one of the biggest development challenges of our time," said Pierre Jacquet, President of the Global Development Network, as he opened the 18th Global Development Conference on 22 March.

Green technological innovation key to sustainable development

NEW DELHI, 22 March 2018 – "Technological innovation and the development of environmental goods are key to ensuring demand-driven industrialization can be sustainable," concluded participants today at the launch of the Industrial Development Report (IDR) 2018 organized during the 18th Global Development Conference on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for Development held in New Delhi, India.

Solving the e-waste problem in Latin America

QUITO 21 March 2018 - The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador (MAE) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), have officially presented a project which will provide policy advice to 13 Latin American countries to help them solve the e-waste problem in the region.

Forum held in Kigali on increasing access to sustainable energy in East Africa

VIENNA, 22 March 2018 – The Sustainable Energy Forum for East Africa took place between 19 and 21 March 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda. Over 400 high-level representatives from government, business, civil society and international organizations came together to discuss how to increase access to sustainable energy in East African countries.

International Organization for Standardization (ISO) [to 24 March 2018]

https://www.iso.org/news_archive/x/

No new digest content identified.

UNWTO World Tourism Organization [to 24 March 2018]

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

22 March 2018

Good Tourism Practices to Advance Sustainable Development in the Americas

UNWTO/OAS Report Madrid, Spain 22 March 2018 – Concrete examples of how to advance sustainable development through tourism take centre stage in the first joint publication between the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the Organization of American States (OAS). 'Tourism and the Sustainable Development Goals: Good Practices in the Americas' provides 14 case studies from across the region on why tourism ranks high among the economic sectors better positioned to enable the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization [to 24 March 2018]

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

Mar 19, 2018 PR/2018/816

China Drives International Patent Applications to Record Heights; Demand Rising for Trademark and Industrial Design Protection

China moved into the second position as a source of international patent applications filed via WIPO in 2017, closing in on long-time leader United States of America, in another record year in the use of WIPO's intellectual property services for patents, trademarks and industrial designs.

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity [to 24 March 2018]

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

23 March 2018

Scientific assessments by Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) confirm need for imperative actions to safeguard life on Earth

- Landmark regional scientific reports were issued today in Colombia on the status of biodiversity in the following regions of the world: the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Africa as well as Europe and Central Asia. They show that pressures on biodiversity and resulting loss of biodiversity continue to increase in all of the regions. If unchecked, such loss will affect the ability of nature to support people and planet.

[See Week in Review above for more detail]

Message of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, on the occasion of World Water Day 22 March 2018

Message of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, on the occasion of International Day Of Forests 21 March 2018

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USAID [to 24 March 2018]

<https://www.usaid.gov/news-information>

Selected Press Releases

Statement From USAID Administrator Mark Green on World Tuberculosis Day

March 23, 2018

As World Tuberculosis Day approaches, the U.S. Agency for International Development celebrates the lives saved by the efforts to combat tuberculosis globally, and reflects on the work that lies ahead of us to eliminate this deadly disease. Led by USAID, the U.S. Government is the largest donor to the international fight against tuberculosis, and provides financial and technical support in countries with the highest burden of the disease.

U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Mark Green's Opening Testimony Before the House Foreign Affairs Committee

March 21, 2018

I believe that we are shaping an Agency that is capable of leveraging our influence, authority, and available resources to literally transform the way that humanitarian and development assistance are provided. Alongside the rest of the world, it will help us better meet the daunting

challenges that we see today. With your support and guidance, we will ensure that USAID remains the world's premiere international development agency and continues the important work we do each day to protect America's future security and prosperity.

Statement by Administrator Green on U.S. Humanitarian Assistance for Vulnerable Venezuelans

March 20, 2018

Today, the United States announced new humanitarian assistance to support Venezuelans in Colombia, who are fleeing desperate poverty, hunger, and tyranny in their home country. In partnership with Colombia, this initial, and immediate commitment of \$2.5 million will provide emergency food and health assistance for vulnerable Venezuelans and the Colombian communities who are hosting them.

USAID Administrator Mark Green's Remarks at the UN Security Council Briefing on the Situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

March 19, 2018

Many hundreds of millions of dollars have been generously provided to alleviate suffering and fostering economic development. But they are being robbed of their full value by crisis, conflict, and poor governance. Last year alone, America's foreign assistance for the DRC exceeded \$546 million. Our humanitarian contributions totaled more than \$209 million. The agency that I'm privileged to lead, the United States Agency for International Development, contributed more than \$130 million worth of food assistance and more than \$136 million for health programs.

DFID [to 24 March 2018]

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

New opportunities for London businesses to deliver UK aid

23 March 2018 DFID Press release

Joint FCO/DFID statement on Eastern Ghouta and White Helmets

22 March 2018 DFID and FCO Press release

UK aid is helping to protect vulnerable Rohingya people ahead of devastating floods

20 March 2018 DFID Press release

ECHO [to 24 March 2018]

<http://ec.europa.eu/echo/en/news>
No new digest content identified.

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African Union [to 24 March 2018]

<http://www.au.int/>

[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.

ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations [to 24 March 2018]

<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]

ASEAN reviews implementation of Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025

Jakarta, 24 March 2018 - The 10th Coordinating Conference for the ASEAN Political-Security Community (ASCCO) was held at the ASEAN Secretariat on 22 March. The conference, which was chaired by Hoang Anh Tuan, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), conducted the first biennial review of the implementation of the APSC Blueprint [...]

European Commission [to 24 March 2018]

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

22/03/2018

Global Report on Food Crises finds that in 2017 major famines were partly averted but food security remains critical

- The Global Report on Food Crises indicates that major risks of famine were averted in 2017 in the four countries that were declared at risk in early 2017: Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan and North Nigeria. However, it also highlights the severity and the complexity of food crises around the world.

Hope for Gaza: EU creates broad international coalition to provide drinking water to 2 million people in Gaza

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 20 March 2018 Success of pledging conference marks the start of the biggest ever infrastructure project in the Gaza Strip Today, the EU hosted a pledging conference on the Gaza Central Desalination Plant & Associated Works Project in Brussels.

Commission showcases how science and innovation can benefit European cultural heritage

20/03/2018 - In the context of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, the Commission is today organising a High-Level Horizon 2020 Conference on Innovation and Cultural Heritage to present some of the most promising innovations to preserve and treasure Europe's cultural heritage for the next generations.

New report underlines the key role of education in the inclusion of immigrant students

19/03/2018 - A new report published today by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and mandated by the European Commission, confirms the need to promote inclusive education and common values.

OECD [to 24 March 2018]

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

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

22-March-2018

Private philanthropy funding for development modest compared to public aid, but its potential impact is high, says OECD

Though philanthropic flows are relatively modest compared to official development assistance (ODA), their contribution is substantial in certain sectors, according to a new OECD report. For the first time, Private Philanthropy for Development uses global, comparable data to analyse how private foundations are supporting development.

21-March-2018

OECD awarded the Hassan II Great World Water Prize

The OECD has been awarded the Hassan II World Water Prize by the government of Morocco and the World Water Council in recognition of its work under Secretary-General Angel Gurría to elevate water security as a crucial global issue and the policy guidance it has provided countries around the world on the issue.

19-March-2018

Global upswing should be used to implement structural reforms to boost incomes and well-being – for the longer term and for all

Governments must implement comprehensive structural reform programmes to sustain stronger, greener and more inclusive growth that will extend beyond the current cyclical upswing, according to the OECD's annual Going for Growth report.

Organization of American States (OAS) [to 24 March 2018]

<http://www.oas.org/en/>

March 23, 2018

OAS Permanent Council Commemorated the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Slavery

OAS and UNWTO Launch Report "Tourism and the Sustainable Development Goals: Good Practices in the Americas"

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) [to 24 March 2018]

<https://www.oic-oci.org/home/?lan=en>

No new digest content identified.

Group of 77 [to 24 March 2018]

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

[Remarks on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by Ms. Sheyam Elgarf, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations, at the **UNDP Executive Board briefing on the UN Office for South-South Cooperation Strategic Framework 2018-2021** \(New York, 22 March 2018\)](#)

[Statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by Mr. Emad Morcos Mattar, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations, at the Preparatory Meeting for the Nineteenth Meeting of the United Nations **Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea** \(New York, 19 March 2018\)](#)

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UNCTAD [to 24 March 2018]

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

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

No new digest content identified.

World Customs Organization – WCO [to 24 March 2018]

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

21 March 2018

Successful conclusion of the 4th WCO Global AEO Conference

21 March 2018

Development Partners met to coordinate the support in the Americas and the Caribbean Region

WTO - World Trade Organisation [to 24 March 2018]

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

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

23 March 2018

WTO members raise concerns over US tariffs on steel and aluminium at Goods Council

WTO members expressed concern over the United States' imposition of higher tariffs on steel and aluminium imports and the impact they may have on the global trading system at a meeting of the Council on Trade in Goods on 23 March, the same day the new US measure came into effect. The US responded by saying that the tariffs are necessary to address the threat these imports pose to national security.

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IPU Inter-Parliamentary Union [to 24 March 2018]

<https://www.ipu.org/news/press-releases>

20 March 2018

World's MPs to tackle global migration reforms and refugee protection

Parliamentarians from over 137 countries will seek to identify and agree upon parliamentary inputs to the UN-led reforms on the rights and protection of migrants and refugees. Meeting at the 138th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly in Geneva (24-28 March), more than 740 MPs, including 65 Speakers of Parliament and 216 women parliamentarians, will ensure that the interests of the 6.5 billion people they represent are part of the global negotiations on the new migration regime. MPs will look in detail at their contribution to ensuring domestic enforcement of the two related Global Compacts expected to be adopted by the UN community later this year.

International Court of Justice [to 24 March 2018]

<http://www.icj-cij.org/en/press-releases>

No new digest content identified.

International Criminal Court (ICC) [to 24 March 2018]

Trying individuals for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity

<https://www.icc-cpi.int/>

20 March 2018

ICC Statement on The Philippines' notice of withdrawal: State participation in Rome Statute system essential to international rule of law

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World Bank [to 24 March 2018]

<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]

[See Week in Review for more detail on selected announcements below]

World Bank Lays Out Vision for Cleaner, Safer Agriculture in East Asia

BEIJING, China, March 23, 2018— A new World Bank study highlights the incidence, drivers and significant consequences of agricultural pollution in China, Vietnam, and the Philippines yet offers a hopeful...

Date: March 22, 2018 Type: Press Release

A New Economy for Middle East and North Africa Countries: Youth, Technology and Finance

ALGIERS, March 20, 2018 – The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region will have to create hundreds of millions of new jobs over the next three decades. This challenge presents an opportunity for...

Date: March 20, 2018 Type: Statement

Climate Change Could Force Over 140 Million to Migrate Within Countries by 2050: World Bank Report

WASHINGTON, March 19, 2018 - The worsening impacts of climate change in three densely populated regions of the world could see over 140 million people move within their countries' borders by 2050...

Date: March 19, 2018 Type: Press Release

IMF [to 24 March 2018]

<http://www.imf.org/en/News/Search?type=News+Article>

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

March 20, 2018

IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde Calls for G20 Policies to Make Growth More Resilient and More Widely Shared

March 20, 2018

IMF Executive Board Supports New Strategy for Data and Statistics in the Digital Age

African Development Bank Group [to 24 March 2018]

<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]

African Development Bank pledges full support towards success of Continental Free Trade Area

23/03/2018 - The African Development Bank celebrates with Africa and pledges its full support to achieve the success of the recently launched Continental Free Trade Area, as part of its strategy to help Integrate Africa.

Governance is key to boosting intra-Africa trade of timber products, says report by African Natural Resources Centre, African Development Bank

21/03/2018 - A new report by the African Natural Resources Centre of the African Development Bank has stressed the importance of forestry governance to boosting intra-African trade of wood products.

Asian Development Bank [to 24 March 2018]

<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]

No new digest content identified.

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank [to 24 March 2018]

<https://www.aiib.org/en/news-events/news/index.html>

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

No new digest content identified.

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 24 March 2018]

<https://www.ifad.org/web/latest/news>

21 Mar 18

[Rural development experts and private sector leaders to discuss public, private, producer partnerships for smallholders and agribusiness entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka](#)

21 Mar 18

[IFAD leads on sustainable farming on World Water Day](#)

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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.

Action Contre la Faim – Action Against Hunger [to 24 March 2018]

<http://www.actioncontrelafaim.org/en>

No new digest content identified.

Amref Health Africa [to 24 March 2018]

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

March 22nd, 2018

[Amref hosts the first Social Accountability Conference in Nairobi](#)

Amref Health Africa hosted the first social accountability conference at the Amref International University from 14 and 15 March 2018 to stimulate dialogue on enhanced social accountability among health sector stakeholders in Kenya.

March 22nd, 2018

Amref partners with colleges to train medical personnel

Amref Health Africa has partnered with the Malawi College of Health Sciences (MCHS) and Ekwendeni College of Health Sciences (Ecohs), to provide eLearning training courses for nurse-midwife technicians.

March 19th, 2018

Generous travelers fund 1,000 more care providers in Africa

Thanks to generous donations by travelers at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol and the efforts of airport staff, who together raised a total of 214,700 euros in 2017, Amref Flying Doctors can train 1,000 additional care providers in Africa and give some 500,000 people access to healthcare.

Aravind Eye Care System [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

BRAC [to 24 March 2018]

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

March 22, 2018

Localisation of humanitarian response: A proven frontier for BRAC

by Shashanka Saadi

Let us take the recent Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh- dubbed as the world's fastest growing humanitarian crisis- as a case to see why and how BRAC can be a model for the localisation in humanitarian response.

March 19, 2018

Boot camp to fight global poverty: On location with BRAC in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka

by Tahjib Shamsuddin

Bangladesh, the birthplace of microfinance and many other successful pro-poor strategies has been acknowledged as the model of development for many years. Once again, the country is recognised to have found the most effective solution to one of the most complex problems of the world – extreme poverty.

CARE International [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Clubhouse International [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Danish Refugee Council [to 24 March 2018]

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

22.03.2018

Water for refugees and their hosts - the sun is part of the solution

Today is World Water Day; commemorated every year to draw global attention on the importance of water. In Uganda – now home to more than one million refugees from South Sudan – the Danish Refugee Council is installing solar systems which will pump water to refugees and the host community.

Promise to Practice: Following through on commitments to support the future of Syria and the region

The international community has made significant financial and political commitments to address the massive scale of the Syrian crisis, in particular through two major conferences, held in London in 2016, and Brussels in 2017. A follow-up conference will be held in Brussels on 24-25 April 2018. This reports details the commitments made in previous years and tracks their implementation.

21.03.2018

Two year anniversary of the EU-Turkey Statement: No grounds for celebration

Global standards for the management of displacement and migration with the view to save lives, protect rights and share responsibility between States are being negotiated in New York within the framework of the UN-led global compact processes. At the same time the EU is celebrating the two year anniversary of a deal with Turkey that in many ways is the manifestation of the reverse policy trend: the outsourcing of protection responsibilities and migration control coupled with policies of deterrence and containment. The conditions for asylum seekers in the Greek islands is unacceptable and Europe cannot look away from its responsibility, the Danish Refugee Council said today at the two year anniversary of the EU-Turkey Statement.

20.03.2018

ECPAT [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Fountain House [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Humanity & Inclusion [nee Handicap International] [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Heifer International [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

HelpAge International [to 24 March 2018]

<http://www.helpage.org/newsroom/press-room/press-releases/>
No new digest content identified.

ICRC [to 24 March 2018]

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

Selected News Releases, Statements, Reports

Democratic Republic of the Congo: ICRC facilitates release of 27 people to the authorities

Bukavu (ICRC) – Twenty-seven (27) people who had been held by an armed group since 3 March were handed over today to the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in Nyambembe (in the Shabunda area of South Kivu), in part facilitated
23-03-2018 | News release

Philippines: Focus on delivering clean water for Marawi evacuees and returnees

Manila (ICRC) – Five months after the end of the clashes in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur province, humanitarian organizations working on the ground estimate that 81,000 evacuees and returnees are still struggling to meet their basic needs: water, food,
22-03-2018 | News release

IFRC [to 24 March 2018]

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

Americas, Colombia, Ecuador, Global, Venezuela

Red Cross warns of rising humanitarian needs among people entering Colombia

Geneva/Panama, 21 March 2018– Aid workers working along the Colombia-Venezuela border are warning of rising vulnerabilities among people crossing the border and are calling on the international community to increase support for humanitarian efforts.

IRC International Rescue Committee [to 24 March 2018]

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

Selected Press Releases & Statements

Statement

The IRC Commends House and Senate for Providing Foreign Aid to Address Global Crises

March 23, 2018

Perspective

NGO reaction to the first draft of the Global Compact on Refugees

March 19, 2018

IRCT [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Islamic Relief [to 24 March 2018]

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

News

Islamic Relief emphasises continuing commitment to protecting vulnerable people after Safeguarding Summit

Islamic Relief has emphasised its commitment to preventing and tackling sexual exploitation and abuse and has set out the steps it is taking to protect vulnerable people following a Safeguarding Summit in London on March 5.

Islamic Relief announces 'Islamic Declaration of Gender Justice' at UN conference

Islamic Relief has launched a call for contributions to a pioneering Islamic Declaration of Gender Justice at this year's UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York. The Declaration is a call to action against gender inequality from an Islamic faith perspective, and seeks to tackle discrimination and harmful practices, especially against [...]

Islamic Relief proposes a faith-sensitive approach to gender justice at UN conference

Islamic Relief has shared key recommendations for tackling gender injustice from a faith perspective at this year's UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York. Attended by delegates from around the world, the event was co-convened with the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the second largest inter-governmental organisation after the UN with [...]

Landsea [to 24 March 2018]

<http://www.landesa.org/press-and-media-categories/press-releases/>

No new digest content identified.

Medecins du Monde [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières [to 24 March 2018]

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

Press release

Syria: Military Operations in Eastern Ghouta Drastically Limit Medical Aid

MARCH 21, 2018—Lorena Bilbao, Syria operations coordinator for Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), gave the following statement today on the situation in eastern Ghouta, Syria:

Press release

Mediterranean: European Governments Continue to Obstruct Lifesaving Rescues and Return People to Unsafe Conditions in Libya

March 21, 2018

The decision by Italian authorities to seize Open Arms, a rescue vessel belonging to the Spanish NGO Proactiva, shortly after its crew rescued and disembarked 216 people in the Central Mediterranean on Sunday is the latest in a long series of actions obstructing non-governmental organizations from carrying out lifesaving rescue operations at sea, said the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) today.

Press release

Greece: Europe's Two-Year-Old Deal with Turkey Traps Thousands in Disastrous Conditions

ATHENS /NEW YORK, MARCH 17, 2018—Two years after the signing of a deal between the European Union (EU) and Turkey, Europe's cynical strategy to contain and return people seeking asylum has trapped thousands of vulnerable people in disastrous conditions on Greek islands, the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said today, calling on Greek and EU authorities to increase transfers to the Greek mainland.

Mercy Corps [to 24 March 2018]

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

March 23, 2018

Mercy Corps And Atma Connect Join Forces To Build Community Resilience With New Digital Solutions

New partnership aims to integrate mobile technology into programs that support community-led development and prepare vulnerable communities to withstand disasters

The global organization Mercy Corps and nonprofit technology company Atma Connect are embarking on a new partnership to integrate mobile technology into humanitarian response and development programs. The partnership aims to help vulnerable communities become better equipped to withstand crises and manage ongoing challenges in the face of increasing conflict, displacement, urbanization and climate change.

"We are excited to use Atma Connect's technology to help people survive through crisis, build better lives and transform their communities for good," says Alan Donald, Senior Director of Technology for Development at Mercy Corps. "Atma's software helps people report problems, share solutions and improve their communities from the ground up, and can also help us transform the way we tackle the world's toughest challenges."

Mercy Corps will integrate Atma Connect's mobile technology, including its AtmaGo mobile app, into new and existing initiatives that reduce disaster risk and provide early warning systems for disasters such as recurring flooding.

March 20, 2018

Mercy Corps: Puerto Rico's Recovery Still Uncertain Six Months After Maria

Global organization works with community centers to support ongoing relief and prepare for future storms

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO – As Puerto Rico marks six months since Hurricane Maria made landfall, the global organization Mercy Corps and its partners continue to work towards a full recovery for the U.S. territory. While around 90 percent of Puerto Rico's electricity subscribers have had their power restored, thousands of vulnerable people, especially in rural areas, are still without it.

"Many houses have been destroyed and there's still so much rebuilding to be done. Even now, in many municipalities, the power service goes out every other day and the water service comes and goes," says Karla Peña, Emergency Program Manager for Mercy Corps in Puerto Rico. "On top of that, many families are traumatized and lack proper resources to prepare for the next hurricane season, which is just around the corner."

With support from Walmart, The Miami Foundation and other partners, Mercy Corps is expanding and transforming 15 community centers into resilience hubs. In the coming months, these hubs will provide energy and water to as many as 36,000 individuals; facilitate disaster-preparedness and risk-reduction training to as many as 90,000 people to better prepare for future storms; and offer livelihood support to as many as 1,000 small farmers through access to quality seeds, fertilizer, machinery, labor and training...

Operation Smile [to 24 March 2018]

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

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 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Norwegian Refugee Council [to 24 March 2018]

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

Published 22. Mar 2018

Being resourceful with wastewater

Shahrazad Amoli

A settlement for Afghan refugees in Iran is addressing the water crisis by reusing wastewater through sewage treatment plants. Mostafa, one of the residents, plays an important role in making sure the system works like clockwork.

Published 19. Mar 2018

Afghanistan attack targets Kabul classroom with 600 children inside

Eleven students were injured when an attacker detonated explosives in a classroom in Kabul on Sunday. "As inhumane as this cowardly attack is, we continue to see similar attacks on schools. Afghanistan's children are becoming innocent victims of the escalating conflict," said NRC's country director in Afghanistan, Christopher Nyamandi.

Pact [to 24 March 2018]

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

February 20, 2018

No new digest content identified.

Partners In Health [to 24 March 2018]

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

Mar 23, 2018

TB Patient Advances Care in Liberia

Partners In Health community health worker Patricia Mankuah often uses a motorcycle taxi to reach her patients in Harper, a town in remote southern Liberia, and last summer, she frequently hired Paul*, a friendly, trusted 30-something with a reliable motorcycle.

Mar 23, 2018

Melquiades Huauya Ore: From MDR-TB Patient, to Survivor, to Movie Star and Advocate

Melquiades Huauya Ore was 18 when he was diagnosed with MDR-TB, one of the deadliest strains of the disease. After years of treatment, he became cured. Along the way, he met the future World Bank president, and his story was retold in *Bending the Arc*, a documentary about PIH's 30-year evolution.

Mar 20, 2018

Dauntless Lesotho man defeats MDR-TB, defies family history

A severe form of tuberculosis killed Moeketsi Ts'osane's mother in 2008, and one of his brothers in 2010. Health workers suspect the disease may also have contributed to the 2005 death of Ts'osane's father, who had worked as a miner in South Africa. So when Ts'osane was diagnosed with MDR-TB himself, in 2015, his family and friends had grim hopes for his future. "The people around me, because of what had happened...to them, it was the end of me," the 29-year-old Ts'osane said in February, sitting at work in Maseru, the capital of Lesotho.

PATH [to 24 March 2018]

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

Press release | March 23, 2018

Ministry of Health and Internet innovators discuss the exciting potential of Vietnam's growing social media ecosystem to boost HIV control

Workshop highlights how cutting edge online tools are bringing HIV services and support into the digital age

Hanoi, March 23, 2018—Today, the Vietnam Administration for HIV/AIDS Control (VAAC) and the US Agency for International Development's (USAID) Healthy Markets project, implemented by PATH, brought together young Vietnamese innovators who are using digital and online technology to increase access to HIV-related information and services for at-risk populations. The forum in Hanoi brought together government leaders, private-sector partners, social media and communications experts, civil society leaders, and social enterprises to discuss how the rise of social media, mobile apps, and online commerce in Vietnam can be leveraged to support Vietnam's commitment to its 90-90-90 goals to eliminate HIV in Vietnam by 2030...

Plan International [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Save The Children [to 24 March 2018]

<https://www.savethechildren.net/news>

No new digest content identified.

SOS-Kinderdorf International [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Tostan [to 24 March 2018]

<http://www.tostan.org>

No new digest content identified.

Women for Women International [to 24 March 2018]

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

<http://www.tostan.org>

No new digest content identified.

World Vision [to 24 March 2018]

<http://wvi.org/>

No new digest content identified.

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Center for Media Ethics and Responsibility/CMFR [to 24 March 2018]

<http://cmfr-phil.org/media-ethics-responsibility/>

No new digest content identified.

Electronic Frontiers Foundation

<https://www EFF.org/>

March 22, 2018

Responsibility Deflected, the CLOUD Act Passes

By David Ruiz

Freedom House [to 24 March 2018]

<https://freedomhouse.org/news>

*Selected Press Releases, Statements, Research
Press Releases*

United States: Condemnation, not Congratulations for Putin

March 20, 2018

In response to President Trump congratulating Vladimir Putin for his re-election as Russian president, in a vote whose outcome was determined before ballots were cast, Freedom House issued a statement.

Transparency International [to 24 March 2018]

<http://www.transparency.org/news/pressreleases/>

No new digest content identified.

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ChildFund Alliance [to 24 March 2018]

<https://childfundalliance.org/>

No new digest content identified.

CONCORD [to 24 March 2018]

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

Mar 19, 2018

Aid and Migration: externalisation of Europe's responsibilities – New Report

Aid is more and more perceived by EU leaders as a tool to "control migration", "manage migration" or "tackle the root causes of migration". What are the links between the EU's Aid and Migration agendas in the current migration context? Aiming at clarifying how EU's development cooperation and migration agendas are interlinked in today's EU policies, our new report identifies 3 trends outlining how EU aid is used to curb migration and draws a couple of key recommendations. This report is accompanied by pedagogical animated infographics.

Mar 19, 2018

Survey on Digitalisation for Development: current situation and future trends

Digitalisation is one of the key and most dynamic mega-trends influencing development today. The Internet of things, big data, automation, robotisation, artificial intelligence, cloud computing.... These technologies are driven by digitalisation. In order to understand how the future of development cooperation will be shaped in the digital era and to map how familiar European NGOs and CSOs are with these concepts, CONCORD and FOND Romania launch a survey which we invite you to complete by 6 April.

Disasters Emergency Committee [to 24 March 2018]

<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

DEC welcomes commitment to improving safeguarding standards

20/03/2018

The DEC, along with its member agencies, other NGOs, DFID, the Charity Commission and safeguarding experts, pledged to improve safeguarding standards, following the Safeguarding Summit on 5 March 2018. The DEC welcomes and supports the joint statement below.

The Elders [to 24 March 2018]

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

Guest blog Louise Arbour 21 March 2018

Managing migration: why leadership matters

Louise Arbour, United Nations Special Representative for International Migration, calls on governments negotiating the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration to seize the opportunity for collaboration, whilst demonstrating strong political leadership in explaining the benefits of migration to their people.

END Fund [to 24 March 2018]

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

Selected Press Releases and Major Announcements

No new digest content identified.

Evidence Aid [to 24 March 2018]

www.evidenceaid.org

No new digest content identified.

Gavi [to 24 March 2018]

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

23 March 2018

U.S. approves \$290 million for Gavi in fiscal year 2018 appropriations omnibus

Funding to provide critical vaccines to some of the poorest children in the world.

Washington, 23 March 2018 – Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance welcomed final approval of the United States fiscal year 2018 appropriations bill. The budget includes US\$ 290 million for Gavi, which will go towards increasing the organization's capacity to purchase and deliver life-saving vaccines for poor and vulnerable children around the world.

The contribution to Gavi is part of the US\$ 829.5 million approved for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Maternal and Child Health programs for 2018. This funding not only supports the introduction of new vaccines and innovative approaches and tools to expand equitable access to vaccines, but a range of other life-saving interventions.

"Gavi is grateful to the United States for continuing to invest in vaccines, one of the most cost-effective ways to save lives, improve health and ensure long-term prosperity," said Gavi CEO Dr. Seth Berkley...

Global Fund [to 24 March 2018]

<http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/news/?topic=&type=NEWS;&country=>

News

Global Fund Thanks U.S. Congress for Steadfast Support against HIV, TB and Malaria

23 March 2018

The Global Fund applauds the U.S. Congress for approving \$1.35 billion in funding for the Global Fund for the 2018 U.S. fiscal year. This tremendous support from the United States is essential as the Global Fund accelerates progress in the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.

The Global Fund also welcomed Congressional appropriation of \$4.65 billion for the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, \$755 million for the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative, and \$261 million for USAID's TB program. The Global Fund is a critical partner to all three of these U.S. bilateral efforts.

The sustained U.S. support for the Global Fund will strengthen economic growth and help reduce poverty in Global Fund implementing countries. It will also save lives, reduce suffering, and bolster health security across the globe. The Global Fund matches every dollar from the U.S. with two dollars from other donors to drive global progress.

"The support of the American people is fundamental to global progress in ending the epidemics of HIV, TB, and malaria," said Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund. "Together, we will continue to deliver results – in close collaboration with PEPFAR, PMI, and USAID's TB program – and will accelerate the end of these epidemics."...

Hilton Prize Coalition [to 24 March 2018]

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

An Alliance of Hilton Prize Recipients

No new digest content identified.

ICVA - International Council of Voluntary Agencies [to 24 March 2018]

<https://icvanetwork.org/>

No new digest content identified.

INEE – an international network for education in emergencies [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

InterAction [to 24 March 2018]

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

Mar 23, 2018

InterAction Applauds Congressional Rebuff of Disastrous White House Cuts, Urges Full Funding for International Affairs Budget in FY19

Start Network [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

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Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

CHS Alliance [to 24 March 2018]

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

21/03/2018

"To be accountable, we need the people we serve to tell us what works and what doesn't" - Coffee with Mai Muhsen, Accountability Coordinator, NRC Jordan

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in Jordan seeks to regularly engage with affected communities and ensure all feedback and complaints are received, addressed, followed up, and utilised to enhance the office's understanding of the consequences of its programming. In order to increase impact, NRC launched in 2016 a centralised, transparent and widely communicated complaints, response and feedback mechanism (CRFM).

19/03/2018

What NGOs can learn from the Corporate World - A coffee with Andrew Parris, Medair, Switzerland

In our previous coffee with Andrew, we explored the alignment between Process Excellence and the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS). In this virtual coffee with Andrew, as he was on a ski vacation with his family in the Swiss town of Leysin, he shares his ideas on how humanitarian NGOs can learn from corporations in the area of continuous improvement.

18/03/2018

Borderless 2018 – Linking travel risk mitigation with the Core Humanitarian Standard

On 8 March 2018, the second annual Borderless conference took place in London where the CHS Alliance was present to introduce the Core Humanitarian Standard to participating NGOs and stakeholders working in the field of travel risk mitigation. The general purpose of the conference was to bring together travel risk experts and the humanitarian sector to discuss the safety and well-being of humanitarian staff, and to learn about some of the services and solutions that are currently being offered.

Development Initiatives [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

EHLRA/R2HC [to 24 March 2018]
<http://www.elrha.org/resource-hub/news/>

Annual Call for Proposals

R2HC 6TH annual CALL will be launched in June 2018

R2HC aims to improve health outcomes by strengthening the evidence base for public health interventions in humanitarian crises.

The Sphere Project [to 24 March 2018]

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

19 March 2018 | *Sphere*

Promoting the Sphere standards across Asia: an interview with Marvin Parvez, Sphere's regional partner representative

Marvin Parvez is one of the firmest believers in the positive impact of humanitarian standards, as well as an expert practitioner within the Sphere community. Discussing his work as a long-time Pakistani humanitarian professional and as a Sphere partner in Asia, he shared his experience..

Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP) [to 24 March 2018]

<https://phap.org/>

No new digest content identified.

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Center for Global Development [to 24 March 2018]

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

Publications

Does Deforestation Increase Malaria Prevalence? Evidence from Satellite Data and Health Surveys - Working Paper 480

3/22/18

Sebastian Bauhoff and Jonah Busch

In this paper we combine fourteen years of high-resolution satellite data on forest loss with individual-level survey data on malaria in more than 60,000 rural children in 17 countries in Africa, and fever in more than 470,000 rural children in 41 countries in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. We did not find that deforestation increases malaria prevalence nor that intermediate levels of forest cover have higher malaria prevalence.

Alleviating Global Poverty: Labor Mobility, Direct Assistance, and Economic Growth - Working Paper 479

3/20/18

Lant Pritchett

Simply allowing more labor mobility holds vastly more promise for reducing poverty than anything else on the development agenda. That said, the magnitude of the gains from large growth accelerations (and losses from large decelerations) are also many-fold larger than the potential gains from directed individual interventions and the poverty reduction gains from large, extended periods of rapid growth are larger than from targeted interventions and also hold promise (and have delivered) for reducing global poverty.

ODI [to 24 March 2018]

<https://www.odi.org/media-hub/press-room>

Selected Press Releases

Road safety remains low political priority despite growing number of people killed – new study

Press release | 23 March 2018

New report finds it is possible to balance competing interests and still improve road safety

Selected Research/Publications

Securing safe roads: the politics of change

Research reports and studies | March 2018 | Anna Bray Sharpin and Daniel Harris, with Helen Dempster and Alina Rocha Menocal

Identifying the challenges to improving road safety in low- and middle-income countries, and charting a way forward.

Making in-roads: the politics of road safety in Mumbai

Research reports and studies | March 2018 | Tanushri Gupte

In Mumbai, two people a day die on the city's roads. This case study explores the challenges to improving road safety, and charts a way forward.

At the crossroads: the politics of road safety in Nairobi

Research reports and studies | March 2018 | Clare Cummings and Beatrice Obwocha

In 2015, 668 people in Nairobi were killed in collisions. This case study explores the challenges to improving road safety, and charts a way forward.

Paving the pathways to change: the politics of road safety in Bogotá

Research reports and studies | March 2018 | C. Erik Vergel-Tovar, Dario Hidalgo and Anna Bray Sharpin

In just 20 years, Bogotá halved its traffic fatality rate. This case study explores how progress was made, and what lessons other cities can learn.

Digitalisation and the future of manufacturing in Africa

Research reports and studies | March 2018 | Karishma Banga and Dirk Willem te Velde

This paper presents new empirical analysis of how the growing trend of automation in manufacturing may impact Africa's industry and growth trajectory.

Urban Institute [to 24 March 2018]

<https://www.urban.org/publications>

Highlights

How Local Workforce Development Boards Support the Needs of Parents

Access to stable employment with adequate pay is critical for families' stability and livelihood. The public workforce system helps job seekers access training and jobs and can contribute to the economic stability of children, yet we know little about how the system meets families' needs. This fact sheet provides a picture of workforce program services for parents under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), based

Shayne Spaulding

March 23, 2018

Family-Centered Approaches to Workforce Program Services

Access to stable employment with adequate pay is critical for families' stability and livelihood. The public workforce system helps job seekers access training and jobs and can contribute to the economic stability of children, yet we know little about how the system meets families'

needs. This report provides a picture of workforce program services for parents under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the
[Shayne Spaulding](#), [Semhar Gebrekristos](#)
March 23, 2018
Research Report

Unaffordable Loans: When Should Schools Become Ineligible for Student Loan Programs

In this report, we develop a comprehensive set of benchmarks that provide reasonable criteria for allowing postsecondary institutions to award federal student aid. To develop these guidelines, we look to existing legislation and regulations in the US, policies that have been proposed but not implemented, and regulations in Canada. We discuss the logic behind potential benchmarks, seeking ways to ground the benchmarking in
[Sandy Baum](#)
March 23, 2018
Research Report

Distributional Effects of Alternative Strategies for Financing Long-Term Services and Supports and Assisting Family Caregivers

This study examines how the need for long-term services and supports and their use vary by socioeconomic status and simulates the potential impact of various financing options. Our results show that older people with limited financial resources are more likely to develop serious needs and receive paid help than their counterparts with more financial resources. People with little wealth also tend to need and receive help for a
[Melissa M. Favreault](#), [Richard W. Johnson](#)
March 22, 2018
Research Report

How Might Earnings Patterns and Interactions Among Certain Provisions in OASDI Solvency Packages Affect Financing and Distributional Goals?

When analysts compile Social Security packages based on projections of individual provisions' effects, they may not fully appreciate how provisions might interact to alter intended outcomes, thwarting financing and distributional goals. We catalog potential interactions and use matched Survey of Income and Program Participation data to document work and benefit history patterns that shape how Social Security proposals
[Melissa M. Favreault](#)
March 22, 2018
Research Report

County-Level Estimates of Opioid Use Disorder and Treatment Needs in California

This analysis presents county-level estimates of opioid use disorder and treatment needs in California counties. Estimated rates of OUD, which we define as opioid abuse or dependence, are based on California, regional, and national estimates from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. We estimate the demand for treatment in each county based on several data sources, assuming all people with OUD seek opioid-agonist treatment
[Lisa Clemans-Cope](#), [Douglas A. Wissoker](#), [Marni Epstein](#)
March 21, 2018
Technical Paper

Justice in Their Own Words

Survivors of human trafficking face many challenges when interacting with the criminal justice system, including misconceptions regarding the nature of their victimization, stigma due to

perceived involvement in illegal behavior, and xenophobia. Despite these documented challenges, little is known about how survivors perceive the justice system or how they would like to achieve justice with regard to their traffickers. This

Hanna Love, Jeanette Hussemann, Lilly Yu, Evelyn F. McCoy, Colleen Owens

March 21, 2018

Brief

Delivering Justice for Human Trafficking Survivors

This brief builds on qualitative research exploring how survivors and system actors define justice in human trafficking cases, suggesting methods for building trust and delivering justice to survivors in light of the study's findings. Drawing from qualitative interviews with 80 survivors of sex and labor trafficking and 100 practitioner stakeholders, including law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and service providers, the

Evelyn F. McCoy, Colleen Owens, Lilly Yu, Hanna Love, Jeanette Hussemann

March 21, 2018

Brief

Changes in Marketplace Premiums, 2017 to 2018

There have been widespread reports of very large premium ACA marketplace premium increases in most states in 2018. This analysis provides national estimates for changes in the lowest silver and gold plan premiums between 2017 and 2018. The national average increase was 32.0 percent for the lowest-priced silver plans and 19.1 percent for gold plans, but the increases varied by states. Several reasons are behind these large

John Holahan, Linda J. Blumberg, Erik Wengle

March 21, 2018

Journal Article

Alternative Forms of Justice for Human Trafficking Survivors

Human trafficking survivors do not typically find the traditional criminal justice system's punitive outcomes for traffickers to match their views of justice, favoring alternative approaches. Drawing from qualitative interviews with 80 survivors of sex and labor trafficking, this brief documents survivors' experiences with and perceptions of alternative practices, including procedural, restorative, and transitional justice.

Lilly Yu, Jeanette Hussemann, Hanna Love, Evelyn F. McCoy, Colleen Owens

March 21, 2018

Brief

Comparing Narratives of Justice

This brief draws from 100 interviews with criminal justice actors and victim service providers and 80 interviews with survivors of human trafficking to understand how respondents define justice in human trafficking cases. To date, little has been known about how police officers, prosecutors, and other system actors perceive their work on human trafficking cases and how their perceptions either fit with or diverge from those of

Hanna Love, Jeanette Hussemann, Lilly Yu, Evelyn F. McCoy, Colleen Owens

March 21, 2018

Brief

Insurers Remaining in Affordable Care Act Markets Prepare for Continued Uncertainty in 2018, 2019

Although congressional efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA) did not succeed in 2017, the law continues to face an uncertain future. Absent legislative action, the Trump administration issued several policies in late 2017 rolling back some of the law's key

provisions, and just before the end of the year, Congress successfully repealed the ACA's penalty for failing to maintain insurance coverage (the [Sabrina Corlette](#), [Linda J. Blumberg](#), [John Holahan](#), [Olivia Hoppe](#), [Kevin Lucia](#), [Erik Wengle](#) March 19, 2018 Brief

World Economic Forum [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

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:: Foundation/Major Donor Watch

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

Paul G. Allen Frontiers Group [to 24 March 2018]

<https://www.alleninstitute.org/what-we-do/frontiers-group/news-press/news/>

Press Release

[Conceptual Artist Tavares Strachan Joins Allen Institute as First Artist-In-Residence](#)

March 21, 2018

Renowned artist will collaborate with Institute scientists during coming year

The Allen Institute today announced that conceptual artist Tavares Strachan has joined the Allen Institute as the Institute's first Artist-in-Residence. As a globally-recognized artist who works on a massive scale from space to the arctic to living systems and human design, Strachan often explores the intersection of art, science, and the environment, making the unseen visible...

BMGF - Gates Foundation [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Annie E. Casey Foundation [to 24 March 2018]

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

Posted March 22, 2018

[Casey Foundation Selects Memphis and Miami as Evidence2Success Communities](#)

The Casey Foundation has chosen Liberty City in Miami and South City in Memphis as the newest communities to implement Evidence2Success, a framework that combines public health and prevention science to help children and youth meet critical milestones.

Blue Meridian Partners [to 24 March 2018]

<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.*

Clinton Foundation [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Co Impact [to 24 March 2018]

www.co-impact.io

Co-Impact is a global philanthropic collaborative for systems change focused on improving the lives of millions of people around the world.

No new digest content identified.

Ford Foundation [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

GHIT Fund [to 24 March 2018]

<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 •

No new digest content identified.

Grameen Foundation [to 24 March 2018]

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

03/21/2018

[Accenture Labs and Grameen Foundation India Use Emerging Technologies to Help Increase Adoption of Financial Services Among Low-Income Women](#)

New applications leverage the power of artificial intelligence and augmented reality to improve financial capacity and decision-making for and by the poor

NEW DELHI, India; March 21, 2018 –Accenture (NYSE: ACN) and [Grameen Foundation India](#) have collaborated to develop two new applications that help overcome the barriers to financial services adoption among women and other low-income populations in India. Leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) and augmented reality (AR) technologies, the applications help users better understand financial products and services, enabling them to make informed choices that positively impact their financial and social well-being. Grameen Foundation India plans to roll out the applications across 300 villages in the states of Maharashtra and Odisha...

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation [to 24 March 2018]

<http://hewlett.org/latest-updates/>

March 14, 2018

[Request for proposal: Mobilizing climate change mitigation capital through retail banking](#)

The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to generate ideas and initiate a new set of grantmaking in support of climate finance: sustainable retail banking.

While the Hewlett Foundation has previously supported a number of initiatives to mobilize capital towards solving climate change, such as the establishment of green banks, the issuance of green bonds, the deployment of patient first-loss capital to clean energy funds, and the Taskforce on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), we seek to expand the levers by which we can do so. One such lever lies in mobilizing the deposits of both business and consumer savers through the retail banking sector. Estimates vary, but a significant amount of capital resides in the checking and savings accounts of consumers, for example \$12 trillion in the United States and \$1 trillion in India. If \$1 trillion is needed globally and annually to meet the Paris Climate Accord by 2050, then the retail banking sector may provide part of the capital needed...

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation [to 24 March 2018]

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

Our News

World Water Day 2018: Bringing Sustainable Safe Water Services to Asutifi North District in Ghana

March 22, 2018

In honor of World Water Day 2018, we are excited to announce the official launch of Asutifi North District Ahonodie Mpontuo offsite link, a collective action initiative that seeks to ensure everyone throughout this district in the Brong Ahafo Region of Ghana has access to safe and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services (WASH) by 2030.

This initiative is unique in forging a strategic partnership between the district government, service providers, supporting NGOs and local communities to bring sustainable services to Asutifi North District offsite link, where it is currently estimated that only three percent of the population has access to safely managed water while 23 percent has access to basic sanitation...

IKEA Foundation [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

HHMI - Howard Hughes Medical Institute [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Kaiser Family Foundation [to 24 March 2018]

http://www.kff.org/search/?post_type=press-release

March 23, 2018 *News Release*

Poll: Public Says Drug Companies Have More Influence in Washington than the NRA

Democrats Split on Whether to Fix the ACA or Push for a National Health Plan; Few Democratic Voters Say a National Health Plan is Their Top Issue for the Midterms As policymakers weigh strategies to address the high cost of prescription drugs, the latest Kaiser Health Tracking Poll finds that...

March 21, 2018 *News Release*

KFF Briefing Examines Progress and Remaining Challenges for the Health Care Systems in Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands Six Months After Hurricanes Irma and Maria

Six months after hurricanes Irma and Maria made landfall across Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, local officials described progress but also a long road to full recovery of the U.S. territories' health care systems, economies and infrastructure during a public briefing Monday at the Kaiser Family Foundation's Washington...

March 20, 2018 *News Release*

Both Expansion and Non-Expansion States Have Implemented Modernized Medicaid Systems to Streamline Enrollment under the ACA

Under the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid expansion and non-expansion states alike have implemented streamlined Medicaid enrollment systems that facilitate real-time eligibility determinations and automated renewals, according to a new 50-state survey from the Kaiser Family Foundation. Before the ACA, individuals could not apply for Medicaid by phone or online in...

March 20, 2018 *News Release*

Analysis: Immigrants Living along the Texas Gulf Coast Hit Hard Financially Following Hurricane Harvey

Immigrants living along the Texas Gulf Coast were more likely than their U.S.-born neighbors to suffer employment and income losses as a result of Hurricane Harvey (64% vs. 39%), a new Kaiser Family Foundation/Episcopal Health Foundation analysis finds. The analysis examines differences between immigrants and U.S.-born families based on a...

Aga Khan Foundation [to 24 March 2018]

<http://www.akdn.org/our-agencies/aga-khan-foundation>

21 March 2018

Aga Khan announces new global prize for music

First Award Ceremony to be held in 2019 in Lisbon at Gulbenkian Foundation

Geneva, Switzerland, 21 March 2018 - His Highness the Aga Khan announced the establishment of the Aga Khan Music Awards today.

The Awards, which come with US\$ 500,000 in prizes, recognise exceptional creativity, promise, and enterprise in music performance, creation, education, preservation and revitalisation in societies across the world in which Muslims have a significant presence.

The first Music Awards ceremony is scheduled to take place in Lisbon, Portugal from 29-31 March 2019 and will be co-hosted by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and the Lisbon Municipality.

"The Aga Khan Music Awards will aspire to fill a unique cultural role," said His Highness the Aga Khan. Among the world's many music awards, none of the current awards or prizes focus on the constellation of devotional music and poetry, of indigenous classical music, traditional folk music, and tradition-inspired contemporary music that has flourished in cultures shaped by Islam...

Kellogg Foundation [to 24 March 2018]

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

March 21, 2018

Poll shows teachers are Jackson Public Schools' biggest asset

Eighty-two percent of Jackson [Mississippi] residents care a great deal about Jackson Public School District (JPS) and teachers were stated to be the number one asset of the district, according to a recent telephone poll...

MacArthur Foundation [to 24 March 2018]

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

March 19, 2018 - *Grantee Research*

Investigation into Missing Students Marred by Torture and Cover-Ups

A report asserts that 34 of 129 people prosecuted in connection with the disappearance of 43 students in Ayotzinapa in 2014 were arbitrarily detained and tortured in order to extract information or confessions.

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation [to 24 March 2018]

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

March 22, 2018

Person-driven measures to improve health care in the community

NCQA is a Washington, DC-based nonprofit organization that works to improve health care quality through the administration of evidence-based standards, measures and accreditation/certification programs for individual physicians, health plans and medical groups. With its current grant from the foundation, NCQA is developing measures for community-based serious illness care, starting with what matters most to patients and their families. Their team is focused on developing more meaningful and useful measures by linking them to a person's goals and outcomes for care. These "person-driven," measures will be considered for inclusion in NCQA's existing and future accountability programs.

March 20, 2018

Advanced Imaging Center provides important technology to broader scientific community

In 2012, the Moore Foundation and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute devised a plan to address providing access to highly advanced pre-commercial imaging technology to the broader scientific community. The technology was developed at Janelia, the research campus of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. The plan called for the creation of a pre-commercial, open-access platform that houses emerging imaging technologies and makes such technologies available to those who could benefit from them. What transpired is the Advanced Imaging Center. The center has three main objectives:

- : Ease collaboration between microscope developers and a wide range of users, thereby allowing the developers to evaluate and improve their inventions;
- :: Provide an avenue for accessing these microscopes well before they become commercially available; and
- :: Open access to researchers in the fields that are conventionally not well served by advanced microscopy.

Over the next five years, the Advanced Imaging Center is poised to expand its operation and instrument portfolio in ways that will achieve a significant enhancement of their vision and objectives...

Open Society Foundation [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

David and Lucile Packard Foundation [to 24 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Pew Charitable Trusts [to 24 March 2018]

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

March 21, 2018

Pew Outlines How Detroit Can Bolster Its Pension Plans After Bankruptcy

Press Release

WASHINGTON—A new report by The Pew Charitable Trusts examines the pension reforms that helped Detroit emerge from bankruptcy in 2014 and suggests ways in which the city can strengthen its retirement plans for general employees and public safety workers.

The report, "The Challenge of Meeting Detroit's Pension Promises: Analysis of Progress to Date, the Path Forward, and Lessons for Other Public Sector Retirement Plans," details the reforms already undertaken and examines recently proposed policies. Pew projects funding levels under different scenarios and makes specific recommendations so that changes to the city's pension system can be implemented most effectively. The analysis seeks to determine whether the contribution policies proposed for Detroit's legacy pension liabilities will be sufficient to pay promised benefits...

Rockefeller Foundation [to 24 March 2018]

<https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/about-us/news-media/>

March 19, 2018

Christine Heenan Joins The Rockefeller Foundation as Vice President for Policy, Partnerships and Communications

Heenan's role to integrate policy, Bellagio convenings and events, strategic partnerships, communications and influence

NEW YORK—The Rockefeller Foundation today announced that Christine Heenan, founder and president of Clarendon Group and former vice president of public affairs and communications for Harvard University, will join the Foundation as vice president for policy, partnerships and communications. In the role, Heenan will lead the Foundation's efforts to partner with governments, civil society, entrepreneurs, and corporations to advance its mission and goals, in addition to directing communications, policy, regional and strategic partnerships, program influence and Bellagio Center convenings and events. Heenan will report directly to Dr. Rajiv J. Shah, president of the foundation....

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [to 24 March 2018]

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

March 22, 2018 *Report*

Decision Support Tools Improved in 2018 but Vary Across States Health Care Cost and Value

As the individual market becomes more complex, state insurance regulators will play an increasingly important role in shaping the consumer experience by regulating which plans can be sold, setting standards for agents and by informing consumers.

Changes in Marketplace Premiums

March 21, 2018 *Brief*

Research by Urban Institute shows factors that contributed to 2018 marketplace premium increases and provides state estimates of average premium increases in silver and gold plans and detailed analysis of changes in select markets within 20 states.

Insurers Remaining in Affordable Care Act Markets Prepare for Continued Uncertainty in 2018, 2019

March 19, 2018 *Brief*

Although most insurers in this study remain committed to participating in the individual market, they acknowledged that their commitment is being tested by policies that undermine the stability of the individual market.

Science Philanthropy Alliance [to 24 March 2018]

<http://www.sciencephilanthropyalliance.org/what-we-do/news/>

"...a group of organizations working together to increase philanthropic support for basic scientific research on a global basis..."

No new digest content identified.

SDG Philanthropy Platform

<http://sdgfunders.org/>

SDG Philanthropy Platform is a collaboration between philanthropy and the greater international development community led by Foundation Center, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, and supported by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Ford Foundation and the MasterCard Foundation, the Brach Family Foundation, and other key organizations such as Asociación de Fundaciones Empresariales (AFE) in Colombia, Brach Family Charitable Foundation, CAF America, Council on Foundations, East Africa Association of Grantmakers (EAAG), European Foundation Centre, Filantropi Indonesia (FI), GlobalGiving, The Humanitarian Forum, World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists, and Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support (WINGS).

No new digest content identified.

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

<https://sloan.org/about/press>

No new digest content identified.

Wellcome Trust [to 24 March 2018]

<https://wellcome.ac.uk/news>

News / Published: 22 March 2018

First Japanese company joins CARB-X partnership

As pharmaceutical company Shionogi becomes the first Japanese company to join CARB-X, Tim Jinks, head of Wellcome's Drug-Resistant Infections Priority Programme, gives an update on the partnership's work to develop new drugs and diagnostics.

Last March, Wellcome announced it was committing up to \$155 million dollars to CARB-X. CARB-X, which stands for Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria Biopharmaceutical Accelerator, now has 28 promising projects in its portfolio. Eight are focusing on new class antibiotics.

These advances mean CARB-X has the world's largest and most technically diverse portfolio of early development projects to tackle the rapidly increasing global problem of drug-resistant infections...

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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 Infection Control

March 2018 Volume 46, Issue 3, p245-362, e13-e24

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Preventive Medicine

March 2018 Volume 54, Issue 3, p325-478, e41-e58

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Public Health

March 2018 108(3)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

Volume 98, Issue 3, 2018

<http://www.ajtmh.org/content/journals/14761645/98/3>

[Reviewed earlier]

Annals of Internal Medicine

20 March 2018 Vol: 168, Issue 6

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

Ideas and Opinions | 20 March 2018

[The Health Consequences of Natural Disasters in the United States: Progress, Perils, and Opportunity](#)

Since 2005, the United States has shifted to a proactive, all-hazards approach to disaster preparedness. This ensures that the health system is flexible enough to respond to a broad range of events, including natural, biological, chemical, radiologic, and nuclear events. The nation also has institutionalized cross-agency and cross-sector planning, clarified the role of the federal government in guidance and oversight, and recognized the need to support resilience.

Karen B. DeSalvo, MD, MPH, MSc

Annals of Internal Medicine

20 March 2018 Vol: 168, Issue 6

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

Ideas and Opinions | 20 March 2018

The Health Consequences of Natural Disasters in the United States: Progress, Perils, and Opportunity

Since 2005, the United States has shifted to a proactive, all-hazards approach to disaster preparedness. This ensures that the health system is flexible enough to respond to a broad range of events, including natural, biological, chemical, radiologic, and nuclear events. The nation also has institutionalized cross-agency and cross-sector planning, clarified the role of the federal government in guidance and oversight, and recognized the need to support resilience.

Karen B. DeSalvo, MD, MPH, MSc

BMC Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation

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

(Accessed 24 March 2018)

[No new digest content identified]

BMJ Global Health

March 2018 - Volume 3 - 2

<http://gh.bmj.com/content/3/2>

Editorial

Priorities for global political momentum to end TB: a critical point in time (23 March, 2018)

Tereza Kasaeva, Annabel Baddeley, Katherine Floyd, Ernesto Jaramillo, Christian Lienhardt, Nobuyuki Nishikiori, Diana E Weil, Karin Weyer, Matteo Zignol

[Excerpt]

...Global TB response is gaining momentum and world leaders are rising to the challenge, as has been seen recently at the End TB Summit organised on 13–14 March by the Government of India, the Stop TB Partnership and the WHO/South East Asia Regional Office, with participation of the Indian Prime Minister and ministers of several highest-burden countries. The global TB response is on the brink of a new era. The UNGA high-level meeting represents a unique opportunity to raise the profile of TB and secure political commitment to catalyse change towards reinvigorated and transformative TB efforts. The focus should now be on New York in September and across the globe in the months preceding and following this landmark event, when commitments will need to translate into measurable and rapid progress to help those affected by this age-old scourge.

Research

Impact of Ebola experiences and risk perceptions on mental health in Sierra Leone, July 2015 (17 March, 2018)

Mohamed F Jalloh, Wenshu Li, Rebecca E Bunnell, Kathleen A Ethier, Ann O'Leary, Kathy M Hageman, Paul Sengeh, Mohammad B Jalloh, Oliver Morgan, Sara Hersey, Barbara J Marston, Foday Daffae, John T Redd

Abstract

Background The mental health impact of the 2014–2016 Ebola epidemic has been described among survivors, family members and healthcare workers, but little is known about its impact on the general population of affected countries. We assessed symptoms of anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in the general population in Sierra Leone after over a year of outbreak response.

Methods We administered a cross-sectional survey in July 2015 to a national sample of 3564 consenting participants selected through multistaged cluster sampling. Symptoms of anxiety and depression were measured by Patient Health Questionnaire-4. PTSD symptoms were measured by six items from the Impact of Events Scale-revised. Relationships among Ebola experience, perceived Ebola threat and mental health symptoms were examined through binary logistic regression.

Results Prevalence of any anxiety-depression symptom was 48% (95% CI 46.8% to 50.0%), and of any PTSD symptom 76% (95% CI 75.0% to 77.8%). In addition, 6% (95% CI 5.4% to 7.0%) met the clinical cut-off for anxiety-depression, 27% (95% CI 25.8% to 28.8%) met levels of clinical concern for PTSD and 16% (95% CI 14.7% to 17.1%) met levels of probable PTSD diagnosis. Factors associated with higher reporting of any symptoms in bivariate analysis included region of residence, experiences with Ebola and perceived Ebola threat. Knowing someone quarantined for Ebola was independently associated with anxiety-depression (adjusted OR (AOR) 2.3, 95% CI 1.7 to 2.9) and PTSD (AOR 2.095% CI 1.5 to 2.8) symptoms. Perceiving Ebola as a threat was independently associated with anxiety-depression (AOR 1.69 95% CI 1.44 to 1.98) and PTSD (AOR 1.86 95% CI 1.56 to 2.21) symptoms.

Conclusion Symptoms of PTSD and anxiety-depression were common after one year of Ebola response; psychosocial support may be needed for people with Ebola-related experiences. Preventing, detecting, and responding to mental health conditions should be an important component of global health security efforts.

mHealth text and voice communication for monitoring people with chronic diseases in low-resource settings: a realist review (6 March, 2018)

Jocelyn Anstey Watkins, Jane Goudge, Francesc Xavier Gómez-Olivé, Caroline Huxley, Katherine Dodd, Frances Griffiths

BMC Health Services Research

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

(Accessed 24 March 2018)

Research article

Process evaluations of task sharing interventions for perinatal depression in low and middle income countries (LMIC): a systematic review and qualitative meta-synthesis

Perinatal depression is common in low and middle income countries (LAMICs). Task sharing interventions have been implemented to treat perinatal depression in these settings, as a way of dealing with staff shor...

Authors: Memory Munodawafa, Sumaya Mall, Crick Lund and Marguerite Schneider

Citation: BMC Health Services Research 2018 18:205

Published on: 23 March 2018

BMC Infectious Diseases

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

(Accessed 24 March 2018)

[No new digest content identified]

BMC Medical Ethics

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

(Accessed 24 March 2018)

[No new digest content identified]

BMC Medicine

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

(Accessed 24 March 2018)

Research article

| 19 March 2018

[Clinical assessment is a neglected component of outbreak preparedness: evidence from refugee camps in Greece](#)

Authors: Amanda M. Rojek, Kassiani Gkolfinopoulou, Apostolos Veizis, Angeliki Lambrou, Lyndsey Castle, Theano Georgakopoulou, Karl Blanchet, Takis Panagiotopoulos and Peter W. Horby

Abstract

Background

Refugees may have an increased vulnerability to infectious diseases, and the consequences of an outbreak are more severe in a refugee camp. When an outbreak is suspected, access to clinical information is critical for investigators to verify that an outbreak is occurring, to determine the cause and to select interventions to control it. Experience from previous outbreaks suggests that the accuracy and completeness of this information is poor. This study is the first to assess the adequacy of clinical characterisation of acute medical illnesses in refugee camps. The objective is to direct improvements in outbreak identification and management in this vulnerable setting.

Methods

We collected prospective data in 13 refugee camps in Greece. We passively observed consultations where patients presented with syndromes that might warrant inclusion into an existing syndromic surveillance system and then undertook a structured assessment of routine clinical data collection to examine the extent to which key clinical parameters required for an outbreak response were ascertained and then documented.

Results

A total of 528 patient consultations were included. The most common presenting condition was an acute respiratory illness. Clinicians often made a comprehensive clinical assessment, especially for common syndromes of respiratory and gastrointestinal conditions, but documented their findings less frequently. For fewer than 5% of patients were a full set of vital signs ascertained and so the severity of patient illnesses was largely unknown. In only 11% of consultations was it verified that a patient who met the case criteria for syndromic surveillance reporting based on an independent assessment was reported into the system.

Discussion

Opportunities exist to strengthen clinical data capture and recording in refugee camps, which will produce a better calibrated and directed public health response.

Conclusion

Information of significant utility for outbreak response is collected at the clinical interface and we recommend improving how this information is recorded and linked into surveillance systems.

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

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

(Accessed 24 March 2018)

Research article

[Implementing the Baby One Program: a qualitative evaluation of family-centred child health promotion in remote Australian Aboriginal communities](#)

A healthy start predicts better health in later life. Many remote-living Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian families lack access to consistent, culturally-safe health services. This paper present...

Authors: Sandra Campbell, Janya McCalman, Michelle Redman-MacLaren, Karla Canuto, Kristina Vine, Jenny Sewter and Malcolm McDonald

Citation: BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth 2018 18:73

Published on: 24 March 2018

BMC Public Health

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

(Accessed 24 March 2018)

Research article

A systematic review of hepatitis B screening economic evaluations in low- and middle-income countries

Chronic hepatitis B infection is a significant cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide; low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are disproportionately affected. Economic evaluations are a useful decision t...

Authors: Cameron M. Wright, Lydia Boudarène, Ninh Thi Ha, Olivia Wu and Neil Hawkins

Citation: BMC Public Health 2018 18:373

Published on: 20 March 2018

Research article

Assessing the acceptability of incentivising HPV vaccination consent form return as a means of increasing uptake

Uptake of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination is high overall but there are disparities in uptake, particularly by ethnicity. Incentivising vaccination consent form return is a promising approach to increase vaccination uptake. As part of a randomised feasibility trial we qualitatively assessed the acceptability of increasing uptake of HPV vaccination by incentivising consent form return. Girls and parents provided a mix of positive, negative and ambivalent responses about the use of the incentive to encourage HPV vaccination consent form return. Both girls and parents held misconceptions about the nature of the incentive, wrongly believing that the incentive was dependent on vaccination receipt rather than consent form return. School staff members also expressed a mix of opinions on the acceptability of the incentive, including perceptions of effectiveness and ethics.

Authors: Lauren Rockliffe, Amanda J. Chorley, Emily McBride, Jo Waller and Alice S. Forster

Citation: BMC Public Health 2018 18:382

Published on: 20 March 2018

Research article

Complementary surveillance strategies are needed to better characterise the epidemiology, care pathways and treatment outcomes of tuberculosis in children

Tuberculosis (TB) in young and HIV-infected children is frequently diagnosed at hospital level. In settings where general hospitals do not function as TB reporting units, the burden and severity of childhood T...

Authors: Karen du Preez, H. Simon Schaaf, Rory Dunbar, Elisabetta Walters, Alvera Swartz, Regan Solomons and Anneke C. Hesseling

Citation: BMC Public Health 2018 18:397

Published on: 23 March 2018

Research article

Reproductive health in the recent disasters of Iran: a management perspective

Natural disasters represent critical threats to the health, safety, and well-being of a community—including reproductive health, which has been neglected in disaster-stricken regions. The current study was und...

Authors: Sanaz Sohrabizadeh, Katayoun Jahangiri and Reza Khani Jazani

Citation: BMC Public Health 2018 18:389

Published on: 21 March 2018

BMC Research Notes

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

(Accessed 24 March 2018)

[No new digest content identified]

BMJ Open

March 2018 - Volume 8 - 3

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Bulletin of the World Health Organization

Volume 96, Number 3, March 2018, 145-224

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/96/3/en/>

[Reviewed earlier]

Child Care, Health and Development

March 2018 Volume 44, Issue 2 Pages 173–341

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cch.v44.2/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

Clinical Therapeutics

March 2018 Volume 40, Issue 3, p353-496

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

[New issue; No digest content identified]

Conflict and Health

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

[Accessed 24 March 2018]

Research

| 19 March 2018

[Monitoring and evaluation of mental health and psychosocial support programs in humanitarian settings: a scoping review of terminology and focus](#)

Monitoring and evaluation of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) programs is critical to facilitating learning and providing accountability to stakeholders. As part of an inter-agency effort to develop recommendations on MHPSS monitoring and evaluation, this scoping review aimed to identify the terminology and focus of monitoring and evaluation frameworks in this field... We identified 38 program documents and 89 peer-reviewed articles, describing monitoring and evaluation of a wide range of MHPSS activities. In both program documents and peer-reviewed literature there was a lack of specificity and overlap in language used for goals

and outcomes. Well-validated, reliable instruments were reported in the academic literature, but rarely used in monitoring and evaluation practices. We identified six themes in the terminology used to describe goals and outcomes...

Authors: Jura L. Augustinavicius, M. Claire Greene, Daniel P. Lakin and Wietse A. Tol

Contemporary Clinical Trials

Volume 66 Pages 1-92 (March 2018)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/contemporary-clinical-trials/vol/66/suppl/C>

[Reviewed earlier]

Current Opinion in Infectious Diseases

April 2018 - Volume 31 - Issue 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Developing World Bioethics

March 2018 Volume 18, Issue 1 Pages 1–64

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/dewb.2018.18.issue-1/issuetoc>

Special Issue: Rebuilding Patient-Physician Trust in China, Developing a Trust-Oriented Bioethics

[Reviewed earlier]

Development in Practice

Volume 28, Issue 1, 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Development Policy Review

March 2018 Volume 36, Issue 2 Pages i–iv, 153–261

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/dpr.2018.36.issue-2/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology

Volume 13, Issue 3, 2018

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

[New issue; No digest content identified]

Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness

Volume 12 - Issue 1 - February 2018

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/disaster-medicine-and-public-health-preparedness/latest-issue>

Brief Reports

[**Rapid Triage of Mental Health Risk in Emergency Medical Workers: Findings From Typhoon Haiyan**](#)

To determine the ability of a novel responder mental health self-triage system to predict post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in emergency medical responders after a disaster.

Lauren Sylwanowicz, Merritt Schreiber, Craig Anderson, Carlos Primero D. Gundran, Emelie Santamaria, Jaifred Christian F. Lopez
<https://doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2017.37>

Published online: 14 September 2017, pp. 19-22

The Ongoing Syrian Arab Republic Health Care Crisis

Steven J. Phillips

<https://doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2017.55>

Published online: 31 July 2017, pp. 23-25

Abstract

Prior to the Syrian civil war, access and delivery of health care and health care information over the past 4 decades had steadily improved. The life expectancy of the average Syrian in 2012 was 75.7 years, compared to 56 years in 1970. As a result of the civil war, this trend has reversed, with the life expectancy reduced by 20 years from the 2012 level. The Syrian government and its allies have specifically targeted the health care infrastructure not under government control.

Original Research

Triage and the Lost Art of Decoding Vital Signs: Restoring Physiologically Based Triage Skills in Complex Humanitarian Emergencies

Frederick M. Burkle

<https://doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2017.40>

Published online: 21 April 2017, pp. 76-85

Abstract

Triage management remains a major challenge, especially in resource-poor settings such as war, complex humanitarian emergencies, and public health emergencies in developing countries. In triage it is often the disruption of physiology, not anatomy, that is critical, supporting triage methodology based on clinician-assessed physiological parameters as well as anatomy and mechanism of injury. In recent times, too many clinicians from developed countries have deployed to humanitarian emergencies without the physical exam skills needed to assess patients without the benefit of remotely fed electronic monitoring, laboratory, and imaging studies. In triage, inclusion of the once-widely accepted and collectively taught “art of decoding vital signs” with attention to their character and meaning may provide clues to a patient’s physiological state, improving triage sensitivity. Attention to decoding vital signs is not a triage methodology of its own or a scoring system, but rather a skill set that supports existing triage methodologies. With unique triage management challenges being raised by an ever-changing variety of humanitarian crises, these once useful skill sets need to be revisited, understood, taught, and utilized by triage planners, triage officers, and teams as a necessary adjunct to physiologically based triage decision-making. (Disaster Med Public Health Preparedness. 2018;12:76–85)

Disasters

April 2018 Volume 42, Issue 2 Pages 205–404

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/disa.2018.42.issue-2/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

EMBO Reports

01 March 2018; volume 19, issue 3

<http://embor.embopress.org/content/19/3?current-issue=y>
[Reviewed earlier]

Emergency Medicine Journal

March 2018 - Volume 35 - 3
<http://emj.bmj.com/content/35/3>
[Reviewed earlier]

Emerging Infectious Diseases

Volume 24, Number 3—March 2018
<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/>
[Reviewed earlier]

Epidemics

Volume 21, Pages 1-88 (December 2017)
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/17554365>
[Reviewed earlier]

Epidemiology and Infection

Volume 146 - Issue 4 - March 2018
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/epidemiology-and-infection/latest-issue>
[Reviewed earlier]

Ethics & International Affairs

Winter 2017 (Issue 31.4)
<https://www.ethicsandinternationalaffairs.org/2017/winter-2017-issue-31-4/>
[Reviewed earlier]

The European Journal of Public Health

Volume 27, Issue 6, 1 December 2017
<https://academic.oup.com/eurpub/issue/27/6>
[Reviewed earlier]

Food Policy Volume 75

In progress (February 2018)
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/food-policy/vol/75/suppl/C>
[Reviewed earlier]

Food Security

Volume 10, Issue 1, February 2018
<https://link.springer.com/journal/12571/10/1/page/1>
[Reviewed earlier]

Forced Migration Review (FMR)

February 2018

<http://www.fmreview.org/syria2018/contents.html>

Syrians in displacement

With 2018 marking the 7th anniversary of the Syrian conflict, this issue of FMR explores new insights and continuing challenges relating to the displacement of millions of Syrians both internally and in neighbouring countries. What we learn from responses to this large-scale, multi-faceted displacement is also relevant to other situations of displacement beyond as well as within the Middle East. FMR 57 contains 27 articles on 'Syrians in displacement', plus six 'general' articles on other topics.

Forum for Development Studies

Volume 45, Issue 1, 2017

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Genocide Studies International

Vol. 11, No. 2, Fall 2017

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

Articles

ISIS Crimes Against the Shia: The Islamic State's Genocide Against Shia Muslims

Emily Hawley

11(2), pp. 160–181

Published online: March 20, 2018

Preview

This paper reconciles a substantial gap in legal scholarship: the Islamic State's (ISIS's) unrecognized genocide against Shia Muslims. Unlike ISIS's crimes against Yazidis, no substantial legal analysis on ISIS's Shia victims has been published. And while there are popular initiatives demanding ISIS's violence against Christians be recognized as genocide, there are no parallel movements on behalf of ISIS's Shia victims, despite a much stronger legal claim. As this paper expands, ISIS's genocide against Shias is unambiguous; Shia Muslims plainly comprise a protected religious group, ISIS has been transparent in terms of its genocidal intent, and ISIS's systematic killing of Shias clearly constitutes genocidal conduct under the Genocide Convention. Over the course of this paper, I advance this thesis, demarking clear parallels with ISIS's well-established genocide against Iraq's Yazidis. I also explain the significance of the legal community's neglect of ISIS's Shia victims.

Geoheritage

Volume 10, Issue 1, March 2018

<https://link.springer.com/journal/12371/10/1/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

Global Health Action

Volume 10, 2017 – Issue 1 [In Progress]

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/zgha20/10/1?nav=tocList>

[Reviewed earlier]

Global Health: Science and Practice (GHSP)

December 2017 | Volume 5 | Number 4

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Global Public Health

Volume 13, 2017 Issue 5

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Globalization and Health

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

[Accessed 24 March 2018]

[No digest content identified]

Health Affairs

March 2018. Vol. 37, No. 3

<https://www.healthaffairs.org/toc/hlthaff/current>

Advancing Health Equity

[Reviewed earlier]

Health and Human Rights

Volume 19, Issue 2, December 2017

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

Special Section on Romani People and the Right to Health

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Economics, Policy and Law

Volume 13 - Issue 2 - April 2018

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/health-economics-policy-and-law/latest-issue>

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Policy and Planning

Volume 33, Issue 2, 1 March 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Health Promotion International

Volume 33, Issue 1, 1 February 2018

Advance articles Published: 22 March 2018

[Using social norms theory for health promotion in low-income countries](#)

Beniamino Cislaghi, Lori Heise

Health Promotion International, day017, <https://doi.org/10.1093/heapro/day017>

Abstract

Social norms can greatly influence people's health-related choices and behaviours. In the last few years, scholars and practitioners working in low- and mid-income countries (LMIC) have increasingly been trying to harness the influence of social norms to improve people's health globally. However, the literature informing social norm interventions in LMIC lacks a framework to understand how norms interact with other factors that sustain harmful practices and behaviours. This gap has led to short-sighted interventions that target social norms exclusively without a wider awareness of how other institutional, material, individual and social factors affect the harmful practice. Emphasizing norms to the exclusion of other factors might ultimately discredit norms-based strategies, not because they are flawed but because they alone are not sufficient to shift behaviour. In this paper, we share a framework (already adopted by some practitioners) that locates norm-based strategies within the wider array of factors that must be considered when designing prevention programmes in LMIC.

Health Research Policy and Systems

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

[Accessed 24 March 2018]

[No digest content identified]

Human Rights Quarterly

Volume 40, Number 1, February 2018

<http://muse.jhu.edu/issue/37973>

[Reviewed earlier]

Humanitarian Exchange Magazine

[https://odihpn.org/magazine/lake-chad-basin-overlooked-](https://odihpn.org/magazine/lake-chad-basin-overlooked-crisis/)

[crisis/https://odihpn.org/magazine/lake-chad-basin-overlooked-crisis/](https://odihpn.org/magazine/lake-chad-basin-overlooked-crisis/)

Number 70 October 2017

Special Feature: The Lake Chad Basin: an overlooked crisis?

by Humanitarian Practice Network October 2017

The 70th edition of Humanitarian Exchange, co-edited with Joe Read, focuses on the humanitarian crisis in Nigeria and the Lake Chad Basin. The violence perpetrated by Boko Haram and the counter-insurgency campaign in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger has created a humanitarian crisis affecting some 17 million people. Some 2.4 million have been displaced, the vast majority of them in north-eastern Nigeria. Many are living in desperate conditions, without access to sufficient food or clean water. The Nigerian government's focus on defeating Boko Haram militarily, its reluctance to acknowledge the scale and gravity of the humanitarian crisis and the corresponding reticence of humanitarian leaders to challenge that position have combined to undermine the timeliness and effectiveness of the response...

[Reviewed earlier]

IDRiM Journal

Vol 7, No 1 (2017)

<http://idrimjournal.com/index.php/idrim/issue/view/17>

[Reviewed earlier]

Infectious Agents and Cancer

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

[Accessed 24 March 2018]
[No new digest content identified]

Infectious Diseases of Poverty

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

[Accessed 24 March 2018]

[No new digest content identified]

International Health

Volume 10, Issue suppl_1, 1 March 2018

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

Special Issue: Onchocerciasis: The Beginning of the End

[Reviewed earlier]

International Human Rights Law Review

Volume 6, Issue 2, 2017

<http://booksandjournals.brillonline.com/content/journals/22131035/6/2>

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Community Medicine and Public Health

Vol 5, No 3 (2018) March 2018

<http://www.ijcmph.com/index.php/ijcmph/issue/view/36>

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction

Volume 27, Pages 1-648 (March 2018)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/22124209/27>

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Epidemiology

Volume 46, Issue 6, December 2017

<https://academic.oup.com/ije/issue/46/6>

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Heritage Studies

Volume 24, Issue 5 2018

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjhs20/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Human Rights in Healthcare

Volume 11 Issue 1 2019

<https://www.emeraldinsight.com/toc/ijhrh/11/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Infectious Diseases

March 2018 Volume 68, In Progress

[http://www.ijidonline.com/issue/S1201-9712\(18\)X0002-2](http://www.ijidonline.com/issue/S1201-9712(18)X0002-2)

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology

Volume 25, 2018 - Issue 3

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

[Reviewed earlier]

International Migration Review

Winter 2017 Volume 51, Issue 4 Pages 821–1030, e50–e66

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/imre.2017.51.issue-4/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

Intervention – Journal of Mental Health and Psychological Support in Conflict Affected Areas
November 2017 - Volume 15 - Issue 3

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

Special Issue Linking mental health and psychosocial support and peacebuilding

[Reviewed earlier]

JAMA

March 20, 2018, Vol 319, No. 11, Pages 1069-1176

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

Editorial

[The Global HIV Epidemic What Will It Take to Get to the Finish Line?](#)

Ingrid T. Katz, MD, MHS; Peter Ehrenkranz, MD, MPH; Wafaa El-Sadr, MD, MPH, MPA

JAMA. 2018;319(11):1094-1095. doi:10.1001/jama.2018.2093

Abstract

Recent estimates indicate that approximately 57% of the 36.7 million people living with HIV worldwide are in care and receiving antiretroviral treatment (ART).¹ Although this represents a 20-fold increase in less than 2 decades in the number of people receiving ART, these findings also demonstrate that the global community is still far from achieving the targets laid out by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) called 90-90-90—specifically, 90% of all people living with HIV knowing their status; 90% of those diagnosed receiving sustained ART; and 90% of those receiving ART achieving viral suppression by 2020. Accomplishing this ambitious agenda requires sustainable approaches in countries with the highest burden of HIV.²

JAMA Pediatrics

March 2018, Vol 172, No. 3, Pages 205-303

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

[Reviewed earlier]

JBI Database of Systematic Review and Implementation Reports

March 2018 - Volume 16 - Issue 3

<http://journals.lww.com/jbisrir/Pages/currenttoc.aspx>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Adolescent Health

March 2018 Volume 62, Issue 3, p249-358
[http://www.jahonline.org/issue/S1054-139X\(17\)X0018-9](http://www.jahonline.org/issue/S1054-139X(17)X0018-9)
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Community Health

Volume 43, Issue 2, April 2018
<https://link.springer.com/journal/10900/43/2/page/1>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Cultural Heritage

Volume 30 Pages 1-210 (March–April 2018)
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/journal-of-cultural-heritage/vol/30/suppl/C>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainable Development

2018: Volume 8 Issue 1
<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/toc/jchmsd/8/1>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Development Economics

Volume 131 Pages 1-150 (March 2018)
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/journal-of-development-economics/vol/131/suppl/C>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Education in Emergencies

Vol. 3, Num. 1, July 2017
<http://www.ineesite.org/en/journal/vol3-num1>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics

Volume 13, Issue 1, February 2018
<http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/jre/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health

March 2018 - Volume 72 - 3
<http://jech.bmj.com/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Evidence-Based Medicine

February 2018 Volume 11, Issue 1 Pages 1–67

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jebm.2018.11.issue-1/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Global Ethics

Volume 13, Issue 3, 2017

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjge20/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

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

Volume 29, Number 1, February 2018

<https://muse.jhu.edu/issue/38046>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Human Trafficking

Volume 4, Issue 1, 2018

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

Special Issue: Media and Human Trafficking: Negotiating Meaning, Representation, and Change

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Management

Volume 8 Issue 1

<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/toc/jhlscm/7/3>

Research paper

[A multi-actor multi-objective optimization approach for locating temporary logistics hubs during disaster response](#)

The purpose of this paper is to develop a mathematical model that determines the location of temporary logistics hubs (TLHs) for disaster response and proposes a new method to determine weights of the objectives in a multi-objective optimization problem. The research is motivated by the importance of TLHs and the complexity that surrounds the determination of their location

Rajali Maharjan, Shinya Hanaoka (pp. 2 - 21)

Research paper

[Cold chains, interrupted: The use of technology and information for decisions that keep humanitarian vaccines cool](#)

Tina Comes, Kristin Bergtora Sandvik, Bartel Van de Walle (pp. 49 - 69)

Abstract

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to analyze how far technology and information enable, facilitate or support the planning and implementation decisions in humanitarian vaccine cold chains for vaccination campaigns. The authors specifically focus on three emerging technologies that have the potential to create more flexible conditions in the field, and identify the need to further explore the link between uncertainty, information and irreversibility.

Design/methodology/approach

The authors present a basic structure for the analysis of cold chain disruptions in terms of three distinct yet connected layers of deficient infrastructure and capacity, information gaps and failures in decision making. The authors then review three humanitarian technologies and their impact on vaccine campaigns along these layers. From there, a research agenda is developed to address research gaps this review brought forward.

Findings

Three critical research gaps in the areas of technology innovation for humanitarian vaccine cold chain management are presented. The authors argue that technology to improve capacity, information and decisions need to be aligned, and that the areas of uncertainty, information and irreversibility require further investigation to achieve this alignment. In this way, the paper contributes to setting the research agenda on vaccine cold chains and connects humanitarian logistics to technology, information management and decision making.

Originality/value

This paper presents the humanitarian vaccine cold chain problem from an original angle by illuminating the implications of technology and information on the decisions made during the planning and implementation phases of a vaccine campaign. The authors develop an agenda to provide researchers and humanitarians with a perspective to improve cold chain planning and implementation at the intersection of technology, information and decisions.

Research paper

Cash-based response in relief: the impact for humanitarian logistics

The purpose of this paper is to evaluate the financial and material flows in cash-based responses (CBRs) and their implications for humanitarian operations. This research proposes to view cash as a commodity used by humanitarian actors in emergency operations and therefore aims to explore how CBRs impact on humanitarian logistics and ultimately, affect beneficiaries.

Graham Heaslip, Gyöngyi Kovács, Ira Haavisto (pp. 87 - 106)

Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health

Volume 20, Issue 2, April 2018

<https://link.springer.com/journal/10903/20/2/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies

Volume 16, 2018_ Issue 1-2

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

Special Issue: Mediatization and Politicization of Refugee Crisis in Europe

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Infectious Diseases

Volume 217, Issue 6, 5 March 2018

<https://academic.oup.com/jid/issue>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of International Development

March 2018 Volume 30, Issue 2 Pages: 159-364

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jid.v30.1/issuetoc>

Fiscal Policy, State Building and Economic Development

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Medical Ethics

April 2018 - Volume 44 - 4

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

*Extended Essays***Adverse consequences of article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for persons with mental disabilities and an alternative way forward**

(22 March, 2018)

Matthé Scholten, Jakov Gather

Abstract

It is widely accepted among medical ethicists that competence is a necessary condition for informed consent. In this view, if a patient is incompetent to make a particular treatment decision, the decision must be based on an advance directive or made by a substitute decision-maker on behalf of the patient. We call this the competence model. According to a recent report of the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights, article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) presents a wholesale rejection of the competence model. The High Commissioner here adopts the interpretation of article 12 proposed by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. On this interpretation, CRPD article 12 renders it impermissible to deny persons with mental disabilities the right to make treatment decisions on the basis of impaired decision-making capacity and demands the replacement of all regimes of substitute decision-making by supported decision-making. In this paper, we explicate six adverse consequences of CRPD article 12 for persons with mental disabilities and propose an alternative way forward. The proposed model combines the strengths of the competence model and supported decision-making.

*Research ethics***Paper: Ethics of treatment interruption trials in HIV cure research: addressing the conundrum of risk/benefit assessment** (22 March, 2018)

Gail E Henderson, Holly L Peay, Eugene Kroon, Rosemary Jean Cadigan, Karen Meagher, Thidarat Jupimai, Adam Gilbertson, Jill Fisher, Nuchanart Q Ormsby, Nitiya Chomchey, Nittaya Phanuphak, Jintanat Ananworanich, Stuart Rennie

Abstract

Though antiretroviral therapy is the standard of care for people living with HIV, its treatment limitations, burdens, stigma and costs lead to continued interest in HIV cure research. Early-phase cure trials, particularly those that include analytic treatment interruption (ATI), involve uncertain and potentially high risk, with minimal chance of clinical benefit. Some question whether such trials should be offered, given the risk/benefit imbalance, and whether those who choose to participate are acting rationally. We address these questions through a longitudinal decision-making study nested in a Thai acute HIV research cohort.

Journal of Medical Internet Research

Vol 20, No 3 (2018): March

<http://www.jmir.org/2018/3>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Operations Management

Pages 1-54 (January 2018)

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/journal-of-operations-management/vol/53/suppl/C>

Inaugural Editorial

Socially responsible supply chains in emerging markets: Some research opportunities

Pages 1-10

Christopher S. Tang

Abstract

This article seeks to provide research opportunities in “socially responsible supply chains”. I first provide some background and context from the wider literature. Then I outline case studies in emerging countries where large companies engage the poor as producers and the poor as distributors. Next, I discuss different research topics arising from socially responsible supply chains.

Journal of Patient-Centered Research and Reviews

Volume 5, Issue 1 (2018)

<https://digitalrepository.aurorahealthcare.org/jpcrr/>

Health Disparities and Inequities: Part II

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (JPIDS)

Volume 7, Issue 1 March 2018

<https://academic.oup.com/jpids/issue>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Pediatrics

March 2018 Volume 194, p1-270

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice

<https://joppp.biomedcentral.com/>

[Accessed 24 March 2018]

[No new digest content identified]

Journal of Public Health Management & Practice

March/April 2018 - Volume 24 - Issue 2

<http://journals.lww.com/jphmp/pages/default.aspx>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Public Health Policy

Volume 39, Issue 1, February 2018

<https://link.springer.com/journal/41271/39/1/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of the Royal Society – Interface

March 2018; volume 15, issue 140

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Travel Medicine

Volume 25, Issue 1, 1 January 2018

<https://academic.oup.com/jtm/issue/25/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

The Lancet

Mar 24, 2018 Volume 391 Number 10126 p1121-1236 e15-e16

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

Editorial

Abortion: access and safety worldwide

The Lancet

44% of the world's annual 227 million pregnancies are unintended, of which 56% end in abortion, 32% in an unplanned birth, and 12% in miscarriage. These estimates—from a modelling study authored by the Guttmacher Institute and the University of Massachusetts and [published by The Lancet Global Health](#)—form the basis of [a Guttmacher report](#) on global abortion published on March 20. This analysis was last performed in 2009, since when the rate of unintended pregnancy and abortion in high-income countries has fallen significantly, concurrent with both an increase in the rate of modern contraception usage and a decrease in the number of unintended pregnancies ending in abortion. Low-income and middle-income countries have a higher abortion rate than high income countries, and there has been no significant change in the rate since the 1990s.

Unsafe abortions cause 8–11% of global maternal deaths and occur predominantly in low-income and middle-income countries where the most restrictive access policies are concentrated and socioeconomic factors further affect access. Since 2009, the report concludes, a significant rise in medication abortions (using the combination of mifepristone and misoprostol, or misoprostol alone) has substantially improved the safety of clandestine abortions. Misoprostol, which is also used to treat gastric ulcers and therefore often relatively widely available, is now the most common method of abortion in many countries with restricted access. In high-income countries, which usually have the most liberal access policies, the vast majority of abortions are conducted under safe conditions. Many high-income countries have transitioned from majority surgical to majority medication abortions (using the more efficacious combination of misoprostol and mifepristone). This transition, in combination with increasing early detection of pregnancy, has increased the rate of early and very early abortions. The high cost of mifepristone and lack of an alternative mean that surgical vacuum aspiration still predominates in some high-income countries—for example, Germany.

Since 2000, 27 countries have expanded the legal grounds for abortion, and only one country (Nicaragua) has restricted access. However, in countries where abortion is legally permitted, access can be compromised in several ways. In the USA, since 2010, 32 states have collectively enacted 338 laws restricting access to legal abortion. On March 16, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) released [a comprehensive review](#) of the safety and the quality of abortion care in the USA. The committee who conducted this study concluded that legal abortions in the USA are safe and effective. However, they found that abortion-specific state regulations have created barriers to optimal care for US women and that quality of care was highly dependent on where women lived. 39% of US women of reproductive age currently live in states with no abortion provider and the number of facilities continues to

decrease, with the greatest proportional decline in states with the most abortion-specific legislation.

The evidence behind some of these state limitations of otherwise legal abortion services is examined by NASEM. The committee recommends that most abortions could safely be carried out in office-based settings, with requirements depending, as for other procedures, on the level of sedation necessary. Providing that the practitioner could arrange safe transfer if complications arose, the committee found that trained physicians, physician's assistants, nurse-midwives, and nurse practitioners could all perform medication and aspiration abortions safely and effectively, without the need for hospital privileges. The committee also recommended further research around the restricted distribution of mifepristone and its potential impact on timeliness, patient centredness, and equity. Surgical abortion procedures still predominate in the USA, with aspiration accounting for 68% of all abortions in 2013.

Abortion has become the subject of a highly politicised debate and of the worst kind of value signalling from those in positions of power, who are often protected from the consequences of their policies by gender, geography, and economics. The burden of unintended pregnancies falls hardest on the most vulnerable women. Reducing the stigma, minimising the social and economic consequences of unintended pregnancies, improving access to highly effective modern contraception, and ensuring legal and safe abortions would generate tangible improvements to health. Those with real motivation to protect and support women and children should look to research, not misconceptions, to inform decision making.

Review

Health systems development in Thailand: a solid platform for successful implementation of universal health coverage

Viroj Tangcharoensathien, Woranan Witthayapipopsakul, Warisa Panichkriangkrai, Walaiporn Patcharanarumol, Anne Mills

Summary

Thailand's health development since the 1970s has been focused on investment in the health delivery infrastructure at the district level and below and on training the health workforce. Deliberate policies increased domestic training capacities for all cadres of health personnel and distributed them to rural and underserved areas. Since 1975, targeted insurance schemes for different population groups have improved financial access to health care until universal health coverage was implemented in 2002. Despite its low gross national income per capita in Thailand, a bold decision was made to use general taxation to finance the Universal Health Coverage Scheme without relying on contributions from members. Empirical evidence shows substantial reduction in levels of out-of-pocket payments, the incidence of catastrophic health spending, and in medical impoverishment. The scheme has also greatly reduced provincial gaps in child mortality. Certain interventions such as antiretroviral therapy and renal replacement therapy have saved the lives of adults. Well designed strategic purchasing contributed to efficiency, cost containment, and equity. Remaining challenges include preparing for an ageing society, primary prevention of non-communicable diseases, law enforcement to prevent road traffic mortality, and effective coverage of diabetes and tuberculosis control.

Lancet Global Health

Mar 2018 Volume 6 Number 3 e229-e350

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Infectious Diseases

Mar 2018 Volume 18 Number 3 p227-356 e64-e106
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/issue/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Respiratory Medicine

Mar 2018 Volume 6 Number 3 p161-230 e8-e10
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanres/issue/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Maternal and Child Health Journal

March 2018, Issue 3, Pages 283-437
<https://link.springer.com/journal/volumesAndIssues/10995>
Special Issue: Confronting Adversity: MCH Responds to ACEs
[Reviewed earlier]

Medical Decision Making (MDM)

Volume 38, Issue 2, February 2018
<http://mdm.sagepub.com/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

The Milbank Quarterly

A Multidisciplinary Journal of Population Health and Health Policy
December 2017 Volume 95, Issue 4 Pages 683–896
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/milq.2017.95.issue-4/issuetoc>
[Reviewed earlier]

Nature

Volume 555 Issue 7697, 22 March 2018
http://www.nature.com/nature/current_issue.html
Editorial | 21 March 2018

[How to get public engagement right](#)

Dialogue with the public requires a nuanced approach and a willingness to accept uncomfortable truths.

Editorial | 15 March 2018

[Asymmetry symposium unites economists, physicists and artists](#)

Transdisciplinary programme explores the pervasive presence of symmetry violations.

Comment | 21 March 2018

[A global observatory for gene editing](#)

Sheila Jasanoff and J. Benjamin Hurlbut call for an international network of scholars and organizations to support a new kind of conversation.

Sheila Jasanoff & J. Benjamin Hurlbut

Comment | 21 March 2018

[Rethink public engagement for gene editing](#)

The breadth of social and moral questions raised requires a new architecture for democratic debate, insists Simon Burall.

Simon Burall

Nature Medicine

March 2018, Volume 24 No 3 pp247-374

<https://www.nature.com/nm/journal/v24/n3/index.html>

[Reviewed earlier]

New England Journal of Medicine

March 22, 2018 Vol. 378 No. 12

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

[New issue; No digest content identified]

Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly

Volume 47, Issue 2, April 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration

VOL. 7, NO. 1 (AUGUST 2017)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Pediatrics

March 2018, VOLUME 141 / ISSUE 3

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/141/3?current-issue=y>

[Reviewed earlier]

PharmacoEconomics

Volume 36, Issue 3, March 2018

<https://link.springer.com/journal/40273/36/3/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

PLOS Currents: Disasters

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

[Accessed 24 March 2018]

[No new digest content identified]

PLoS Currents: Outbreaks

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

[Accessed 24 March 2018]

[**Health Information Needs and Health Seeking Behavior During the 2014-2016 Ebola Outbreak: A Twitter Content Analysis**](#)

March 23, 2018 · Research Article

Introduction: For effective public communication during major disease outbreaks like the 2014-2016 Ebola epidemic, health information needs of the population must be adequately assessed. Through content analysis of social media data, like tweets, public health information needs can be effectively assessed and in turn provide appropriate health information to address such needs. The aim of the current study was to assess health information needs about Ebola, at distinct epidemic time points, through longitudinal tracking.

Methods: Natural language processing was applied to explore public response to Ebola over time from July 2014 to March 2015. A total 155,647 tweets (unique 68,736, retweet 86,911) mentioning Ebola were analyzed and visualized with infographics.

Results: Public fear, frustration, and health information seeking regarding Ebola-related global priorities were observed across time. Our longitudinal content analysis revealed that due to ongoing health information deficiencies, resulting in fear and frustration, social media was at times an impediment and not a vehicle to support health information needs.

Discussion: Content analysis of tweets effectively assessed Ebola information needs. Our study also demonstrates the use of Twitter as a method for capturing real-time data to assess ongoing information needs, fear, and frustration over time.

Human Orthobunyavirus Infections, Tefé, Amazonas, Brazil

March 22, 2018 · [Research Article](#)

Introduction: Several orthobunyaviruses are important arthropod-borne pathogens, responsible for a variety of diseases in humans, from acute febrile illness to encephalitis.

Methods: We collected serum samples from a series of dengue suspected cases in Tefé, a mid-size city located in the interior of the Amazonas state, Brazil. Viral RNA extraction was performed, and specimens were tested for dengue virus using RT-PCR. Thirty dengue negative samples were further tested for Mayaro virus (MAYV) and Oropouche virus (OROV) using an RT-qPCR protocol previously described. Positive samples were characterized by MegaBLAST analysis over the entire nucleotide collection of the main public databases, and also by maximum likelihood phylogenetic reconstruction of the S genome segment.

Results: We detected nine OROV or OROV-like positive cases among 30 patients reporting fever and headache, as the most common symptoms. The closest nucleotide sequence returned from the MegaBLAST analysis belongs to an OROV isolated in Peru 2008. Moreover, all Tefé samples grouped in the same clade with the OROV reference sequence and other closely-related OROV-like viruses.

Discussion: Dengue viruses are still the most important arbovirus worldwide, causing hundreds of millions of infections every year. Nonetheless, other arboviruses like chikungunya virus, Zika virus, and yellow fever virus have emerged in the last few years and are now a public health concern in several countries. OROV is believed to have caused more than 500,000 febrile infections in Brazil over recent decades. Therefore, the results described in this study strengthen that this arbovirus, and its closely-related recombinants, should be under continuous surveillance, at least in the endemic countries of Latin America.

PLOS Medicine

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

(Accessed 24 March 2018)

Editorial

Time for high-burden countries to lead the tuberculosis research agenda

Madhukar Pai

| published 23 Mar 2018 PLOS Medicine

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1002544>

[See Milestones/Perspectives above for full text]

PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases

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

(Accessed 24 March 2018)

Editorial

India's neglected tropical diseases

Peter J. Hotez, Ashish Damania

| published 22 Mar 2018 PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0006038>

The Global Burden of Disease Study (GBD) is generating important and often nonintuitive information about the prevalence, incidence, morbidity, and mortality of the world's major communicable and noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). An emerging narrative from the GBD is the gradual ascendancy of the NCDs, especially among the world's large low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) [1]. But with regards to the neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), we have also seen how these chronic and debilitating infections of poverty might also account for a high percentage of the global disease burden [2].

A more in-depth analysis of NTDs from the GBD 2016 also reveals an important geopolitical dimension of the major NTDs [1]. As shown in Table 1, today the nation of India experiences the world's largest absolute burden of at least 11 major NTDs. Excluding NTDs that are spatially bound by their requirement for unique insect vectors or snail hosts (e.g., schistosomiasis, onchocerciasis, human African trypanosomiasis, and Chagas disease), India leads the world in terms of the total number of cases for each of the major NTDs, as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) [3]...

PLoS One

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

[Accessed 24 March 2018]

Research Article

The farm cost of decreasing antimicrobial use in dairy production

Guillaume Lhermie, Loren William Tauer, Yrjo Tapio Gröhn

Research Article | published 22 Mar 2018 PLOS ONE

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0194832>

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

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

[Accessed 24 March 2018]

Land use strategies to mitigate climate change in carbon dense temperate forests

Beverly E. Law, Tara W. Hudiburg, Logan T. Berner, Jeffrey J. Kent, Polly C. Buotte and Mark E. Harmon

PNAS March 19, 2018. 201720064; published ahead of print March 19, 2018. <https://doi.org>

Significance

Regional quantification of feasibility and effectiveness of forest strategies to mitigate climate change should integrate observations and mechanistic ecosystem process models with future climate, CO₂, disturbances from fire, and management. Here, we demonstrate this approach in a high biomass region, and found that reforestation, afforestation, lengthened harvest cycles on private lands, and restricting harvest on public lands increased net ecosystem carbon balance by 56% by 2100, with the latter two actions contributing the most. Forest sector emissions tracked with our life cycle assessment model decreased by 17%, partially meeting emissions

reduction goals. Harvest residue bioenergy use did not reduce short-term emissions. Cobenefits include increased water availability and biodiversity of forest species. Our improved analysis framework can be used in other temperate regions.

Abstract

Strategies to mitigate carbon dioxide emissions through forestry activities have been proposed, but ecosystem process-based integration of climate change, enhanced CO₂, disturbance from fire, and management actions at regional scales are extremely limited. Here, we examine the relative merits of afforestation, reforestation, management changes, and harvest residue bioenergy use in the Pacific Northwest. This region represents some of the highest carbon density forests in the world, which can store carbon in trees for 800 y or more. Oregon's net ecosystem carbon balance (NECB) was equivalent to 72% of total emissions in 2011–2015. By 2100, simulations show increased net carbon uptake with little change in wildfires.

Reforestation, afforestation, lengthened harvest cycles on private lands, and restricting harvest on public lands increase NECB 56% by 2100, with the latter two actions contributing the most. Resultant cobenefits included water availability and biodiversity, primarily from increased forest area, age, and species diversity. Converting 127,000 ha of irrigated grass crops to native forests could decrease irrigation demand by 233 billion m³·y^{−1}. Utilizing harvest residues for bioenergy production instead of leaving them in forests to decompose increased emissions in the short-term (50 y), reducing mitigation effectiveness. Increasing forest carbon on public lands reduced emissions compared with storage in wood products because the residence time is more than twice that of wood products. Hence, temperate forests with high carbon densities and lower vulnerability to mortality have substantial potential for reducing forest sector emissions. Our analysis framework provides a template for assessments in other temperate regions.

Precision medicine screening using whole-genome sequencing and advanced imaging to identify disease risk in adults

Bradley A. Perkins, C. Thomas Caskey, Pamila Brar, Eric Dec, David S. Karow, Andrew M. Kahn, Ying-Chen Claire Hou, Naisha Shah, Debbie Boeldt, Erin Coughlin, Gabby Hands, Victor Lavrenko, James Yu, Andrea Procko, Julia Appis, Anders M. Dale, Lining Guo, Thomas J. Jönsson, Bryan M. Wittmann, Istvan Bartha, Smriti Ramakrishnan, Axel Bernal, James B. Brewer, Suzanne Brewerton, William H. Biggs, Yaron Turpaz and J. Craig Venter
PNAS March 19, 2018. 201706096; published ahead of print March 19, 2018.

<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1706096114>

Significance

Advances in technology are enabling evaluation for prevention and early detection of age-related chronic diseases associated with premature mortality, such as cancer and cardiovascular diseases. These diseases kill about one-third of men and one-quarter of women between the ages of 50 and 74 years old in the United States. We used whole-genome sequencing, advanced imaging, and other clinical testing to screen 209 active, symptom-free adults. We identified a broad set of complementary age-related chronic disease risks associated with premature mortality.

Abstract

Reducing premature mortality associated with age-related chronic diseases, such as cancer and cardiovascular disease, is an urgent priority. We report early results using genomics in combination with advanced imaging and other clinical testing to proactively screen for age-related chronic disease risk among adults. We enrolled active, symptom-free adults in a study of screening for age-related chronic diseases associated with premature mortality. In addition to personal and family medical history and other clinical testing, we obtained whole-genome sequencing (WGS), noncontrast whole-body MRI, dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA), global metabolomics, a new blood test for prediabetes (Quantose IR), echocardiography (ECHO), ECG, and cardiac rhythm monitoring to identify age-related chronic disease risks. Precision medicine screening using WGS and advanced imaging along with other testing among

active, symptom-free adults identified a broad set of complementary age-related chronic disease risks associated with premature mortality and strengthened WGS variant interpretation. This and other similarly designed screening approaches anchored by WGS and advanced imaging may have the potential to extend healthy life among active adults through improved prevention and early detection of age-related chronic diseases (and their risk factors) associated with premature mortality.

Prehospital & Disaster Medicine

Volume 33 - Issue 1 - February 2018

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/prehospital-and-disaster-medicine/latest-issue>

[Reviewed earlier]

Preventive Medicine

Volume 108 Pages 1-144 (March 2018)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/preventive-medicine/vol/108/suppl/C>

[Reviewed earlier]

Proceedings of the Royal Society B

10 January 2018; volume 285, issue 1870

<http://rspb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/285/1870?current-issue=y>

[Reviewed earlier]

Public Health

March 2018 Volume 156, p1-152

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Public Health Ethics

Volume 11, Issue 1, 1 April 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Public Health Reports

Volume 133, Issue 2, March/April 2018

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

[New issue; No digest content identified]

Qualitative Health Research

Volume 28, Issue 4, March 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Refugee Survey Quarterly

Volume 37, Issue 1, 1 March 2018

<http://rsq.oxfordjournals.org/content/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Research Ethics

Volume 13, Issue 3-4, July-October 2017
<http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/reab/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Reproductive Health

<http://www.reproductive-health-journal.com/content>
[Accessed 24 March 2018]
[No new digest content identified]

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

http://www.paho.org/journal/index.php?option=com_content&view=featured&Itemid=101
[Reviewed earlier]

Risk Analysis

March 2018 Volume 38, Issue 3 Pages 427–634
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/risa.2018.38.issue-3/issuetoc>
[Reviewed earlier]

Risk Management and Healthcare Policy

Volume 10, 2017
<https://www.dovepress.com/risk-management-and-healthcare-policy-archive56>
[Reviewed earlier]

Science

23 March 2018 Vol 359, Issue 6382
<http://www.sciencemag.org/current.dtl>

Special Issue: Cancer Immunotherapy

Introduction to special issue

[The Cancer Immunotherapy Revolution](#)

By Priscilla N. Kelly

Science 23 Mar 2018 : 1344-134

Cancer immunotherapy—the science of mobilizing the immune system to kill cancer—has been pursued for more than a century. Yet only recently has this powerful strategy finally taken center stage in mainstream oncology. The past few years have seen unprecedented clinical responses, rapid drug development, and first-in-kind approvals from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Reports of terminal cancer patients defying the odds and achieving complete remissions are accumulating. These success stories are the culmination of decades of painstaking research by pioneering scientists and physicians. Newly approved immunotherapies include drugs that can manipulate components of the immune system and methods to genetically engineer patients' own T lymphocytes to recognize and attack their tumors.

Researchers are racing to expand the use of immunotherapy to benefit more cancer patients. But it remains unclear why only a subset of individuals respond to treatment and how to better achieve sustained remissions. Hundreds of clinical trials are under way to see whether improved responses can be attained by combination therapy approaches. Unraveling the cellular and molecular basis of treatment resistance should facilitate rational design of new mechanism-based studies. Advances in genome sequencing are identifying predictive biomarkers and facilitating the design of personalized vaccines that target patient-specific tumor neoantigens. These lines of research, along with growing evidence that the gut microbiome plays a defining role in immunotherapy response, are charting innovative paths toward truly personalized medicine.

Review

Personalized vaccines for cancer immunotherapy

By Ugur Sahin, Özlem Türeci

Science 23 Mar 2018 : 1355-1360

Abstract

Cancer is characterized by an accumulation of genetic alterations. Somatic mutations can generate cancer-specific neoepitopes that are recognized by autologous T cells as foreign and constitute ideal cancer vaccine targets. Every tumor has its own unique composition of mutations, with only a small fraction shared between patients. Technological advances in genomics, data science, and cancer immunotherapy now enable the rapid mapping of the mutations within a genome, rational selection of vaccine targets, and on-demand production of a therapy customized to a patient's individual tumor. First-in-human clinical trials of personalized cancer vaccines have shown the feasibility, safety, and immunotherapeutic activity of targeting individual tumor mutation signatures. With vaccination development being promoted by emerging innovations of the digital age, vaccinating a patient with individual tumor mutations may become the first truly personalized treatment for cancer.

Policy Forum

Expanded health systems for sustainable development

By Christopher Dye

Science 23 Mar 2018 : 1337-1339 Restricted Access

Advance transformative research for the 2030 agenda

Summary

Since the United Nations (UN) launched the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, the global health community has grown accustomed to the new catalog of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, 2016–2030), and even to the criticism that has been leveled at numerous imprecise targets. SDG 3 makes universal health coverage (UHC, Target 3.8) central to achieving the principal health goal of healthy lives and well-being for all at all ages, and sets targets for reducing the burden of noncommunicable diseases and injuries, a conspicuous omission from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs, 2000–2015) which focused on maternal and child health and major communicable diseases. But the greater ambition of the 2030 Agenda is to anchor health in development, recognizing that good health depends on and contributes to other development goals, underpinning social justice, economic prosperity, and environmental protection. These aspirations have been frequently voiced but scarcely pursued, and the SDGs are often treated simply as a checklist of new goals and targets. Yet their potential is far greater—collectively they should be a force for discovery of new ways to achieve better health and well-being. To this end, the legacy of the MDGs, and the structure of the SDGs, lead to a testable proposition for research: Advance health and development by expanding the scope and enhancing the effectiveness of the systems and services that prevent and treat illness. At stake is the question of how to accelerate gains in health through broad-

based sustainable development, building on successes and compensating for weaknesses of targeted, time-limited health programs.

Social Science & Medicine

Volume 199, Pages 11-240 (February 2018)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/social-science-and-medicine/vol/199/suppl/C>

Special Issue: The role of Racism in Health Inequalities: Integrating Approaches from Across Disciplines

[Racial inequalities in health: Framing future research](#)

Original research article

Pages 11-18

Margaret T. Hicken, Nicole Kravitz-Wirtz, Myles Durkee, James S. Jackson

...This Special Issue on Racism and Health Inequalities provides a sample of innovative work and empirical evidence from Australia, Brazil, New Zealand, and the United States. The 23 papers in this collection encompass qualitative and quantitative methods and multiple scientific disciplines. Furthermore, they collectively underscore the potential for innovative public health research on cultural and structural racism, but also highlight a number of challenges to confront as we continue to advance scientific knowledge within this area...

Stability: International Journal of Security & Development

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

[accessed 24 March 2018]

[No new digest content identified]

Stanford Social Innovation Review

Winter 2018 Volume 16, Number 1

https://ssir.org/issue/winter_2018

The only way that climate change will be reversed is by continuing to develop new technologies and turning them into products and services. Philanthropists play an important role in that process, particularly by investing in risky, early-stage, science-based startups that traditional investors shy away from. Read more about this in "[The Investment Gap That Threatens the Planet](#)," the cover story in the Winter 2018 issue.

Health

[Health Insurance for Migrants](#)

By Kristine Wong

The M-FUND offers affordable health insurance to the vulnerable Burmese migrant population on Thailand's western border.

Sustainability

Volume 10, Issue 2 (February 2018)

<http://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/10/2>

[Reviewed earlier]

Systematic Reviews

<https://systematicreviewsjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles>

[Accessed 24 March 2018]

[No new digest content identified]

Torture Journal

Volume 27 - Issue No. 3

<http://www.ircct.org/publications/torture-journal/128>

[Reviewed earlier]

Trauma, Violence, & Abuse

Volume 19, Issue 2, April 2018

<http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/tvaa/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

Travel Medicine and Infectious Diseases

January-February, 2018 Volume 21

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Tropical Medicine & International Health

Volume 23, Issue 3 Pages: i-iv, 251-340 March 2018

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/13653156/current>

UN Chronicle

Vol. LIV No. 4 2017 January 2018

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

Global Citizenship

This issue focuses on global citizenship, which has been defined as the concept that one's identity transcends, even as it respects, geographical and national borders, and that our social, political, environmental and economic actions occur in an interconnected world. The articles examine, among other things, the nexus between reducing inequality and global citizenship, safeguarding cultural and linguistic diversity, and the rights and responsibilities derived from being a global citizen.

In this issue of the UN Chronicle, we have invited a number of distinguished contributors to share with us their perspectives on what global citizenship is and how this concept can be translated into solutions to global challenges and concerns.

Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies

An International Interdisciplinary Journal for Research, Policy and Care

Volume 13, Issue 1, 2018

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

Special Section: Increasing Understanding for Syrian Refugee Children with Empirical Evidence

[Reviewed earlier]

World Heritage Review

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/review/84/>

World Heritage and Reconstruction

While conflicts continue to inflict damage – much of it intentional – on heritage sites, reconstruction becomes a critical topic for discussion. The recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction of damaged sites are complex. They involve questions that go beyond authenticity and integrity. As the architect Jad Tabet says in his introductory article to this issue of World Heritage, “No one could have imagined that the coming century would, in its early years, witness a new cycle of violence that would spread from Afghanistan and Iraq to Mali, Libya, Syria and Yemen and lead the world to this state of generalized latent warfare that we know today.

The formulation of sound guidance is urgently required on issues related to recovery, taking into account the need to support the affected local communities. To this end, expert meetings have been convened by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICCROM and ICOMOS, and seminars are being held at universities to develop plans for thoughtful and effective action. UNESCO is also currently preparing a ‘White Paper’ in partnership with the World Bank on the reconstruction of cities following a conflict or major natural disaster. Reconstruction projects at World Heritage sites also need to address the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of each site – the reason for which it was inscribed on the World Heritage List – but within the context of a larger vision for recovery that addresses socioeconomic questions as well as the needs of the local communities. Solutions must be sensitive to questions of reconciliation and cannot rewrite history.

In this issue, we look at the cases of intentional destruction of sites in Syria and of the Buddhas in the Bamiyan Valley of Afghanistan. We take into account the devastating impact on local communities and their identities, as well as the implications of different approaches to reconstruction. We look at the inspiring cases of Timbuktu (Mali), where the mausoleums were rebuilt after their destruction in 2012, and the Old Bridge Area of the Old City of Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina), where the rebuilt bridge has become a symbol of perseverance and unity among communities. We are also pleased to present an interview with heritage expert Christina Cameron, who explains the concept of reconstruction in the framework of the World Heritage Convention and considers the emotional and psychological consequences for the related communities.

As we move forward, the World Heritage Committee will continue to support the preparation and dissemination of guidance on reconstruction, which includes facing the multifaceted challenges it brings. The Committee will continue as well to offer other options – such as exhibits, or virtual projections – that can satisfy the needs of communities to preserve and express their identities without marring the authenticity of what remains. New questions must also be addressed in the future. They include commemoration of the loss, and remembrance of community members and site managers who have given their lives to defend our shared World Heritage.

I would like to take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank Francesco Bandarin, Assistant Director-General for Culture, who is leaving UNESCO after 15 years of service and who contributed greatly to safeguarding World Heritage around the world. I would also like to express my gratitude to Vesna Vujicic-Lugassy, our Managing Editor from the inception of this magazine in May 1996 to the present, for her personal engagement to make the Review globally known.

Mechtild Rössler

Director, UNESCO World Heritage Centre

World Journal of Emergency Medicine

2018 - Vol. 9 - No 2 June 2018

<http://wjem.org/journal/current>

[New issue; No digest content identified]

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