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governance, ethics, evidence, policy, practice

The Sentinel

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

Period ending 3 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.

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:: [Week in Review](#)

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

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Development – Conflict Prevention – Governance

Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / The World Bank and United Nations

March 01, 2018 :: 341pages

Abstract

The resurgence of violent conflict in recent years has caused immense human suffering, at enormous social and economic cost. Violent conflicts today have become complex and protracted, involving more non-state groups and regional and international actors, often linked to global challenges from climate change to transnational organized crime. It is increasingly recognized as an obstacle to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. This has given impetus for policy makers at all levels – from local to global – to focus on preventing violent conflict more effectively. Grounded in a shared commitment to this agenda, *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict* is a joint United Nations and World Bank study that looks at how development processes can better interact with diplomacy and mediation, security and other tools to prevent conflict from becoming violent. To understand 'what works,' it reviews the experience of different countries and institutions to highlight elements that have contributed to peace. Central to these efforts is the need to address grievances around exclusion from access to power, opportunity and security. States hold the primary responsibility for prevention, but to be effective, civil society, the private sector, regional and international organizations must be involved. Enhancing the meaningful participation of women and youth in decision making, as well as long-term policies to address the aspirations of women and young people are fundamental to sustaining peace.

PDF:

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/28337/9781464811623.pdf?sequence=4&isAllowed=y>

Executive Summary [Excerpt]

Eight Key Messages for Prevention

The study's findings revolve around eight key messages:

:: Violent conflict has increased after decades of relative decline. Direct deaths in war, numbers of displaced populations, military spending, and terrorist incidents, among others, have all surged since the beginning of the century. A rapidly evolving global context presents risks that transcend national borders and add to the complexity of conflict. This places the onus on policy makers at all levels, from local to global, to make a more concerted effort to bring their tools and instruments to bear in an effective and complementary way.

:: The human and economic cost of conflicts around the world requires all of those concerned to work more collaboratively. The SDGs should be at the core of this approach. Development actors need to provide more support to national and regional prevention agendas through targeted, flexible, and sustained engagement. Prevention agendas, in turn, should be integrated into development policies and efforts, because prevention is cost-effective, saves lives, and safeguards development gains.

:: The best way to prevent societies from descending into crisis, including but not limited to conflict, is to ensure that they are resilient through investment in inclusive and sustainable development. For all countries, addressing inequalities and exclusion, making institutions more

inclusive, and ensuring that development strategies are risk-informed are central to preventing the fraying of the social fabric that could erupt into crisis.

:: The primary responsibility for preventive action rests with states, both through their national policy and their governance of the multilateral system. However, in today's shifting global landscape, states are often one actor among many. States are increasingly called to work with each other and with other actors to keep their countries on a pathway to peace.

:: Exclusion from access to power, opportunity, services, and security creates fertile ground for mobilizing group grievances to violence, especially in areas with weak state capacity or legitimacy or in the context of human rights abuses. This study points to specific ways in which states and other actors can seek to avert violence, including through more inclusive policies.

:: Growth and poverty alleviation are crucial but alone will not suffice to sustain peace. Preventing violence requires departing from traditional economic and social policies when risks are building up or are high. It also means seeking inclusive solutions through dialogue, adapted macroeconomic policies, institutional reform in core state functions, and redistributive policies.

:: Inclusive decision making is fundamental to sustaining peace at all levels, as are long-term policies to address economic, social, and political aspirations. Fostering the participation of young people as well as of the organizations, movements, and networks that represent them is crucial. Women's meaningful participation in all aspects of peace and security is critical to effectiveness, including in peace processes, where it has been shown to have a direct impact on the sustainability of agreements reached.

:: Alongside efforts to build institutional capacity to contain violence when it does occur, acting preventively entails fostering systems that create incentives for peaceful and cooperative behavior. In order to achieve more effective prevention, new mechanisms need to be established that will allow greater synergy to be achieved much earlier among the various tools and instruments of prevention, in particular, diplomacy and mediation, security, and development...

Press Release

As Conflicts Surge Around the World, New Approaches to Prevention Can Save Lives and Money - Up to US\$70 Billion Per Year

WASHINGTON, March 1, 2018 —Preventing violent conflict saves lives and money—up to US\$70 billion per year on average, according to a study published today by the World Bank and the United Nations.

The new study, [Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict](#), the first report on conflict prevention done jointly by the World Bank and the United Nations, says the world must refocus its attention on preventing violence as a means to achieving peace. The key, they say, is to identify risks early and to work closely with governments to improve response to these risks and reinforce inclusion.

"It's increasingly clear that violent conflict is one of the biggest obstacles to ending poverty," World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim said. "Conflict impacts a growing number of people within countries, but it does not confine itself to national borders, and its spillover effects can imperil entire regions and pose risks worldwide. Preventing violent conflict is one of the most critical development challenges of our time, one that requires more resources, innovative approaches, and intensified collaboration among international partners."

Since 2005, deaths related to battle have increased ten-fold, reaching their highest point in 2015. Between 2010 and 2016 alone, the number of civilian deaths in violent conflicts doubled. Violent conflict has also forced people from their homes in record numbers. Today, an estimated 65.6 million people are either internally displaced or refugees, with children making up more than half of the world's refugee population.

It is estimated that violent conflict could cost up to US\$13.6 trillion per year globally, a figure equivalent to 13.3 percent of the world's gross domestic product (GDP). Recovery from conflict can take generations. The Pathways report demonstrates that prevention is cost effective and highlights three cost-saving scenarios ranging from US\$5 billion to almost US\$70 billion annually...

The Pathways study finds that the most successful countries mobilize a coalition of civil society, women's groups, the faith-based community, and the private sector to provide incentives for peace and manage tensions. They also undertake reforms to strengthen the foundations and inclusiveness of their institutions.

The report calls for an urgent review of the incentives that national, local, and international stakeholders have to act early and collaboratively to build and sustain peace, noting that preventing violent conflict can only be achieved through the full partnership of domestic, development, diplomatic, and security actors.

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Development – Smallholder Farmers

A New World Bank Project to Benefit Over 25 Million Small and Marginal Farmers in Maharashtra, India

WASHINGTON, February 27, 2018 – The World Bank Board of Executive Directors today approved a US\$ 420 million project to increase climate resilience in agriculture for small and marginal farmers while ensuring that farming continues to remain a financially viable activity for them. The project will benefit over 25 million people spread over an area of 3.5 million ha and cover 5,142 villages across 15 most climate vulnerable districts of Marathwada and Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra

The [Maharashtra Project for Climate Resilient Agriculture](#) will be implemented in rural areas largely dependent upon rainfed agriculture. It will strengthen the resilience of small and marginal farmers against adverse climate events by promoting agricultural technologies and farming practices that are aimed at improving soil health, water-use efficiency and crop productivity. In recent years, climate variability has seriously affected agriculture in Maharashtra, where farming is largely dominated by small and marginal farmers. Farmers have low crop productivity and a high dependence on rainfall. Severe drought in the past few years has affected the state's agriculture performance.

The project will take up a series of activities at the farm and watershed level. It will scale up climate-resilient technologies such as micro irrigation systems, expand surface water storage, and facilitate aquifer recharge, which is expected to directly contribute to a more efficient use of scarce water resources. By adopting climate-resilient seed varieties which have short maturity, are drought and heat resistant, and salt tolerant, the project will help reduce risks of climate-related crop failure, and help enhance farmer's income.

At the watershed level, project activities include building drainage lines and preparing catchment area treatment plans that promote a more efficient use of surface water for agriculture, complemented with a more sustainable use of groundwater, which will ultimately improve the availability and quality of water at the farm level.

To strengthen emerging value chains for climate-resilient agricultural commodities, the project will improve the capacity of Farmer Producers Organizations to operate as sustainable, market-oriented, agri-enterprises. It will help mainstream the climate resilient agriculture agenda in various local institutions that deliver agricultural services to the farming community...

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Education

Fulfilling our collective responsibility: Financing global public goods in education - policy paper

UNESCO - Policy Paper 34

March 2018 :: 16 pages

PDF: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0026/002615/261530e.pdf>

Summary

This paper argues that global public goods in education – such as internationally comparable data and statistics, basic research addressing the challenge of improving learning outcomes for sustainable development, and networks for peer learning – are in short supply, poorly funded and rarely coordinated. It calls on the international community to develop a joint vision and finance their provision sustainably to alleviate major constraints to achieving Education 2030 targets.

Key messages:

:: Global public goods are the institutions, mechanisms and outcomes that provide benefits to all, transcend borders and extend across generations.

:: One cross-cutting global public good is knowledge for global development. In the case of education, such knowledge takes three forms: comparable data; research on issues of global relevance; and peer learning networks. These need to build on local capacity.

:: Multilateral institutions, and the World Bank in particular, have played a major role in scaling up interventions related to global public goods. But such support has been plagued increasingly by lack of vision and a stronger focus on short-term results.

:: Financing modalities that focus on short-term results, which also come with increased donor control and alignment to their strategic objectives, may not support the purpose global public goods are supposed to serve.

:: Successful global public goods initiatives in other sectors suggest that their case has to be championed at the global level through strong institutional and intellectual leadership, and that such initiatives need to stay flexible to motivate continual fundraising.

:: It is time for strong institutional and intellectual leadership, building on a consultative approach, to help prioritize a range of global public goods in education that are fit for the purpose of achieving SDG 4 and establish the appropriate governance and funding structures to support their provision. Examples are provided as a starting point for discussion.

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Heritage Stewardship

[**Qatar Fund for Development boosts UNESCO's Heritage Emergency Fund with US \\$2 million contribution**](#)

02 March 2018

The Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and UNESCO signed a new agreement this week to supplement the financing of UNESCO's Heritage Emergency Fund (HEF) with US\$2 million.

"More than ever, we need to respond quickly and efficiently to assess, secure and safeguard threatened heritage, said UNESCO's Director-General, Audrey Azoulay "The Heritage Emergency Fund is a key tool for doing this and I see this renewed contribution by QFFD as a call to the international community to join forces with UNESCO in this regard."

H.E. Khalifa Bin Jassim Al Kuwari, Director General of the Qatar Fund for Development, joined Audrey Azoulay, at the signing ceremony, which took place at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. This latest installment of US \$2 million follows an earlier QFFD contribution of an equal amount, as part of a pledge Qatar made at the 38th Session of the World Heritage Committee in Doha in June 2014. On that occasion, Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, Prime Minister, committed a total of US \$10 million to support and strengthen UNESCO's ability to preserve cultural and natural heritage in areas that may be vulnerable to disasters or may be affected by armed conflict.

"The initial contribution by the Qatar Fund for Development towards the Heritage Emergency Fund and the continued funding of this instrument reaffirms Qatar's commitment to protecting and preserving the heritage of the world. We hope this donation will act as a catalyst that will trigger further contributions by other donors," affirmed H.E. Khalifa Bin Jassim Al Kuwari. UNESCO's Heritage Emergency Fund is a multi-donor fund established in 2015 as a pooled, non-earmarked funding mechanism that gives UNESCO flexibility to respond quickly and effectively to crises to ensure safeguarding of cultural heritage.

To date, it has been used for activities related to the conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Yemen, the earthquakes in Ecuador, Myanmar, Nepal and Iran, the hurricanes Matthew in Haiti and Irma in the Caribbean, as well as the floods caused by El Nino in Peru. Activities implemented range from rapid damage assessment and urgent safeguarding interventions to capacity building of professionals and the development of innovative partnerships.

Other donors that have joined the initiative include Norway, Canada, the Principality of Monaco, the Netherlands, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Republic of Estonia, the Slovak Republic, the Principality of Andorra, ANA Holdings Inc. and individual donors.

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OXFAM Impact

[**International organisations issue joint pledge on safeguarding**](#)

Islamic Relief has joined eight other international organisations in expressing grave concern about reported cases of sexual misconduct by staff of humanitarian aid agencies, and pledging to improve policies and processes to ensure better protection for vulnerable people.

As organisations whose core aim is to help the most vulnerable people in the world, to secure human rights and protect the environment we must always confront and eradicate abusive

behaviour and the misuse of power. When it comes from individuals within our own staff it is a double betrayal, not just of the people we exist to serve, but of the people (staff, volunteers, supporters, donors) who work with extraordinary engagement to achieve our mission.

There can be no tolerance for the abuse of power, privilege or trust by individuals within our organisations or in our work. Our utmost priority is to those victims and survivors of abuse – to atone for damage that has been done and to stand in solidarity with those women who have faced such injustice. We have an absolute duty to our staff, our supporters and, above all, the people we seek to help to ensure we do everything in our power to prevent, detect and eradicate unethical behaviour.

We take every necessary step to prevent any wrongs occurring and to respond quickly and decisively if they do – and we will deepen these efforts further. We also have a clear responsibility to ensure that the people we seek to serve are not the ones punished for our mistakes. The widespread public outcry at this behaviour demonstrates that people feel profound compassion for those who need civil society organisations' help. We must honour that drive, and the rights and needs of the communities with which we work, by continuing to provide vital support but also by constantly seeking to improve.

We are fully committed to being transparent and accountable towards the people we serve, our partners, supporters and the public at large. That is why we are collectively announcing the following series of urgent and immediate measures:

:: We commit ourselves to adhering to existing ethical standard frameworks and to intensify our work with the independent organisations that ensure our compliance. We have mandated a review under the lead of Accountable Now of the ethical standards employed across the sector

:: We will all increase the resources we devote to preventing and safeguarding against abuse and misconduct – meeting our responsibility to protect the people we serve, our staff, and our partners

:: We will collectively review our current human resources referencing systems so that people found to have abused their power or behaved inappropriately are not re-employed in the sector – including in ICSOs, government agencies, the UN and other associated multilateral, bilateral and domestic agencies

:: We will work with these authorities and regulatory bodies to ensure any individual caught abusing their power are sanctioned and cannot do so again.

In taking these steps, we are also asking people to come forward to report unacceptable behaviour. We hope these measures send a clear message to those who experience or witness any form of abuse or have done so in the past – it is essential that they know we take their reports seriously and that we will take action.

These actions are only the first step as, collectively and individually, we do everything possible to ensure that our organisations, our staff and our work meet the most fundamental principle for all civil society organisations – to do no harm. We are truly sorry that there have been occasions when this has not been the case. We must and will do better.

CBM

Transparency International

ADRA

Islamic Relief

VSO

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Action Against Hunger strongly condemns any inappropriate conduct of humanitarian aid workers, and have a policy of zero tolerance toward abuse of power, sexual exploitation, and unethical behaviour.

Posted on 12 February 2018

This longstanding commitment is stated in our Charter of Principles. These core principles and institutional commitments are served by specific policies, such as our Code of Conduct and Child Protection policy. These are applicable to all employees, officers, directors, board members, or any person acting on behalf of Action Against Hunger. Robust internal processes exist to educate staff on these policies and to detect potential breaches.

Action Against Hunger has a strict recruitment process which includes tests, interviews, individual references checks, and contact with former employee organisations according to French labour regulation. This procedure was followed prior to the employment of Roland van Hauwermeiren. During this process, Action Against Hunger received no information regarding any inappropriate or unethical behaviour by Roland van Hauwermeiren while he was with Oxfam in Haiti, or any warning on the risks of employing him.

Roland van Hauwermeiren worked for Action Against Hunger as Country Director in Bangladesh between August 2012 and August 2014. He has not worked for us since the end of his assignment in Bangladesh.

According to our records, we have not received any alerts regarding sexual misconduct or abuse during Roland van Hauwermeiren's assignment with Action Against Hunger. We have now, however, begun a process to closely scrutinise the time he was employed by us, and Action Against Hunger commits to full disclosure, collaborating in full with the authorities.

In addition, we are reviewing our recruitment and safeguarding policies and procedures to ensure they meet the highest possible standards.

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Message from UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore to staff about ending sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment

NEW YORK, 28 February 2018 - These past weeks have given us an opportunity to have frank discussions about how we live up to UNICEF's core values like care, respect, equality and trust. These values animate everything our staff members do in communities around the world in support of the world's children.

To all of you who sent messages and e-mails about your concerns and ideas about harassment in the workplace: thank you. Please know that we have heard your concerns — and we will continue listening as we articulate and put into action our responsibilities in the days and weeks ahead. We have no tolerance for sexual exploitation, abuse or harassment of any kind — including abuses of power and authority. Anywhere.

There have been failures in our culture and processes. This problem has lingered for too long. But we are united in our desire to change, and create a culture where harassment is never tolerated. We must never forget that those who suffer harassment and abuse are, often, victimized several times: by those who commit these abuses, and by those who enable them. By

those who do not take action...by those who do not offer support...and by those who shun a person who is abused or is a whistleblower.

This must be a new era for UNICEF. I want every person who works at — and with — this wonderful organization to feel safe entering UNICEF offices, workplaces or project sites, and remember two words: not here.

I also want you to know that, if you see or experience any form of harassment or witness the sexual abuse and exploitation of children or women, you will have the tools and the power to report it, without shame or fear of reprisal. I am committed to creating a culture of trust and safety so that every employee feels able to come forward.

Finally, I want you to know that all reports will be swiftly addressed. We will keep anyone who comes forward informed, and they will receive protections throughout any investigations. And there will be consequences for those who fail to live up to UNICEF's values, including dismissal. Today, I want you to know of a number of initial actions we have put in place to prevent, report and respond to all forms of harassment in the workplace — including abuse of power — and the sexual exploitation and abuse of children and women. Taking decisive action on these two issues goes to the heart of who we are as an organization.

We are improving staff vetting and screening for new hires — including professional, background and criminal-record checks. In addition, a specialized UN reference-check facility is being established, and UNICEF will be part of it.

We are hiring independent advisors to review our practices on both workplace harassment and the sexual abuse and exploitation of children. I will make their findings public. We are also establishing external task forces and internal units to help shape our policies and practices in the weeks and months ahead.

We are launching several measures this week, available to each of you, to report incidents, and obtain ethics, legal and medical support, as well as counselling services. These include a new webpage that will have, for the first time, a button that, with one click, will give you the power to alert managers that a problem exists in a particular office. The existing email to report misconduct — integrity1@unicef.org — will be complemented by a new telephone hotline. We will announce the phone number in a few days.

Our online harassment training is now expanding to include mandatory, in-person training for all staff members.

To ensure that you have an opportunity to voice your opinions, we are launching online tools and open conversations so you can help us shape UNICEF's harassment policy by year's end. And we are reminding all UNICEF staff members that engaging in commercial and other transactional sex or accessing any pornographic material on UNICEF computers or devices is prohibited, and will lead to immediate consequences, which may include dismissal.

Yes, the past is disappointing to us all. But today is our time to shape an open, respectful and inclusive culture — for ourselves, and for future generations of proud UNICEF staff members. UNICEF is a great place to work. In my short time here, I have seen example after example of the pride that UNICEF's staff members rightly have in our organization. With your help, and your voice, we will make it even better.

Sincerely,
Henrietta H. Fore

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Five-point plan to prevent and address all forms of harassment for greater accountability and transparency within UNAIDS

27 February 2018

The Executive Director of UNAIDS, Michel Sidibé, has announced a five-point plan to prevent and address harassment, including sexual harassment, and unethical behaviour within UNAIDS. The plan will ensure that inappropriate behaviour and abuse of authority are identified early on, that measures taken are properly documented and that action to be taken follows due process and is swift and effective.

"I am putting mechanisms in place to review all UNAIDS policies on sexual harassment, abuse of authority and unethical behaviour and ensuring a professional assessment of all actions taken to date to identify if there are any gaps in implementation," said Mr Sidibé. "This will further enhance the transparency of our processes and allow us to continue moving forward." The five-point plan will be led by the newly appointed UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director, Management and Governance, Gunilla Carlsson.

First, focal points will be appointed in each department, country office, liaison office and regional office, who will have structured reporting mechanisms in place, reporting back directly to Ms Carlsson.

Second, an open platform will be created for staff to report on harassment, abuse of authority or unethical behaviour within the organization. The open platform will also enable staff to propose innovative options for preventing harassment.

Third, training will be stepped up, with face-to-face training to help staff recognize inappropriate behaviour, improve their skills to prevent harassment and empower them to rapidly report any cases of abuse they may encounter or witness. The training will also include recognizing unconscious bias and encourage increased understanding and tolerance within the multicultural environment of the United Nations.

Fourth, UNAIDS will develop and conduct an annual comprehensive and independent, organization-wide survey on staff well-being that includes questions on harassment, sexual harassment and unethical behaviour.

Fifth, the recently introduced performance management system will be further enhanced. As well as being evaluated on work-based performance, targets met, management effectiveness and progress achieved, staff at all levels will also be evaluated on their ethical behaviour in the workplace. A 360-degree evaluation will be incorporated as part of the assessment process.

The new initiatives will be integrated with a number of progressive policies that UNAIDS has already in place to facilitate the reporting of cases of abuse, including an anonymous, free, 24-hour hotline accessible from anywhere around the world. Wellness and capacity-building teams with specialized staff will visit and work with field offices or departments to address management and operational concerns in order to ensure a constructive working environment in all UNAIDS offices worldwide.

This initiative is in line with the United Nations Secretary-General's action plan on sexual harassment. UNAIDS has been a frontrunner of United Nations reform and is leading work to ensure gender equality in the workplace. In 2013, UNAIDS launched a Gender Action Plan, which had six targets to reach to ensure gender balance across the organization, including ensuring a 50/50 gender balance in the UNAIDS Secretariat and that 50% of UNAIDS country directors are women. By the end of 2017, 48% of UNAIDS country directors were women and the gender balance across the organization was 53/47, with slightly more women working for the organization than men.

"UNAIDS' vision stands for zero: zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths," said Mr Sidibé. "Zero tolerance for sexual harassment is part our mission and is central to our work," he added.

UNAIDS is continuing to strive to ensure a safe and conducive working environment for its staff in order to continue leading global efforts towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

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Featured Journal Content

The Lancet

Mar 03, 2018 Volume 391 Number 10123 p813-910

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

Comment

Death and suffering in Eastern Ghouta, Syria: a call for action to protect civilians and health care

Samer Jabbour, Fouad M Fouad, Jennifer Leaning, Donna McKay, Rabie Nasser, Leonard S Rubenstein, Annie Sparrow, Paul Spiegel, Ahmad Tarakji, Ronald Waldman, Rola Hallam, Denis Mukwege, Ghanem Tayara

Since Feb 4, 2018, Syrian forces with Russian support have bombarded Eastern Ghouta, an enclave out of government control near Damascus. This military action has killed hundreds of civilians and injured more than 1550 people as of Feb 21, 2018,¹ in an area where about 390 000 people, most of whom are civilians, have lived under siege since October, 2013. The recent escalation is reportedly part of a Syrian Government offensive supported by its Russian and Iranian allies to retake Ghouta. In just 1 day, on Feb 20, 2018, PAX, an international peace movement, documented 110 civilians killed and hundreds injured in 131 air strikes, 44 barrel bombs, 28 surface-to-surface "elephant" missiles, five cluster bombs, and countless other artillery and rocket fire.² Amnesty International sees this as continuing "war crimes on an epic scale".³

The Syrian American Medical Society, which has tracked attacks on health-care facilities during the offensive, now reports that 25 hospitals and health centres have been hit, some more than once in 4 days.⁴ Several health-care facilities are destroyed or put temporarily out of service, reducing capacity by 50% at a time when patients most need care. A doctor in Eastern Ghouta said, "Hospitals are overwhelmed. Floors are overflowing with injured and blood. Those patients we discharged a couple of days ago are now back with more serious injuries...The word 'catastrophe' can't describe what's happening."⁴ The injured are running out of places to go. Retaliatory shelling by rebel groups on Damascus neighbourhoods has also killed and maimed scores of civilians and also deserves condemnation.

Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) found that "the unspeakable suffering...was deliberately planned and meticulously implemented over time".⁵ The Syrian Government has not contested PHR's finding but says it is attacking "terrorists". This claim is not supported by patterns of attacks,⁶ which predominantly target civilian areas, and demonstrate a position that all civilians in opposition-held areas are legitimate targets.⁷

The people of Ghouta endured a deadly sarin chemical attack in August, 2013, in which 1466 people, including 426 children, died.⁸ This led to the US–Russia sponsored deal to remove the Syrian Government's chemical weapons stockpile. However, killing and destruction continued by other means. Ghouta has been subjected to regular shelling and artillery strikes, including of hospitals and civilian areas. Compounding the impact of Syrian Government violations of international humanitarian law, many Ghouta civilians suffer violence by authoritarian rebel groups and are impoverished by a war economy in which corrupt Syrian Government and rebel intermediaries participate.⁹ The worsening situation for civilians under siege and bombardment has long been reported but has not led to an improvement for civilians or even a slight lessening of their suffering.^{9, 10} The Syrian Government has allowed only minimal and intermittent aid and regularly removes urgently needed medical supplies from the very occasional convoy it permits.^{9, 10} In December, 2017, Ghouta doctors sent a letter to WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, pleading for support: "Once, we were family doctors, pediatricians, specialists...now we are specialists in war trauma, chemical attacks and siege-induced starvation."¹¹ The Syrian American Medical Society estimates that more than 1000 critically ill patients now need medical evacuation. The Syrian Government has allowed only 37 as of Feb 17, 2018. Every day, patients die.

Inaction in the face of unrelenting attacks on civilians represents an epic failure of world leaders.¹² The UN Security Council has utterly failed the people of Syria. The UN Secretariat seems to operate without an effective strategy for political negotiations or aid delivery.^{8, 13} These compounded failures are increasing frustrations with the UN as a legitimate interlocutor on human rights violations everywhere,¹⁴ and translate into deaths and suffering. We cannot allow this situation to continue. Political negotiations have not prioritised or reduced attacks against civilians. The Syrian Government's continued ability to deny aid to populations it is besieging illustrates the failure of the current aid delivery process and the impotence of the UN. There are no mechanisms to ensure timely delivery of aid, delivery of sufficient aid for the entire population, or delivery of the most needed types of aid. From April to December, 2016, PHR documented that only three of the nine convoys to besieged areas in Eastern Ghouta provided aid sufficient for even half of the population living there. Of the remaining six convoys, three provided aid sufficient for less than a third of each area's besieged population.¹⁵ Eastern Ghouta has received aid only once since November, 2017.

In the face of this desperate situation, health professionals and concerned citizens still have something to contribute; we have an obligation to do so, and there is a long history of mobilisation that makes a difference. The three most urgent priorities are to stop the targeting and besieging of civilians, to end attacks on health-care facilities and other civilian targets, and to allow unobstructed flow of aid, including medical supplies and evacuation of the wounded.

Three levels of action are possible. First, citizens and health professionals must press government officials, especially in countries directly involved in the war, to act today. The UN Security Council must end its paralysis, and Russia in particular must not block action to end the siege and attacks on civilians and hospitals. We will closely watch the expected vote on a Ghouta ceasefire at the UN Security Council. But the UN Security Council is not the only forum. Given the UN Security Council deadlock, in 2016, the UN General Assembly took the unusual step of establishing an

international mechanism to investigate grave crimes committed in Syria.¹⁶ Justice for the unspeakable crimes we are witnessing is imperative for long-term stability in Syria, although it will not bring immediate relief to besieged Ghouta. While this can be a lengthy process, an initial step of imposing sanctions on parties to the crimes would have an impact.

Second, health professionals and concerned citizens must come together and mobilise. We call on health professionals and citizens around the world who are outraged about the situation in Ghouta and international inaction to join hands in advocacy, mobilisation, and public action and call for an end to the violence, attacks on health facilities, personnel, and patients, and for the protection of civilians in Syria.

Third, the UN Secretariat must change tactics and strategy to be more impactful. Protecting civilians, removing siege, and ensuring medical evacuations and flow of aid must be top of the agenda for any UN-mediated negotiation. The UN and its agencies, especially those operating in Damascus, should exert all pressure and use all leverage, including but not limited to flow of funds for aid, to ensure respect for international law and delivery of aid to people who need it the most. The lesson from the 2013 polio outbreak among children in non-government-controlled areas who did not receive vaccines is valuable. Under pressure, WHO and UN agencies used a whole-of-Syria approach to tell the Syrian Government that everyone across the conflict lines must get vaccinated in one programme. 3 million children were vaccinated across Syria, half of them in non-government controlled areas.¹⁷ Donor countries can press for reforming WHO-Syria operations to ensure this model extends to all health aid.

Collectively, these actions can contribute to protecting the people in Syria who are suffering so desperately.

We declare no competing interests.

Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry's (JAACAP)

March 2018 Volume 57, Issue 3

[http://www.jaacap.com/issue/S0890-8567\(17\)X0005-1](http://www.jaacap.com/issue/S0890-8567(17)X0005-1)

Letter to the Editor

Mental Health in Syrian Refugee Children Resettling in the United States: War Trauma, Migration, and the Role of Parental Stress

Arash Javanbakht, David Rosenberg, Luay Haddad, Cynthia L. Arfken

Abstract

Syrian children have been exposed to war trauma, limited access to clean water, sanitation, and good nutrition, and for many, stresses of forced migration.¹ Despite these exposures by the children and their families, information on the mental health of Syrian refugees is limited. Recent studies have reported the high prevalence of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and anxiety in adult Syrian refugees resettling in Middle East and the United States (US), where we found a high prevalence of possible depression (32.2%), anxiety (40.3%), and PTSD (47.7%) in adult Syrian refugees soon after arrival (A. Javanbakht et al.).

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Emergencies

POLIO

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)

Polio this week as of 28 February 2018 [GPEI]

:: 23 February marked 64 years since the first large-scale trial of inactivated polio vaccine (IPV). Developed by Joseph Salk, IPV was found to be safe and effective, and is now part of routine vaccination programmes worldwide. Each year, it confers lifelong protection against polio to millions of young children.

:: Learn more about IPV by watching our brand new animation on the [two polio vaccines](#), available in English, [French](#), and [Arabic](#).

:: Summary of newly-reported viruses this week:

Afghanistan: Three new wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) positive environmental samples have been reported in Nangarhar province.

Pakistan: Four new WPV1 positive environmental samples have been reported, two collected in Sindh province, one in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, and one in Balochistan province.

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Syria cVDPV2 outbreak situation report 36, 27 February 2018

Situation update 27 February 2018

[Editor' text bolding]

:: No new cases of cVDPV2 were reported this week. The total number of cVDPV2 cases remains 74. The most recent case (by date of onset of paralysis) is 21 September 2017 from Boukamal district, Deir Ez-Zor governorate.

:: An inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) immunization round continues in accessible areas of Aleppo utilizing mobile and fixed teams. To date the round has reached a total of 233,518 children aged 2-23 months, representing 71% of the estimated target, in Damascus, Hasakah, parts of Aleppo governorates, and Jurmana district of rural Damascus.

:: All empty vials of monovalent Oral Polio Vaccine type 2 (mOPV2) have been collected and destroyed in Damascus.

:: Preparations are ongoing for a nationwide immunization round utilizing bivalent OPV (bOPV), which is planned for March. The campaign will target all children aged less than 5 years.

:: An independent external surveillance review has concluded in Iraq. The Ministry of Health Iraq has accepted a key recommendation to revitalize the AFP surveillance system in conflict affected northern governorates bordering Syria.

:: The Global Certification Commission for Polio Eradication in its 17th meeting in Geneva acknowledged the dedication of frontline health workers and their efforts to help control the cVDPV2 outbreak in Syria, noting innovative operational strategies used to overcome challenges in the field to reach all children and to ensure adequate specimen transportation.

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WHO Grade 3 Emergencies [to 3 March 2018]

The Syrian Arab Republic

:: [Syria cVDPV2 outbreak situation report 36, 27 February 2018](#)

[See Polio above for detail]

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 3 March 2018]

Bangladesh/Myanmar: Rakhine Conflict 2017

:: 28 February 2018 Rohingya crisis: KS Relief gives US\$2 million to strengthen Sadar District Hospital in Cox's Bazar

SEAR/PR/1681

Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh,: The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre announced a US\$2 million grant to the World Health Organization for upgrading the Sadar District Hospital in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, to enhance health care services for Rohingyas and their host communities.

WHO leads and coordinates the efforts of over 100 partners managing more than 270 health facilities, while also providing medicines and medical equipment, diagnostics, guidelines and trainings and building laboratory capacity. The existing facilities in and around Cox's Bazar have reported a 150-200% increase in patients, overwhelming current capacity and resources.

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.

Syrian Arab Republic

:: 2 Mar 2018 Geneva Palais Briefing: Children in Syria

Yemen

:: 30 Jan 2018 Statement by the Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen Ad Interim, Stephen Anderson, on the Situation in Aden [EN/AR]

:: 27 Feb 2018 Yemen Humanitarian Update Covering 19 - 25 February 2018 [EN/AR]

DRC - *No new announcements identified.*

Iraq - *No new announcements identified.*

:::::

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

:: 27 Feb 2018 Ethiopia Humanitarian Bulletin Issue 47 | 12 – 25 February 2018

Nigeria

:: UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria Condemns Killing of Three Aid workers in North-east

Abuja, 2 March 2018 – The Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Edward Kallon, has condemned the killing of three aid workers in Rann town in Borno State, north-east Nigeria last night following an attack by a Non-State Armed Group on the military facilities next to the town. Three aid workers were also injured in the attack, and a female nurse is missing, feared abducted.

“Aid workers put their lives on the line every single day to provide emergency assistance to vulnerable women, children and men,” said Mr Kallon. “Our deepest condolences go to the families of the victims and our brave colleagues and we call on authorities to ensure the perpetrators are brought to justice and account.”..

Rohingya 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 3 March 2018]

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

2 March 2018

SG/SM/18921-OBV/1773-WOM/2129

28 February 2018

SG/SM/18919-PKO/709

Condemning Deadly Attacks on Peacekeepers, Armed Forces in Mali, Secretary-General Says 'Cowardly Acts' Will Not Deter Mission's Support for Civilian Protection

2 March 2018

SG/SM/18920

Condemning Killing of Relief Workers, National Security Forces in Borno, Nigeria, Secretary-General Says All Aid Deliveries to Area Have Been Suspended Temporarily

28 February 2018

SG/SM/18919-PKO/709

Condemning Deadly Attacks on Peacekeepers, Armed Forces in Mali, Secretary-General Says 'Cowardly Acts' Will Not Deter Mission's Support for Civilian Protection

28 February 2018

SC/13231

Political, Humanitarian Chiefs Demand Urgent Aid Access, Civilian Protection in Syria, Decrying Chlorine Gas Attack Claims Days after Cessation of Hostilities

Despite the Security Council's united call just days ago for a ceasefire in Syria, deadly fighting continued, throwing the body's credibility into question, members heard today as United Nations political and humanitarian chiefs provided updates on the dismal situation on the ground.

27 February 2018

SC/13228

Briefing Security Council on Mission in South Sudan, Assistant Secretary-General Voices Concern over Politicization of Civilian Protection Sites

Briefing the Security Council today on the outcome of a recently completed review of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), officials voiced concern over such challenges as the politicization of the peacekeeping operation's protection of civilian sites, urging the 15-member organ to consider those elements in the upcoming renewal of — and possible adjustments to — its mandate on the ground.

26 February 2018

SC/13225

Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2402 (2018), Security Council Renews Sanctions against Yemen, Rejects Alternate Draft after Veto by Russian Federation

The Security Council today unanimously decided to renew a travel ban, assets freeze and arms embargo against those threatening peace and security in Yemen, rejecting an alternate draft, vetoed by the Russian Federation, that would have spotlighted specific non-compliance by Iran identified by the expert panel mandated to monitor those measures.

UN OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 3 March 2018]
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/media.aspx?IsMediaPage=true>

Selected Press Releases – "TOP NEWS"

[Urgent Debate on situation in Eastern Ghouta](#)

[UN expert: State and religion best served by maintaining "respectful distance"](#)

[Senior UN Human Rights Official to visit Cox's Bazar](#)

[Israel: UN experts urge immediate halt of plans to deport Eritrean and Sudanese nationals](#)

[UN torture prevention body to visit Uruguay](#)

[UN human rights expert to visit Cambodia from 5-14 March](#)

[Migration policies can amount to ill-treatment and torture, UN rights expert warns](#)

[Press briefing notes on funding](#)

Human Rights Council [to 3 March 2018]

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

02/03/2018

[Human Rights Council holds urgent debate on the situation in Syria's Eastern Ghouta](#)

[Human Rights Council starts interactive dialogue on transitional justice and on the prevention of genocide](#)

01/03/2018

[Human Rights Council discusses the protection of human rights while countering terrorism, and cultural rights](#)

[Human Rights Council holds interactive dialogue on human rights defenders and on torture](#)

[Human Rights Council concludes clustered interactive dialogue on adequate housing and foreign debt](#)

28/02/2018

[Council holds panel on anniversaries of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action](#)

[Human Rights Council begins clustered interactive dialogue on adequate housing and foreign debt](#)

[Human Rights Council concludes its high-level segment](#)

Committee on the Rights of the Child [to 3 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 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

SRSG/CAAC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict [to 3 March 2018]

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

01 Mar 2018

[SRSG for Children and Armed Conflict Calls on All Parties to Conflict to Strengthen Efforts to Protect Children in Sudan](#)

Khartoum, 1 March 2018 –The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Children and Armed Conflict expressed her satisfaction at the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict signed in March 2016 by the Government of Sudan, but noted that more needs to be done to ensure that all children in Sudan are and continue to be protected from violence..

Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health [to 3 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 3 March 2018]

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

27 Feb 2018

[Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict Ms. Pramila Patten Concludes Visit to Sudan and Calls for End to Culture of Denial for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence](#)

At the invitation of the Government of Sudan, I visited Sudan from 18 to 25 February 2018. The objective of the visit was to gain first-hand knowledge of the situation, assess the challenges of addressing conflict-related sexual violence in Sudan, and establish constructive dialogue with national authorities in this regard. It marked the first time that any Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sexual Violence in Conflict had visited the country since the office was established by Security Council resolution 1888 (2009)...

As an outcome of my visit, it is my expectation that the Government of Sudan will agree to adopt a Joint Communiqué between the United Nations and the Government of Sudan. The Joint Communiqué will reflect the Government's commitment to address conflict-related sexual violence, and provide a framework for United Nations support to be provided through my office (including the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law/Sexual Violence and the inter-agency network United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict); the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID); and the United Nations Country Team in Sudan. It will also serve as a basis for mobilizing the necessary resources for such support. I have proposed that the Joint Communiqué focus on five priority areas: survivors' access to medical, psychosocial, legal and socioeconomic services; monitoring, analysis, documentation and information sharing on sexual violence; rule of law responses to conflict-related sexual violence; engagement with the security sector; and engagement with religious leaders and civil society. I have also proposed to deploy a United Nations technical team to Sudan to undertake a needs assessment and develop a plan to implement the Joint Communiqué...

UN OCHA [to 3 March 2018]

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

Selected Press Releases

1 March 2018

[Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ursula Mueller, Remarks at The Mobile Future of Humanitarian Crises at the Mobile World Congress, 1 March 2018](#)

28 February 2018

[Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock: Briefing to the Security Council on Syria \(28 February 2018\)](#)

[GPP Partner Agencies: Update on Activities – February 28, 2018](#)

[Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ursula Mueller, Remarks at Conference on the humanitarian crisis in eastern Ukraine and the way forward, 28 February 2018](#)

[Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ursula Mueller, Statement to the media at the Conference on the Humanitarian Situation in Eastern Ukraine and the Way Forward, 28 February 2018](#)

[Four years of conflict in Ukraine leave 4.4 million people in dire humanitarian situation \[EN/UK\]](#)

[Myanmar Humanitarian News Digest - February 2018](#)

27 February 2018

[Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator calls for urgent funding to assist the most vulnerable people in Chad](#)

[On behalf of Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Mark Lowcock, UNOCHA Officer-in-Charge, Director of Operations and Advocacy, Mr. John Ging, Statement to the Security Council](#)

[UN calls for urgent protection for Tawergha internally displaced](#)

26 February 2018

[Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator calls for stepped-up assistance to Cameroon amid growing insecurity in Lake Chad Basin](#)

UNICEF [to 3 March 2018]

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

2 March 2018

[**Statement on the attack against humanitarian workers in northeast Nigeria**](#)

DAKAR, 2 March 2018 - "UNICEF is shocked by the attack on 1 March in Rann, Borno State, in which three aid workers lost their lives, three were injured and one is reportedly missing.

[**Geneva Palais briefing note: Children in Syria**](#)

GENEVA, 2 March 2018 - This is a summary of what was said by Geert Cappelaere, UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa – to whom quoted text may be attributed – at today's press briefing at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

[**Message from UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore to staff about ending sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment**](#)

NEW YORK, 28 February 2018 - The last week has given us an opportunity to have frank discussions about how we live up to UNICEF's core values like care, respect, equality and trust. These values animate everything our staff members do in communities around the world in support of the world's children.

[**Nearly 19 million newborns at risk of brain damage every year due to iodine deficiency**](#)

NEW YORK, 1 March 2018 – Nearly 19 million babies born globally every year – 14 per cent – are at risk of permanent yet preventable brain damage and reduced cognitive function due to a lack of iodine in the earliest years of life, according to a new joint report by UNICEF and GAIN released today. More than 1 in 4 of these children – 4.3 million – lives in South Asia.

[**Statement on attack against humanitarian workers in the Central African Republic**](#)

DAKAR, 28 February 2018 - "All of us at UNICEF are deeply saddened and shocked by the killing of our colleague, along with five other education workers, who were attacked on February 25 while travelling in the northwestern region of the Central African Republic, near Markounda, a remote area near the Chadian border.

[**Nearly two-thirds of the population in South Sudan at risk of rising hunger**](#)

JUBA, 26 February 2018 – More than 7 million people in South Sudan – almost two-thirds of the population – could become severely food insecure in the coming months without sustained humanitarian assistance and access, three United Nations agencies warned today.

[**85 per cent of Syrian children in host communities in Jordan live in poverty - UNICEF**](#)

AMMAN, 25 February 2018 – Syrian refugee families living in host communities in Jordan are

increasingly struggling to meet their basic needs, including educating and protecting their children, UNICEF said today. 85 per cent of registered Syrian refugee children are living below the poverty line, according to UNICEF's latest assessment.

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [to 3 March 2018]

<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/media-centre.html>

Briefing Notes

Uganda starts biometric verification of refugees

2 Mar 2018

NHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is supporting the Government of Uganda with its launch of a countrywide biometric data verification to fix any discrepancies in refugee data.

The massive exercise started yesterday (Thursday 1 March) in the Oruchinga refugee settlement in Uganda's South-West region, home to thousands of Congolese refugees, before being rolled out across the country. UNHCR, working with partners, will be expanding the biometric verification exercise, deploying more than 400 additional staff, to over 30 locations covering more than 800 kilometers.

The data verification exercise is scheduled to be completed by September 2018 – including introduction of biometric checks at 180 food distribution sites.

UNHCR is providing necessary technical equipment and has also made available our biometric registration software, which has already been used to register some 4.4 million refugees in 48 countries across the globe..

IOM / International Organization for Migration [to 3 March 2018]

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

Selected Announcements

UN Migration Agency Deplores Attack in Nigeria That Has Taken the Lives of Two Colleagues

2018-03-02 18:44

Geneva - IOM, the United Nations Migration agency, has learned that yesterday (1 March) at about 1710 hours local time, a large number of Boko Haram members armed with automatic weapons, rocket propelled grenades and gun trucks attacked the military base in Rann, in Borno State...

Japan to Deepen Assistance to Areas of Return in Iraq: IOM

2018-03-02 17:00

Iraq – As the pace of return of displaced Iraqis to areas of origin has accelerated in recent months, the Government of Japan is supporting IOM, the UN Migration Agency, with new funds to stabilize conflict-affected communities in Iraq and support the sustainable reintegration...

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Reach 10,243 in 2018; Deaths Reach 418

2018-03-02 16:52

Geneva – IOM, the UN Migration Agency, reports that 10,243 migrants and refugees have entered Europe by sea through the first two months of 2018, with just over 50 per cent arriving in Italy and the remainder divided almost evenly between Greece and Spain.

IOM Launches Project to Mainstream Migration-Related Goals into National Development Plans

2018-03-02 16:42

Accra – IOM, the UN Migration Agency, this week (26/02) officially launched a two-year project Integrating Migration into National Development Plans: Towards Policy Coherence and the Achievement of SDGs at National and Global Levels, funded by the United Nations Department of...

Rohingya Refugee Camps Brace for Upcoming Monsoon

2018-02-27 15:33

Cox's Bazar – As Bangladesh's annual wet season approaches, IOM is working to secure infrastructure and boost resilience among Rohingya refugees and the loca

UNAIDS [to 3 March 2018]

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

27 February 2018

Five-point plan to prevent and address all forms of harassment for greater accountability and transparency within UNAIDS

27 February 2018

A call for an HIV catch-up plan for the First Nations in Canada

26 February 2018

Partnership connects African law schools to the AIDS response

WHO & Regional Offices [to 3 March 2018]

Highlights

Eradicating dracunculiasis: WHO certifies Kenya as South Sudan and Mali continue to report zero human cases

March 2018 – WHO has certified Kenya free of dracunculiasis transmission following the recommendation of the International Commission for the Certification of Dracunculiasis Eradication (ICCDE). During its 12th meeting held at WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland the ICCDE reviewed the report of an International Certification Team that visited Kenya in October 2017 to assess the country's claim of having eliminated the disease.

Nigeria battles its largest Lassa fever outbreak on record

February 2018 – Nigeria's Lassa fever outbreak has reached record highs with 317 laboratory confirmed cases, according to figures released by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) this week.

Statement for Rare Disease Day

February 2018 – The vision of the Sustainable Development Goals is a world in which no one is left behind, including people who suffer from rare diseases. Just because a disease affects a small number of people does not make it irrelevant or less important than diseases that affect millions.

Innovative approach sheds light on prevalence of STIs and bacterial vaginosis among women in sub-Saharan Africa

February 2018 – Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and bacterial vaginosis (BV), a common infection of the vagina, are widespread globally. These conditions have important health consequences, including genital symptoms, pregnancy complications, infertility, enhanced HIV transmission, and psychosocial effects.

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WHO Regional Offices

Selected Press Releases, Announcements

WHO African Region AFRO

Selected Featured News

:: [WHO supports Government of Uganda to respond to the Cholera Outbreak among Refugees](#)

28 February 2018

:: [WHO supports response to the suspected meningitis outbreak in Torit County, South Sudan](#)

28 February 2018

:: [Nigeria battles its largest Lassa fever outbreak on record](#) 28 February 2018

:: [WHO recognizes national efforts towards Malaria elimination](#) 26 February 2018

WHO Region of the Americas PAHO

:: [Latin America and the Caribbean have the second highest adolescent pregnancy rates in the world](#) (02/28/2018)

WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO

No new digest content identified.

WHO European Region EURO

:: [Recommendations for the composition of next season's influenza vaccine released](#) 02-03-2018

:: [Denmark campaign rebuilds confidence in HPV vaccination](#) 02-03-2018

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO

:: [Nursing Now campaign: empowering nurses to improve global health](#) 27 February 2018

WHO Western Pacific Region

:: [WHO issues recommendations to tackle health impacts of air pollution in Mongolia](#) 28 February 2018

:: [Working together to protect health after Cyclone Gita](#) 26 February 2018

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) [to 3 March 2018]

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

22/01/18

Agriculture Ministers support OIE commitment to shape the future of livestock

Last Saturday, the 69 Ministers' delegations participating in the 10th Global Forum for Food and Agriculture handed over a document with calls for action to the Directors general of the OIE and FAO in order to shape the future of a more sustainable, responsible and efficient livestock production.

22 January 2018, Paris - The Global Forum for Food and Agriculture ended on Saturday 20 January 2018, in Berlin, Germany. At this occasion, the 69 Ministers of Agriculture participating in the Ministers' conference handed over to Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Director General, and Mr. José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director General, a Communiqué listing actions to be implemented to shape the future of livestock.

The need to improve animal health and welfare was clearly stated, with four principal areas of work, namely: disease prevention and control, animal welfare management, fight against antimicrobial resistance, as well as capacity building.

[Read the full communiqué: "Shaping the future of livestock – sustainably, responsibly, efficiently"](#)

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

UNDP United Nations Development Programme [to 3 March 2018]

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

Selected Press Releases/Announcements

Posted on March 1, 2018

[International Women's Day](#)

"The Time is Now: Rural and Urban Activists Transforming Women's Lives"

Posted on February 28, 2018

["Fourth Global Forum Business For Gender Equality" ends with Call to Action of Chile](#)

More than 500 people from 38 countries committed themselves to the "Call to Action of Chile", wrapping up the two-day 4th Forum Global Business for Gender Equality: The future of work in the 2030...

Posted on February 28, 2018

[Over \\$80 million approved for climate initiatives in three countries](#)

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) approved three new climate change adaptation project proposals developed through interagency partnerships led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in its...

Posted on February 27, 2018

[Over 450 business leaders and government delegates commit to boost women's roles in companies](#)

Over 450 CEOs, government leaders and gender, labour and development experts from 25 countries kicked off the two-day IV Global Forum Business for Gender Equality today in Santiago, Chile, committing...

UN Division for Sustainable Development [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) [to 3 March 2018]

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

March 2, 2018

[SDG Center for Latin America and the Caribbean to be launched at Universidad de los Andes in partnership with SDSN](#)

Bogota, 2 March 2018: Universidad de los Andes (Uniandes) and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) are jointly developing an SDG Center for Latin America and the Caribbean, to be housed at Uniandes in Bogotá. The SDG Center LAC, established with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Santo Domingo family, will [...]

February 27, 2018

[Mapping Renewables to the Sustainable Development Goals](#)

The renewable energy industry is instrumental to the success of the SDGs; however, renewable energy projects have at times displaced indigenous populations and violated best practices around free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC), undermining the achievement of the SDGs. A new project from the Thematic Network on Good Governance of Extractive and Land Resources aims to map the many points of intersection between the renewable energy industry and the SDGs, and help companies support SDG achievement.

UN Statistical Commission :: UN Statistics Division [to 3 March 2018]

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

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

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

Latest News

Seventh meeting of the IAEG-SDGs

The seventh meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) will be held from 9 to 12 April 2018 in Vienna, Austria. The meeting will be hosted by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme [to 3 March 2018]

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

03 Mar 2018 *Press release*

Wild Life, Wild Livelihoods: involving communities in sustainable wildlife management

New research shows that involving local people is critical to successful conservation.

02 Mar 2018 *Press release*

Bahrain steps up to save our oceans by joining #CleanSeas

Manama, 28 Feb 2018 – Bahrain is taking a bold stand against marine litter and for the health of our oceans by joining some 40 other nations in becoming a member of the CleanSeas Campaign, pledging to keep our oceans healthy...

28 Feb 2018 *Press release*

Call for Applications for the 2018 SEED Low Carbon Awards

SEED is looking for the most promising, innovative and locally led start-up eco-inclusive enterprises making significant contributions to mitigating and/or adapting to climate change.

UNISDR UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 3 March 2018]

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

1 Mar 2018

UN launches effort to collect data on disaster losses

Today marks a major milestone in the implementation of the global plan to reduce disaster losses, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, with the launch of the Sendai Monitor which allows UN Member States to commence reporting on their progress in reducing disaster losses and increased efforts to manage disaster risk.

28 Feb 2018

Drought and flood risk profiles to be developed for 16 countries in Africa

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction has engaged CIMA Research Foundation to generate risk profiles on flood and drought in 16 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The countries that will be involved in the risk assessment are: Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau,

Rwanda, Swaziland, Tanzania, Ivory Coast, Botswana, Zambia, Namibia, Gambia, Gabon, Cameroon, Ghana, Sao Tome and Principe, and Kenya.

UN DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 3 March 2018]

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

2 March 2018, New York

The power of data to improve our lives

Statistics, numbers, figures – they tell the story of our lives. How well we live, and how well we take care of ourselves, each other and the environment. Through data, for example, we know how healthy people are, how many people live in poverty worldwide, how many children are not able to go to school, and where we stand on gender equality and our efforts to combat climate change.

Having all the needed data is critical for the international community to properly evaluate the current state of the world and to determine how best to move forward, improving peoples' lives. As UN Secretary-General António Guterres recently put it, "accurate data is the lifeblood of good policy and decision-making."

As nations across the globe strive to fulfill their commitment to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the availability, timeliness and accuracy of data is more important than ever. Only with high-quality data can we formulate the policies to bring the necessary change, and know if we are on the right track and if we are progressing fast enough to meet our goals by 2030.

232 global indicators help us track SDGs progress

UNESCO [to 3 March 2018]

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

02 March 2018

[Qatar Fund for Development boosts UNESCO's Heritage Emergency Fund with US \\$2 million contribution](#)

[See Week in Review above for full text]

28 February 2018

[One in every five children, adolescents and youth is out of school worldwide](#)

27 February 2018

[Fulfilling our collective responsibility: Financing global public goods in education - policy paper](#)

[See Week in Review above for more detail]

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 3 March 2018]

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

02/03/2018 - [Message of United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, on World Wildlife Day](#)

28/02/2018 - [Statement of UNODC Executive Director, Yury Fedotov, on World Wildlife Day](#)

26/02/2018 - [Sahel: Governments achieve positive results with UN Support](#)

UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme [to 3 March 2018]

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

Posted March 1, 2018

UN-Habitat and Government of Kenya enter partnership to Empower Urban Youth Economically

NAIROBI, 1 March 2018 – UN-Habitat and the Youth Enterprise Development Fund have signed a Memorandum of Understanding initiating a partnership that will support economic empowerment of youth for sustainable urbanization. By providing entrepreneurial training, building and...

UN-Habitat and LIXL Corporation Delivering Sustainable Solutions for Refugees and Host Communities

Nairobi, 28 Feb 2018 – With support from the Government of Japan, UN-Habitat has partnered with UNHCR and the Turkana County Government in Kenya to implement an integrated spatial development framework which promotes climate resilient infrastructure for...

Posted February 28, 2018

Ms. Sharif sees UN Joint Fund boosting cities' empowerment

New York 27 January 2018—UN-Habitat Executive Director Ms. Maimunah Mohamed Sharif believes that there was a great value in the United Nation's Joint Fund in empowering cities. "UN-Habitat sees great value in the Joint Fund's ability to...

Posted February 27, 2018

Afghanistan launches an Innovative Land Management Initiative:

Occupancy Certificates for Residents of Informal Urban Areas Herat, 26 February 2018: The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has officially launched the issuance of land occupancy certificates (OCs) for residents of informal urban areas. In a...

Posted February 26, 2018

FAO Food & Agriculture Organization [to 3 March 2018]

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

1-03-2018

Dairy and cereals push food prices up in February

Rising world prices for staple grains and dairy products more than offset lower prices for vegetable oils, leading global food commodity prices up in February. The FAO Food Price Index averaged 170.8 points in February, up 1.1 percent from the previous month and now just 2.7 percent below its year-ago level.

Green Climate Fund approves first FAO funding proposal, a \$90 million project to combat climate change, hunger and poverty in Paraguay

The project, "Poverty, Reforestation, Energy and Climate Change (Pobreza, Reforestación, Energía y Cambio Climático - PROEZA)" consists of three components to be implemented over five years. Funding will stem from a \$25 million GCF grant and \$ 65.2 million of co-financing from the Government of Paraguay.

27-02-2018

Dry weather conditions and high temperatures likely to reduce harvests in Southern Africa

Reduced harvests in Southern Africa are "foreseen to intensify food insecurity in 2018, increasing the number of people in need of assistance," according to a new special Alert issued by FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS).

27-02-2018

AgriCord and FAO join forces to enhance support to farmers' organizations

FAO and AgriCord, a global alliance of agri-agencies mandated by farmers' organizations, are joining efforts to facilitate the engagement of family and smallholder farmers in decision making and policy dialogue, increase their institutional and organizational capacities and improve their access to markets and finance.

27-02-2018

Nearly two-thirds of the population in South Sudan at risk of rising hunger

More than 7 million people in South Sudan – almost two-thirds of the population – could become severely food insecure in the coming months without sustained humanitarian assistance and access, three United Nations agencies warned today.

26-02-2018

To better tackle humanitarian crises, combine relief assistance with development actions

The international community needs to intervene more swiftly in humanitarian crises in ways that are also designed to support affected farmers, pastoralists, fishers and other food producers, FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva has told an international conference in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

26-02-2018

ILO International Labour Organization [to 3 March 2018]

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

Blog

Why financial services matter in the fight against climate change

28 February 2018

As extreme weather events increase in intensity and frequency, building up the resilience of the poorest communities – often the most exposed to climate change – is critical. And financial services have a role to play.

International Women's Day

ILO to launch WESO Trends for Women 2018 – Global Snapshot

27 February 2018

Blog

Skills and the Future of Work

26 February 2018

With the world of work facing transformative changes, investments in skills' development and training are becoming more important than ever.

Media advisory

ILO to launch "Global Online Access to Legal Information"

26 February 2018

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

IMO International Maritime Organization [to 3 March 2018]
<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/Home.aspx>
No new digest content identified.

WMO World Meteorological Organization [to 3 March 2018]
<https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release>
No new digest content identified.

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 3 March 2018]
<http://www.unido.org/news-centre/news.html>
No new digest content identified.

International Organization for Standardization (ISO) [to 3 March 2018]
https://www.iso.org/news_archive/x/

By Barnaby Lewis on 1 March 2018

ISO/IEC 27000 – key International Standard for information security revised

2018 may only have just begun, but it looks like a big year for information security. With questions being raised about the security of micro-processors, and major cyber security initiatives such as the EU's General Data Protection Regulation brought into effect this year, a new edition of ISO/IEC 27000...

By Sandrine Tranchard on 15 February 2018

The new ISO 31000 keeps risk management simple

Damage to reputation or brand, cyber crime, political risk and terrorism are some of the risks that private and public organizations of all types and sizes around the world must face with increasing frequency. The latest version of ISO 31000 has just been unveiled to help manage the uncertainty.

UNWTO World Tourism Organization [to 3 March 2018]

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

2 March 2018

Credible Sustainable Tourism Measurement for Improved Decision-Making

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is spearheading the progress towards a consistent and coherent statistical approach to measuring sustainable tourism. The increasing relevance for expanding tourism statistics beyond the current economic focus to includesocial and environmental aspects was at the centre of the 18th Committee on Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account meeting at UNWTO (27-28 February).

28 February 2018

UNWTO Deepens Tourism Cooperation with the European Union

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity [to 3 March 2018]

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

2018-03-03

Message of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Dr. Cristiana Pașca Palmer, on the occasion of World Wildlife Day, 3 March 2018

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USAID [to 3 March 2018]

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

Selected Press Releases

USAID Administrator Mark Green's Remarks at the Fourth Annual Powering Africa Summit

March 1, 2018

Remarks

This morning we're all talking about expanding access to affordable, reliable energy in Africa. Perhaps no continent and no sector is better positioned to leverage the combination of technological innovation and enterprise-driven development and what it can do to lift lives and build communities. And I'm confident that Power Africa is where these forces come together.

Statement by USAID Administrator Mark Green on the Retirement of Assistant to the Administrator Wade Warren

February 28, 2018

I congratulate Wade Warren on his outstanding 27 years of service to USAID. Wade's professionalism and insight have left an indelible mark on this Agency. I am particularly grateful to Wade for his leadership as Acting Administrator during the transition, and for his guidance, as Acting Deputy Administrator, during my first months on the job.

DFID [to 3 March 2018]

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

Selected Press Releases

Technology is helping to transform the way the UK delivers aid abroad

26 February 2018 DFID Press release

Entrepreneurs will explore how to use mobile technology to help tackle humanitarian challenges around the world.

Entrepreneurs will explore how to use mobile technology, such as smartphones that give access to affordable and safe energy, to help tackle humanitarian challenges around the world, the International Development Secretary announced ahead of Mobile World Congress this week.

DFID is joining forces with leading mobile technology trade body the GSMA to launch Mobile for Humanitarian Innovation, a programme bringing the mobile industry and humanitarian community together to improve how we prepare and respond to emergency situations...

ECHO [to 3 March 2018]

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

28/02/2018

Crisis in eastern Ukraine: the EU announces €24 million for ongoing humanitarian needs

Nearly four and a half million people have been caught up in the conflict in eastern Ukraine. Today the European Commission announced €24 million in humanitarian assistance to address the basic needs of those most badly affected by the crisis on...

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African Union [to 3 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 3 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 Regional Mine Action Centre signs agreement with Cambodia

JAKARTA, 2 March 2018 – The ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) signed an agreement with the government of Cambodia on hosting and granting privileges and immunities to the former on 27 February at ARMAC headquarter in Phnom Penh. The signing was done by Prak Sokhonn, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation [...]

European Commission [to 3 March 2018]

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

02/03/2018 -

Statement by Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides on the killing of aid workers in Nigeria

European Commission - Statement Brussels, 2 March 2018 An attack in north east Nigeria has resulted in many casualties, with humanitarian aid workers among the victims. This senseless violence is a grave violation of all humanitarian principles.

EU announces €24 million to address the humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 28 February 2018 The European Commission has announced today €24 million in humanitarian assistance to address the needs of conflict-affected people in eastern Ukraine. The funding comes as the European Commission and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs are organising...

The European Union and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) reaffirm strong commitment to serving Palestine refugees

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 27 February 2018 The European Union and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) are holding a Strategic Dialogue on the way forward for their partnership.

Delivering on commitments: new programmes to protect migrants and support return and reintegration in Africa worth €150 million adopted

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 26 February 2018 The European Union is adopting today three new programmes worth over €150 million under the European Union

Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, directly following up on the commitments made by the Joint African Union – European Union – United Nations Task...

OECD [to 3 March 2018]

<http://www.oecd.org/newsroom/publicationsdocuments/bydate/>

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

1-March-2018

OECD highlights serious weaknesses in the fight against illicit trade

Inconsistent penalties, insufficient checks on small parcels, and a lack of information on shipments in free trade zones allow criminal networks to traffic billions of dollars worth of fake and prohibited goods each year. Today, the OECD introduced a new phase in its efforts to help governments counter these enforcement gaps and better protect consumers and businesses.

Organization of American States (OAS) [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) [to 3 March 2018]

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

03/03/2018

OIC SECRETARY GENERAL EXPRESSES OUTRAGE AT THE ATTACK ON HUMANITARIAN AID WORKERS IN NIGERIA

The Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Dr. Yousef A. Al-Othaimeen has strongly condemned the massive attack on 1 March 2018 by Boko Haram terrorist group on the camp of displaced persons in Rann located in Borno State, Northeast Nigeria in which three humanitarian aid workers were killed, one critically injured and three others missing. The attack also claimed the lives of eight Nigerian security personnel. The tragic incident has led to suspension of all humanitarian activities in the area.

01/03/2018

OIC Delegation visits Southern Thailand to assess situation of Muslim communities

A delegation from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is visiting Southern Thailand in order to assess the efforts of the Government to improve the plight of Muslims in line with the implementation of OIC Council of Foreign Ministers' resolutions. The delegation comprises of Ambassadors and Representatives from Bahrain, Gambia, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Turkey and the General Secretariat.

27/02/2018

OIC Secretary-General to the Human Rights Council: 1.5 billion Muslims are waiting to accelerate the lifting of their suffering

The Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), His Excellency Dr. Yousef bin Ahmed Al-Othaimeen, addressed the high-level session of the 37th UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on 27/2/2018.

He stressed that more than 1.5 billion Muslims are waiting for the Council to speedily resolve a number of issues affecting the lives of millions of Muslims suffering from the most egregious violations of human rights.

He pointed out that the growing tide of racism in all its manifestations, such as xenophobia and Islamophobia, threatened to undermine the progress achieved over the past 70 years in the area of human rights and multiculturalism. Right-wing populist ideologies feed on each other imposing a new reality that establishes discriminatory and polarizing tendencies that may lead to outlaw violence God forbid.

The Secretary-General expressed the OIC's concern over the continued suffering of the Palestinian people. He urged the Human Rights Council to continue to play its role in dealing with the suffering of the Palestinian people living under the yoke of the worst and longest occupation of modern times, and condemning the culprit

Al-Othaimeen reiterated the OIC's call for a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute and the suffering of the Rohingya in Myanmar. He urged the Myanmar government to fully implement the Kofi Annan Committee recommendations and relevant UN resolutions and to guarantee the rights of its Rohingya residents, including their legitimate rights to nationality.

27/02/2018

The OIC condemns the measures taken by the Israeli occupation authorities against churches in the occupied city of Al-Quds

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) condemned the Israeli municipality's declaration that it imposed a tax on churches and their institutions and real estates in the occupied city of Al-Quds. It reiterated its rejection of such measures as part of the Municipality's ongoing attempts to alter the historical status of Christian and Islamic holy places.

26/02/2018

OIC SECRETARY GENERAL CONDEMNS THE ABDUCTION OF OVER A HUNDRED SCHOOL GIRLS IN NIGERIA

The Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Dr Yousef A. Al-Othaimeen has strongly condemned the abduction of over one hundred and ten school girls from the Government Girls Science and Technical College in Dapchi, Yobe State of Nigeria.

25/02/2018

OIC Welcomes UNSC Resolution 2401 on Humanitarian Truce in Syria

The General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) welcomed the United Nations Security Council's adoption of Resolution 2401 on 24 February 2018 calling for a 30-day humanitarian truce in Syria. Dr. Yousef bin Ahmed Al-Othaimeen, the OIC Secretary General, expressed his hope that the adoption of the resolution would constitute a turning point towards a peaceful and lasting solution to the Syrian crisis, based on Geneva 1 and the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy. Al-Othaimeen stressed the importance of translating resolution 2401 on the ground to stop the suffering of the Syrian people, especially in the Eastern Ghouta, which has been facing daily brutal attacks, killing dozens of innocent civilians and destroying residential areas.

Group of 77 [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

:::::

UNCTAD [to 3 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 3 March 2018]

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

02 March 2018

World Wildlife Day 2018 - A call to save the big cats: predators under threat!

Successful 9th Session of the Capacity Building Committee - "SMART Customs: The Gateway to High Performance and Sustainability"

27 February 2018

19th Meeting of the SAFE Working Group finalized the 2018 edition of the SAFE Framework of Standards

WTO - World Trade Organisation [to 3 March 2018]

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

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

Experts discuss how to measure services trade in the digital age

1 March 2018

Experts from the WTO Secretariat and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) met at WTO headquarters on 1 March to discuss how to better measure trade in services in the digital age. The event was the first in the "Simply Services" speaker series, an informal platform for sharing the latest information on trends in services trade.

DG Azevêdo stresses need for inclusiveness, transparency and flexibility in WTO talks

28 February 2018

In a speech delivered to the Graduate Institute in Geneva on 28 February, Director-General Roberto Azevêdo underlined the importance of WTO members taking inclusive, transparent and flexible approaches in all their discussions at the WTO and working to "creatively improve" the functioning of the organization.

WTO members broaden the discussion on IP, inclusive innovation and the public interest

27 February 2018

WTO members broadened the discussion on the role intellectual property (IP) plays as a driver for more inclusive innovation, and addressed the complex interplay between IP and the public interest. At the meeting of the Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) on 27 February, the Least-developed Countries (LDCs) Group put forward a paper asking developed members to fully implement their technology transfer requirements under WTO rules.

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IPU Inter-Parliamentary Union [to 3 March 2018]

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

2 March 2018

No change in overall average of women in parliaments despite increase in percentage of seats won by women in the 2017 parliamentary elections worldwide

The year 2017 saw some positive developments in women's participation in elections, according to the Women in Parliament in 2017: The year in review, released by the Inter-Parliamentary

Union (IPU) ahead of International Women's Day. However, in global terms, the number of women in national parliaments has only increased by 0.1 percentage point from 2016, from 23.3% to 23.4%.

27 February 2018

IPU concerned about latest attempt to undermine Venezuela's National Assembly

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is deeply concerned about the latest attempt to undermine Venezuela's National Assembly and urges the Venezuelan authorities to fully respect the Assembly's integrity. The IPU expresses grave concern about statements from high-ranking Venezuelan officials indicating that parliamentary elections might be organized on 22 April 2018, thereby effectively cutting short the term of the current National Assembly, which is due to expire in January 2021.

International Court of Justice [to 3 March 2018]

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

2 March 2018

Press release No. 2018/14

Judge Hisashi Owada will resign as a Member of the International Court of Justice with effect from 7 June 2018

International Criminal Court (ICC) [to 3 March 2018]

Trying individuals for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity

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

Press Release 27 February 2018

Argentina and ICC sign agreements on Interim Release and Release of Persons, reinforcing Argentina's commitment to accountability and fair trial

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World Bank [to 3 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]

As Conflicts Surge Around the World, New Approaches to Prevention Can Save Lives and Money - Up to US\$70 Billion Per Year

WASHINGTON, March 1, 2018 —Preventing violent conflict saves lives and money—up to US\$70 billion per year on average, according to a study published today by the World Bank and the United Nations. The...

Date: March 01, 2018 Type: Press Release

Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict

Violent conflicts today are complex and increasingly protracted, involving more non-state groups and regional and international actors. It is estimated that by 2030—the horizon set by the international...

Date: March 01, 2018 Type: Publication

A New World Bank Project to Benefit Over 25 Million Small and Marginal Farmers in Maharashtra, India

WASHINGTON, February 27, 2018 – The World Bank Board of Executive Directors today approved a US\$ 420 million project to increase climate resilience in agriculture for small and marginal farmers while...

Date: February 27, 2018 Type: Press Release

World Bank Group and GSMA Announce Partnership to Leverage IoT Big Data for Development

BARCELONA, February 26, 2018 – World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim announced today that the institution would partner with the GSMA and mobile network operators around the globe to harness big data...

Date: February 26, 2018 Type: Press Release

IMF [to 3 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]

No new digest content identified.

African Development Bank Group [to 3 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 supports Gabon's Optic Fiber Backbone Project

23/02/2018 - The African Development Bank and the Gabonese National Agency for Numerical Infrastructure and Frequency (ANINF) have signed agreements a feasibility study for the country's component of the Central African Backbone (CAB) project. The project is an integrated, innovative and transformative infrastructure which consist of completing the 901.8 km fiber optic connectivity to cover 14 missing links on the Gabonese national backbone.

Asian Development Bank [to 3 March 2018]

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

[We generally limit coverage to regional or Asia-wide initiatives, recognizing that a number of • • 28 February 2018

Women, Excluded Groups in Nepal Facing Barriers to Energy Access

Women, the poor, and different excluded groups face various structural barriers preventing them from benefiting fully from Nepal's energy sector, according to a new report from ADB.

23 February 2018

ADB, B.Grimm Power Expand Support for Renewable Energy in ASEAN

ADB today signed a loan equivalent of up to \$235 million with B.Grimm Power Public Company Limited, one of the largest power producers in Thailand, to develop and enhance renewable energy capacity in member countries of ASEAN.

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank [to 3 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]

Beijing, February 26, 2018

AIIB Invests to Help Bangladesh Address Power Shortages

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank's (AIIB) Board of Directors has approved a loan of up to USD60 million for a project that will increase power generation capacity in Bangladesh and help the country respond to power shortages.

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 3 March 2018]

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

28 Feb 2018

Transforming the lives of rural women and girls through media and information communication technologies

Rome – The three Rome-based agencies of the United Nations, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), are celebrating 2018 International Women's Day at IFAD headquarters in Rome, Italy on 8 March. This year's annual event will focus on how information communication technologies can empower rural women and girls to transform their lives, as a central element in the efforts to eliminate poverty and hunger, and build inclusive and sustainable rural societies....

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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 3 March 2018]

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

Posted on 12 February 2018

Action Against Hunger strongly condemns any inappropriate conduct of humanitarian aid workers, and have a policy of zero tolerance toward abuse of power, sexual exploitation, and unethical behaviour.

[See Week in Review for full text]

Amref Health Africa [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Aravind Eye Care System [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

BRAC [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

CARE International [to 3 March 2018]

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

1st Mar 2018 Syria

SHELLING PREVENTS AID FROM ENTERING EASTERN GHOUTA DESPITE UN RESOLUTION DEMANDING THAT HOSTILITIES STOP - AID GROUPS

Airstrikes and shelling on Eastern Ghouta have prevented humanitarian aid from entering the besieged enclave as well as medical evacuations

26th Feb 2018 South Sudan

Almost every second South Sudanese in need of food assistance

While humanitarian needs are exploding, aid flow drastically decreased / 1 million people risk starvation

Clubhouse International [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Danish Refugee Council [to 3 March 2018]

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

28.02.2018

Displaced Iraqis forced to return to destruction left in wake of war on ISIS

Displaced face desolation, reprisal and even death in home areas, others have no home to return to.

The majority of Iraqis currently displaced in Anbar by the war against the so-called Islamic State (IS) feel safer in camps than back home aid agencies warned today, amid moves by Iraqi authorities to return thousands of families to their places of origin, at times with fatal consequences.

“We need to prevent the cycle of displacement. While we understand that authorities, and often people, feel they need to return home and normalise their life again, we also know that unless it is done properly it does not amount to a durable solution and will lead to continued displacement and repercussions,’ according to the Danish Refugee Council’s (DRC) country director, Ian Dawes...

ECPAT [to 3 March 2018]

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

28.02.2018

The Sexual Exploitation of Children in Southeast Asia

ECPAT has released a new report that says outdated laws and weak legal enforcement are increasing the risk of the sexual exploitation of children across Southeast Asia.

Traditional elements of the sexual exploitation of children, such as child marriage and human trafficking continue to be an issue, says “The Sexual Exploitation of Children in Southeast Asia,” which explores the phenomena in 11 countries in the region. However, this has been aggravated in recent years by a low level of awareness about the issue, along with increased regional tourism and the proliferation of the internet

"The rapid growth in tourism exacerbates the sexual exploitation of children in the region," says the study. "Further exacerbating the situation has been the dramatic development in Internet and communications technologies, which have increased and diversified opportunities to sexually exploit children, or to profit from the sexual exploitation of children."...

Fountain House [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Humanity & Inclusion [nee Handicap International] [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Heifer International [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

HelpAge International [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

ICRC [to 3 March 2018]

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

Selected News Releases, Statements, Reports

Colombia: Victims must be at the centre of the public agenda

For the ICRC, the most critical humanitarian challenge currently facing the country is finding the people who have disappeared as a result of the armed conflict and violence. Bogotá (ICRC) – The challenges of implementing the Peace Agreement between t

01-03-2018 | News release

Two new members appointed to the Assembly of the ICRC

Geneva (ICRC) – The Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has appointed two new members, Edouard Bugnion and Katja Gentinetta. Mr Bugnion has been a professor in the School of Computer and Communication Sciences at the Swiss

01-03-2018 | News release

The laws of war are our shield against barbarity

The challenges we face today are sobering. We regularly see the heart-breaking results of widespread violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

26-02-2018 | Statement

IFRC [to 3 March 2018]

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

Asia Pacific, Papua New Guinea

IFRC releases emergency funds to help people affected by Papua New Guinea earthquake

Papua New Guinea/Kuala Lumpur, 1 March 2018 – The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has released 209,000 Swiss Francs (221,000 US Dollars) from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund to support the needs of 2,000 people ...

1 March 2018

Belarus, Belgium, Croatia, Europe, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Serbia, Spain, United Kingdom

Red Cross urges public to check on neighbours as plunging temperatures put the elderly and isolated in danger

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is calling on people to check on neighbours, relatives and friends who could be at risk as a deep freeze sweeps Europe.

27 February 2018

IRC International Rescue Committee [to 3 March 2018]

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

Selected Press Releases & Statements

Press Release

Shelling Prevents Aid From Entering Eastern Ghouta Despite UN Resolution Demanding that Hostilities Stop - Aid Groups

March 1, 2018

Press Release

Displaced Iraqis forced to return to destruction left in wake of war on ISIS

February 28, 2018

IRCT [to 3 March 2018]

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

News 01 Mar 2018

Volunteer your services to increase financial resources for rehabilitation

The IRCT is looking for experts to join a working group on resources for the torture rehabilitation movement

Islamic Relief [to 3 March 2018]

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

[Undated]

International organisations issue joint pledge on safeguarding

Islamic Relief has joined eight other international organisations in expressing grave concern about reported cases of sexual misconduct by staff of humanitarian aid agencies, and pledging to improve policies and processes to ensure better protection for vulnerable people.

[See Week in Review for full text]

Landsea [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Medecins du Monde [to 3 March 2018]
<http://www.medecinsdumonde.org/>
No new digest content identified.

MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières [to 3 March 2018]
<http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/news-stories/press/press-releases>
Press release

Nigeria: MSF Suspends Medical Activities in Rann Following Attack

GENEVA/NEW YORK, MARCH 2, 2018—Following a violent attack yesterday near Rann, in Nigeria's Borno state, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) suspended its medical activities in the town and evacuated 22 Nigerian and international staff.

It is still unclear how many people were killed and injured in the attack, but before leaving, MSF medical staff treated nine wounded patients.

Mercy Corps [to 3 March 2018]
<http://www.mercycorps.org/press-room/releases>
United States, March 1, 2018

Mercy Corps Reaffirms Gender Diversity and Inclusion, Safeguarding as Global Priorities

Statement from Neal Keny-Guyer, Chief Executive Officer

PORTLAND, ORE. - Mercy Corps strives to build a better world where everyone is treated with dignity and respect, free of harassment and bias. To that end, last spring we made it a global priority to strengthen our culture, policies and procedures related to gender diversity and inclusion and sexual misconduct in any form. This proactive self-audit and improvement initiative reflects Mercy Corps' firm commitment to an inclusive and safe workplace for our team members around the world...

Operation Smile [to 3 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 3 March 2018]
<http://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressreleases>
No new digest content identified.

Norwegian Refugee Council [to 3 March 2018]
<http://www.nrc.no/>
Published 02. Mar 2018
Cholera puts the lives of Congolese refugees at risk
Nashon Tado|

Violence has forced thousands of Congolese to seek safety in neighbouring Uganda, with overcrowded refugee camps there putting pressure on hygiene and sanitation facilities, increasing the risk of deadly cholera outbreaks.

Violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo) has forced nearly 44,000 people to cross Uganda's south-west border out of the country so far this year. This has put pressure on sanitation facilities in refugee settlements, and has led to deadly cholera outbreaks.

With hundreds of people arriving in Uganda every day, aid organisations are striving to prevent the disease from spreading across the settlements. Our teams work around the clock building hygiene and sanitation facilities to help alleviate and prevent the suffering of these displaced people...

Published 02. Mar 2018

The well-being in education

Leen Qashu|

In Jordan we work to support youth and children to overcome the traumatising events they have witnessed during the war in Syria.

As a part of our education and youth programme, teenage girls in Azraq refugee camp dressed up as Disney characters and arranged an open day for children at our youth centre...

Pact [to 3 March 2018]

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

February 20, 2018

No new digest content identified.

Partners In Health [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

PATH [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Plan International [to 3 March 2018]

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

1 March 2018

Nigeria kidnap girls must be released immediately

Plan International calls on the Nigerian government to redouble its efforts to secure the safe release of 110 schoolgirls reportedly kidnapped by Boko Haram in Nigeria's north-eastern Yobe state.

Save The Children [to 3 March 2018]

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

Selected Press Releases

Tuesday 27 February 2018

Save the Children warns of forgotten crisis in Ukraine, as conflict enters fifth year

(Brussels, 28 February 2018): More than half a million Ukrainian children are being forgotten by the world, Save the Children is warning ahead of a conference to try and raise attention to the crisis, being held in Brussels by the European Commission and the United Nations.

Tuesday 27 February 2018

Save the Children says proposed five-hour daily truce not good enough as new video emerges of aftermath of bombing in Eastern Ghouta

Partners of the aid agency in Syria say children remain stuck in makeshift shelters

Tuesday 27 February 2018

Leading milk formula companies spend £36 on marketing for every baby born worldwide – violating rules and threatening lives

New Save the Children analysis reveals six companies spend the equivalent of £36 on marketing for each baby born worldwide - amounting to £5 billion every year

Marketing activities of Nestlé, Danone, RB (Mead Johnson), Abbott, Kraft Heinz and FrieslandCampina routinely violate a World Health Organisation code set up to stop aggressive marketing to new mums

Monday 26 February 2018

Tens of thousands of children flee conflict in Democratic Republic of Congo in under two months

Around 26,000 children are among more than 42,000 people who have fled across the Ugandan border from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) since the first of January [1], seeking refuge from ongoing conflict.

Monday 26 February 2018

As EU Ministers Meet in Brussels, we demand they stand up for Rohingya children

SOS-Kinderdorf International [to 3 March 2018]

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

Syria – 1 March 2018

Jaramana Centre re-opens after brief closure

'The need to support children affected by the ongoing war is ever greater', says the facility's manager

The SOS Children's Villages Jaramana Drop-in Centre outside Damascus has re-opened after being briefly closed as a precaution due to the fighting in the nearby Eastern Ghouta district.

Somaliland – 27 February 2018

Fleeing drought, a family faces new challenges in a temporary home

SOS Children's Villages helps hundreds of at-risk families weather a region-wide emergency

Tostan [to 3 March 2018]

<http://www.tostan.org>

No new digest content identified.

Women for Women International [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

World Vision [to 3 March 2018]

<http://wvi.org/>

No new digest content identified.

:::::

Center for Media Ethics and Responsibility/CMFR [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Electronic Frontiers Foundation

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

No new digest content identified.

Freedom House [to 3 March 2018]

<https://freedomhouse.org/news>

Selected Press Releases, Statements, Research

Press Releases

Iran: UN Human Rights Council Should Investigate Deaths and Abuses of Detainees

March 1, 2018

Iran is detaining more than 4,000 protesters, hijab protesters, and members of minority groups.

China: As Term Limits End, More Authoritarianism Arrives

February 26, 2018

China's Communist Party abolishes constitutional limits on presidential terms, clearing the way for President Xi Jinping to lead indefinitely and ending U.S. hopes for liberal change in China.

Transparency International [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

:::::

ChildFund Alliance [to 3 March 2018]

<https://childfundalliance.org/>

March 01, 2018 / *Blog*

Former sponsored child speaks for her peers on global stage

It's been a busy few months for Ángeles, a former sponsored child from Paraguay. This past fall, she attended a violence-prevention meeting in Ottawa, hosted on behalf of the World Health Organization and the Government of Canada...

CONCORD [to 3 March 2018]

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

Feb 26, 2018

What future for EU-ACP agreement?

The Cotonou Partnership Agreement, the EU partnership with ACP countries (African – Caribbean and Pacific), will expire in 2020 and the official negotiations will start in August 2018. Read CONCORD's recommendations to put "People and Planet first" in the future EU-ACP agreement.

Disasters Emergency Committee [to 3 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 No new digest content identified.

The Elders [to 3 March 2018]

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

Press release 27 February 2018

[The Elders hold talks with Saudi Arabia's leaders on regional security](#)

On their first official visit to Saudi Arabia, The Elders welcomed domestic reforms, and urged meaningful dialogue with its neighbours to resolve regional security crises.

END Fund [to 3 March 2018]

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

Selected Press Releases and Major Announcements

No new digest content identified.

Evidence Aid [to 3 March 2018]

www.evidenceaid.org

No new digest content identified.

Gavi [to 3 March 2018]

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

02 March 2018

[Call for new ID technology to help immunise every child](#)

Apply before 10 April to grow your innovation with INFUSE.

Geneva, 2 March 2018 - Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance is calling for talented problem solvers, entrepreneurs and established corporations to help immunise the world's most vulnerable children. As part of its 2018 call, INFUSE (or, Innovation for Uptake, Scale and Equity in immunisation) - Gavi's innovation acceleration platform - is looking for new proven digital technology for registration and verification of identity to accelerate and improve immunisation coverage and delivery.

While more children than ever before are protected with life-saving vaccines, an estimated 1.5 million children still die annually from vaccine preventable diseases. To ensure that all children have access to immunisation we will require better insight into which children are missing out. A common challenge in many developing countries is that an increasing number of people live in communities not well served or under the radar, invisible to often outdated, paper-based methods used to certify births, deaths and marriages.

"One in three children under age five does not officially exist because their birth wasn't registered. This can have a lasting impact on children's lives, leaving them vulnerable to neglect and abuse. But most importantly, we cannot vaccinate the children who we do not know exist", said Gavi CEO Dr Seth Berkley.

"We need affordable, secure digital identification systems that can store a child's medical history, and that can be accessed even in places without reliable electricity", he added.

Do you have a proven solution which addresses this issue and is ready to scale-up at a national, regional or global level? Then we need you to be part of INFUSE 2018 and help us protect the world's most vulnerable children.

Global Fund [to 3 March 2018]

<http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/news/?topic=&type=NEWS;&country=>
No new digest content identified.

Hilton Prize Coalition [to 3 March 2018]

<http://prizecoalition.charity.org/>
An Alliance of Hilton Prize Recipients
No new digest content identified.

ICVA - International Council of Voluntary Agencies [to 3 March 2018]

<https://icvanetwork.org/>
No new digest content identified.

INEE – an international network for education in emergencies [to 3 March 2018]

<http://www.ineesite.org/en/news>
No new digest content identified.

InterAction [to 3 March 2018]

<http://www.interaction.org/>
Feb 28, 2018

InterAction and Humentum Announce New Partnership for Member Organization Benefits

Humentum and InterAction are pleased to announce that we have partnered with Vendor Centric to develop a new...

Start Network [to 3 March 2018]

http://www.start-network.org/news-blog/#.U9U_O7FR98E
28 Feb 18

Humanitarian Network and Partnerships Week

More than 30 Networks and Partnerships met to discuss key humanitarian issues
by Haben Habteslasie

The Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW) is an annual programme co-chaired by United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) and the UK's Department for International Development (DFID).

Since 2015, this event has been a forum, which brings together a large number of people from diverse groups, including the UN, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Member States, the Private Sector, the military, academia and others to meet and address key humanitarian issues. More than 30 Networks and Partnerships held their annual meetings during the week and an Inter-Network Day took place mid-week which offered opportunities to learn, exchange knowledge and network...

:::::

Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) [to 3 March 2018]

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

Research, reports and studies

26 February 2018

What does the Haiti Prostitution scandal tell us about accountability in the humanitarian sector?

Paul Knox Clarke is writing this blog in a personal capacity. He has asked us to point out that he worked as a consultant for Oxfam GB in the past, and that his wife works for Oxfam International.

CHS Alliance [to 3 March 2018]

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

01/03/2018

Coaching is all about enabling the person you work with to tell their story - Coffee with Sara Swords

Sara Swords, co-founder of Coaching Story, as a senior manager in the humanitarian and development sector, experienced firsthand the impact of pressure through the ongoing need to deliver results. She eventually became an expert on coaching and now works as a consultant. We caught up with Sara over a coffee to discuss the recently published coaching toolkit.

27/02/2018

Learn how to investigate complaints of staff misconduct, with a focus on sexual abuse and exploitation

In response to the current high demand for SEA investigations training, we have added an additional workshop to our programme for this year, which will take place in Geneva on 3-6 July.

26/02/2018

What do YOU think is the most important quality or competency a humanitarian worker should have?

Buke Dabasso is in charge of Integrated Community Case Management (ICCM) at Action Against Hunger in Kenya. On the occasion of the release of the Core Humanitarian Competency Framework (CHCF) and a set of accompanying tools, including ready-made training modules and a video clip, we had a chat with her and asked what competency she considers essential as a humanitarian worker.

Development Initiatives [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

EHLRA/R2HC [to 3 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 3 March 2018]
<http://www.sphereproject.org/news/>
No new digest content identified.

Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP) [to 3 March 2018]
<https://phap.org/>

No new digest content identified.

::::::

Center for Global Development [to 3 March 2018]

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

Publications

No new digest content identified.

ODI [to 3 March 2018]

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

Selected Press Releases

German court rules cities can ban diesel cars – ODI statement

Press release | 27 February 2018

A German court has ruled that two cities will be able to ban diesel cars in a bid to tackle pollution

Selected Research/Publications

Informality in urban crisis response

Working and discussion papers | March 2018 | John Twigg, Irina Mosel

Informal actors often play a large role in crisis response in urban areas but are ill-integrated into the humanitarian system. How can we change this?

The capacity of UN agencies, funds and programmes to sustain peace: an independent review

Research reports and studies | February 2018 | Sara Pantuliano, Victoria Metcalfe-Hough, Alastair McKechnie

This review considers the capacities of UN agencies, funds and programmes to enhance the wider UN system's efforts to sustain peace.

Urban Institute [to 3 March 2018]

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

Publications

Reforming the FHA's Foreclosure and Conveyance Processes

In this brief, the third in a series prepared by HFPC researchers with support from the mortgage servicing collaborative, the authors address how the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) foreclosure and conveyance processes can be changed to bring down costs and create efficiencies. With proprietary data provided by Collaborative members, we explore foreclosure related costs and processes for FHA-insured loans.

Karan Kaul, Laurie Goodman, Alanna McCargo, Todd M. Hill

February 28, 2018

Brief

Impacts of the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid Expansion on Women of Reproductive Age

We estimate the effects of the ACA Medicaid expansions on insurance coverage and access to care for low-income women of reproductive age using 2012-2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data and difference-in-differences models. We further estimate effects by women's parental status, pre-ACA state Medicaid eligibility levels, and the presence of a state Medicaid family planning waiver.

Emily M. Johnston

February 28, 2018

Research Report

Connecting Digital and Physical Segregation

This paper seeks to explore the connection between segregation in digital and physical spaces. We perform an exploratory analysis using a sample of geocoded Twitter data for the metropolitan area of Chicago to address two specific questions: Are the spatial mobility patterns of Twitter users and their tweets similar to the patterns of physical segregation along the lines of race, income, and education?

Joan Wang, Graham MacDonald, Solomon Greene

February 27, 2018

Working Paper

Unemployment Insurance Benefits

This paper examines the recent decline in the benefit recipiency rate for state unemployment insurance (UI) programs (i.e., UI beneficiaries as share of total unemployment). From 2012 to 2016, the average benefit recipiency rate was about 25 percent below its average from 2004 to 2007. Three factors contributed to the reduced recipiency rate: (1) several states have shortened the maximum potential duration of benefits below 26

Wayne Vroman

February 27, 2018

Research Report

Child Care Subsidies under the CCDF Program

If a child's parents both work full-time and together earn \$25,000 per year, can the family receive a subsidy to help pay for child care? What if one of the parents is a full-time student and not working? If the family does qualify for a subsidy, how much will they still have to pay out of pocket? The answers to these questions depend on a family's exact circumstances.

Victoria Tran, Sarah Minton, Sweta Haldar, Linda Giannarelli

February 27, 2018

Brief

Tuition and State Appropriations

This brief reviews both the empirical evidence and the reasoning behind differing views of the relationship between changes in state appropriations for higher education and changes in public university tuition and expenditures. We conclude that the weight of evidence indicates that appropriation changes have a significant impact on tuition decisions. However, the size of the response varies across types of institutions,

Sandy Baum, Michael McPherson, Breno Braga, Sarah Minton

February 27, 2018

Research Report

Same-Sex Married Tax Filers After Windsor and Obergefell

This paper provides new estimates of the number and characteristics of same-sex married couples after Supreme Court rulings in 2013 and 2015 established rights to same-sex marriage. Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) subsequently ruled that same-sex spouses would be treated as married for federal tax purposes. Because almost all married taxpayers file joint tax returns, administrative tax records provide new

Robin Fisher, Geof Gee, Adam Looney

February 27, 2018

Research Report

Housing Finance at a Glance: A Monthly Chartbook, February 2018

The February 2018 edition of At A Glance, the Housing Finance Policy Center's reference guide for mortgage and housing market data, includes updated figures describing GSE guarantee fees, mortgage delinquency rates, nonbank originator shares in the agency market and the composition of the mortgage insurance market. Housing Finance at a Glance: Monthly Chartbooks Archive.

Laurie Goodman, Alanna McCargo, Edward Golding, Jim Parrott, Sheryl Pardo, Todd M. Hill, Jun

Zhu, Bing Bai, Karan Kaul, Bhargavi Ganesh, Sarah Strochak, Andrea Reyes

February 26, 2018

Research Report

Show Me Healthy Housing

This report updates the progress and early outcomes for four supportive housing projects funded by the Missouri Foundation for Health as part of its Show Me Healthy Housing program. The report updates the initial evaluation report from 2016. It details the implementation of supportive housing for all sites and interim outcomes on housing stability, income, health status, healthcare utilization and costs for projects that have

Josh Leopold, sade adeeyo, Mychal Cohen, Lily Posey, Irvin Mull Jr.

February 26, 2018

Research Report

Follow the Money: How to Track Federal Funding to Local Governments

To respond effectively to state and federal policy changes, city leaders, non-profit service providers, advocates, and researchers all need accurate data on how federal funds flow to local governments. Unfortunately, those data are spread across multiple sources that are often indecipherable or inaccessible to non-experts. The purpose of this guide is to help data users navigate the patchwork of primary data sources and online

Megan Randall, Tracy Gordon, Solomon Greene, Erin Huffer

February 26, 2018

Research Report

The Potential Impact of Short-Term Limited-Duration Policies on Insurance Coverage, Premiums, and Federal Spending

On February 20, 2018, the Departments of Treasury, Labor, and Health and Human Services released a proposed regulation that would increase the maximum length of short-term, limited-duration insurance policies to one year. These plans, sold to individuals and families, are not federally required to comply with the Affordable Care Act regulations that prohibit annual and lifetime benefit limits, require coverage of all essential

Linda J. Blumberg, Matthew Buettgens, Robin Wang

February 26, 2018

World Economic Forum [to 3 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 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

BMGF - Gates Foundation [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Annie E. Casey Foundation [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Blue Meridian Partners [to 3 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 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Co Impact [to 3 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 3 March 2018]

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

News 27 February 2018

50th Anniversary of the Kerner Commission Report: Poll Results on the Coverage of Race in the News Media

Timed to the 50th anniversary of the Kerner Commission Report, the Ford Foundation in collaboration with Quadrant Strategies conducted a study focused on the perceptions about the coverage of race in the media

[Read the full poll report with analysis here.](#)

GHIT Fund [to 3 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 3 March 2018]

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

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

03/01/2018

Grameen Foundation and Partners bringing satellite technology to benefit smallholder cocoa farmers in Ghana

Grameen Foundation is pleased to announce its engagement in a newly funded consortium, SAT4farming, which will help 240,000 smallholder cocoa farmers across Ghana increase their yields by up to 300 percent, improve their incomes, and build stronger businesses.

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation [to 3 March 2018]

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

Our News

How Philanthropic Partnerships Can Combat America's Opioid Epidemic

February 26, 2018

Learn how philanthropy can effectively combat the opioid epidemic in the United States.

IKEA Foundation [to 3 March 2018]
<https://www.ikeafoundation.org/category/press-releases/>
No new digest content identified.

HHMI - Howard Hughes Medical Institute [to 3 March 2018]
<https://www.hhmi.org/news>
Feb 27 2018 *Institute*
[**The Associated Press and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Expand Collaboration to Bolster Health and Science Coverage**](#)

Summary
The Associated Press and HHMI's Department of Science Education will expand collaboration to support health and science reporting over the next three years.

The Associated Press announced today an enhanced collaboration with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education that will further expand the news agency's reporting on health and science over the next three years.

AP will continue and broaden the "Science Says" and "Genetic Frontiers" series, grow its space reporting, and introduce new coverage areas around the environment, as well pursue data-driven projects about the environment and public health. AP retains all editorial control...

Kaiser Family Foundation [to 3 March 2018]
http://www.kff.org/search/?post_type=press-release
March 1, 2018 *News Release*
[**Poll: Public Mixed on Whether Medicaid Work Requirements Are More to Cut Spending or to Lift People Up; Most Do Not Support Lifetime Limits on Benefits**](#)

Ahead of the Midterms, Voters across Parties See Costs as their Top Health Care Concern At a time when the Trump Administration is encouraging state efforts to revamp their Medicaid programs through waivers, the latest Kaiser Family Foundation tracking poll finds the public splits on whether the reason behind proposals...

Aga Khan Foundation [to 3 March 2018]
<http://www.akdn.org/our-agencies/aga-khan-foundation>
28 February 2018
[**Aga Khan Music Initiative premieres Qyrq Qyz \(Forty Girls\), pioneering multimedia production based on Central Asian epic tale**](#)

Geneva, Switzerland, 28 February 2018 - The Aga Khan Music Initiative (AKMI) breaks new ground as a producer and incubator of cutting-edge artistic work with the multimedia production Qyrq Qyz (Forty Girls), whose world premiere will take place at Dartmouth College's Hopkins Center for the Arts on 1 March...

Qyrq Qyz is based on a monumental yet little-known Central Asian epic that celebrates powerful women and women's power through the exploits of an intrepid young band of "Amazons of the steppe." The new production brings together film and live music performed by some of the boldest talents in a rising generation of charismatic female bards from Kazakhstan, Karakalpakstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, all of whom have been specially tutored by master musicians in their respective traditions working within the worldwide education programme of the Aga Khan Music Initiative....

Kellogg Foundation [to 3 March 2018]

<http://www.wkkf.org/news-and-media#pp=10&p=1&f1=news>
No new digest content identified.

MacArthur Foundation [to 3 March 2018]

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

February 26, 2018 - *Publication*

Racial Disparities in Jail Incarceration Rates Narrow, Though Large Disparities Still Persist

A report by the Vera Institute of Justice finds that while black people are still overwhelmingly overrepresented in local jails nationally, black incarceration is falling while white incarceration is on the rise. The report shows that between 2005 and 2013, the black jail incarceration rate declined by 20 percent nationally, as did the number of black people in jails. In contrast, the jailed white population doubled between 1990 and 2013. The report, supported by MacArthur's Safety and Justice Challenge, seeks to fill the considerable information gap about racial disparities in local justice systems across the country.

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation [to 3 March 2018]

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

February 27, 2018

Perspective: Women in science — making the invisible, visible

by: Debra J. Perez, Ph.D.

The data on the dearth of women in science is clear and far reaching. Women are underrepresented along the pathway from undergraduate to faculty to leadership positions in most research and scientific communities. This is particularly true for women of color.

Open Society Foundation [to 3 March 2018]

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

February 23, 2018 Elisabet Cantenys

Journalism Needs Freelancers, and Freelancers Need Protection

Despite often working out of the spotlight, freelancers play an indispensable role in journalism today. News organizations, and readers, must do more to ensure their safety.

David and Lucile Packard Foundation [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Pew Charitable Trusts [to 3 March 2018]

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

Press Release

Report: Majority of States Have Adopted Policies to Make Compounded Drugs Safer

Raising quality standards and aligning prescription policies with federal law represent major progress

February 26, 2018

WASHINGTON—Some five years after contaminated injections compounded at a Massachusetts pharmacy caused 76 deaths and 778 illnesses in a nationwide outbreak of fungal meningitis, a substantial majority of states now require state-regulated traditional pharmacies to follow robust

quality standards and obtain patient-specific prescriptions. According to "State Oversight of Drug Compounding," a report released today by The Pew Charitable Trusts and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), states have taken important steps to protect patient safety since Pew research first assessed their compounding policies in 2015.

Rockefeller Foundation [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [to 3 March 2018]

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

No new digest content identified.

Science Philanthropy Alliance [to 3 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).

1-3-2018

[Women's Land Rights and Sustainable Development Goals in Tanzania](#)

By Godfrey Massay

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

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

No new digest content identified.

Wellcome Trust [to 3 March 2018]

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

News / Published: 28 February 2018

[Public Engagement Fund to relaunch with tighter focus on outcomes](#)

Wellcome's Public Engagement Fund is reopening on 5 March after being closed briefly. We've changed elements of how we're going to run the scheme and what we're looking for. In

particular, we want applicants to be clearer about the change they are going to make in the world.

This reflects a strategic shift by Wellcome's Public Engagement team towards involving the public in ways that will best support our mission of improving health.

* * * *

:: 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>

Major Articles

Determining training and education needs pertaining to highly infectious disease preparedness and response: A gap analysis survey of US emergency medical services practitioners

Aurora B. Le, Sean A. Buehler, Paul M. Maniscalco, Pamela Lane, Lloyd E. Rupp, Eric Ernest, Debra Von Seggern, Katherine West, Jocelyn J. Herstein, Katelyn C. Jelden, Elizabeth L. Beam, Shawn G. Gibbs, John J. Lowe

p246–252

Published in issue: March 2018

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 2, 2018

<http://www.ajtmh.org/content/journals/14761645/98/2>

[Reviewed earlier]

Annals of Internal Medicine

20 February 2018 Vol: 168, Issue 4

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

[Reviewed earlier]

BMC Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation

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

(Accessed 3 March 2018)

Research

2 March 2018

Higher pharmaceutical public expenditure after direct price control: improved access or induced demand? The Colombian case

Authors: Sergio I. Prada, Victoria E. Soto, Tatiana S. Andia, Claudia P. Vaca, Álvaro A. Morales, Sergio R. Márquez and Alejandro Gaviria

BMJ Global Health

December 2017; volume 2, issue 4

<http://gh.bmjjournals.org/content/2/4?current-issue=y>

[Reviewed earlier]

BMC Health Services Research

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

(Accessed 3 March 2018)

Research article

Community mobilization and maternal Care of Women Living with HIV in poor settings: the case of Mfuwe, Zambia

Research has shown that community mobilization is a useful strategy in promoting maternal care of HIV negative women in resource poor settings; however, similar evidence for women living with HIV is missing. T...

Authors: Choolwe Muzyamba, Wim Groot, Sonila Tomini and Milena Pavlova

Citation: BMC Health Services Research 2018 18:155

Published on: 2 March 2018

Research article

Selling my sheep to pay for medicines – household priorities and coping strategies in a setting without universal health coverage

The first month of life is the period with the highest risk of dying. Despite knowledge of effective interventions, newborn mortality is high and utilization of health care services remains low in Ethiopia. In...

Authors: Onarheim Kristine Husøy, Sisay Mitike Molla, Gizaw Muluken, Moland Karen Marie, Norheim Ole Frithof and Miljeteig Ingrid

Citation: BMC Health Services Research 2018 18:153

Published on: 2 March 2018

Research article

High rate of unplanned pregnancy in the context of integrated family planning and HIV care services in South Africa

Integration of family planning services into HIV care was implemented in South Africa as a core strategy aimed at reducing unintended pregnancies among childbearing women living with HIV. However, it is unclear...

Authors: Oladele Vincent Adeniyi, Anthony Idowu Ajayi, Mayowa Gabriel Moyaki, Daniel Ter Goon, Gordana Avramovic and John Lambert

Citation: BMC Health Services Research 2018 18:140

Published on: 27 February 2018

BMC Infectious Diseases

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

(Accessed 3 March 2018)

[No new digest content identified]

BMC Medical Ethics

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

(Accessed 3 March 2018)

Debate

Screening for infectious diseases of asylum seekers upon arrival: the necessity of the moral principle of reciprocity

With a large number of forcibly displaced people seeking safety, the EU is facing a challenge in maintaining solidarity. Europe has seen millions of asylum seekers crossing European borders, the largest number...

Authors: Dorien T. Beeres, Darren Cornish, Machiel Vink, Sofianne J. Ravensbergen, Els L. M. Maeckelberghe, Pieter Boele Van Hensbroek and Ymkje Stienstra

Citation: BMC Medical Ethics 2018 19:16

Published on: 2 March 2018

Research article

Ethical issues in pragmatic randomized controlled trials: a review of the recent literature identifies gaps in ethical argumentation

Pragmatic randomized controlled trials (RCTs) are designed to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions in real-world clinical conditions. However, these studies raise ethical issues for researchers and regulators...

Authors: Cory E. Goldstein, Charles Weijer, Jamie C. Brehaut, Dean A. Fergusson, Jeremy M. Grimshaw, Austin R. Horn and Monica Taljaard

Citation: BMC Medical Ethics 2018 19:14

Published on: 27 February 2018

Research article

Rules of engagement: perspectives on stakeholder engagement for genomic biobanking research in South Africa

Genomic biobanking research is undergoing exponential growth in Africa raising a host of legal, ethical and social issues. Given the scientific complexity associated with genomics, there is a growing recognition...

Authors: Ciara Staunton, Paulina Tindana, Melany Hendricks and Keymanthri Moodley

Citation: BMC Medical Ethics 2018 19:13

Published on: 27 February 2018

BMC Medicine

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

(Accessed 3 March 2018)

[No new digest content identified]

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

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

(Accessed 3 March 2018)

[No new digest content identified]

BMC Public Health

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

(Accessed 3 March 2018)

Research article

[Progress towards the UNAIDS 90–90–90 goals by age and gender in a rural area of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa: a household-based community cross-sectional survey](#)

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has developed an ambitious strategy to end the AIDS epidemic. After eight years of antiretroviral therapy (ART) program we assessed progress towards the ...

Authors: Helena Huerga, Gilles Van Cutsem, Jihane Ben Farhat, Adrian Pure, Malika Bouhenia, Lubbe Wiesner, Linda Dlamini, David Maman, Tom Ellman and Jean-François Etard

Citation: BMC Public Health 2018 18:303

Published on: 2 March 2018

Research article

[Child marriage and associated outcomes in northern Ghana: a cross-sectional study](#)

Child marriage is a human rights violation disproportionately affecting girls in lower- and middle-income countries and has serious public health implications. In Ghana, one in five girls marry before their 18...

Authors: Richard de Groot, Maxwell Yiryele Kuunyem and Tia Palermo

Citation: BMC Public Health 2018 18:285

Published on: 26 February 2018

BMC Research Notes

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

(Accessed 3 March 2018)

Research note

[Research priorities during infectious disease emergencies in West Africa](#)

This paper presents the results of the consultations conducted with various stakeholders in Africa and other experts to document community perspectives on the types of research to be prioritised in outbreak co...

Authors: Morenike Oluwatoyin Folayan, Bridget Haire, Dan Allman, Aminu Yakubu and Muhammed O. Afolabi

Citation: BMC Research Notes 2018 11:159

Published on: 1 March 2018

February 2018 - Volume 8 - 2
<http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/current>

*Mental health
Research*

[Identifying research priorities for patient safety in mental health: an international expert Delphi study](#) (3 March, 2018)

Physical healthcare has dominated the patient safety field; research in mental healthcare is not as extensive but findings from physical healthcare cannot be applied to mental healthcare because it delivers specialised care that faces unique challenges. Therefore, a clearer focus and recognition of patient safety in mental health as a distinct research area is still needed. The study aim is to identify future research priorities in the field of patient safety in mental health.

Lindsay H Dewa, Kevin Murray, Bethan Thibaut, Sonny Christian Ramtale, Sheila Adam, Ara Darzi, Stephanie Archer

Bulletin of the World Health Organization

Volume 96, Number 3, March 2018, 145-224
<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/96/3/en/>

Policy & Practice

[Medicine procurement and the use of flexibilities in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, 2001–2016](#)

Ellen FM 't Hoen, Jacquelyn Veraldi, Brigit Toebe & Hans V Hogerzeil

Abstract

Millions of people, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, lack access to effective pharmaceuticals, often because they are unaffordable. The 2001 Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) adopted the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) Agreement and Public Health. The declaration recognized the implications of intellectual property rights for both new medicine development and the price of medicines. The declaration outlined measures, known as TRIPS flexibilities, that WTO Members can take to ensure access to medicines for all. These measures include compulsory licensing of medicines patents and the least-developed countries pharmaceutical transition measure. The aim of this study was to document the use of TRIPS flexibilities to access lower-priced generic medicines between 2001 and 2016. Overall, 176 instances of the possible use of TRIPS flexibilities by 89 countries were identified: 100 (56.8%) involved compulsory licences or public noncommercial use licences and 40 (22.7%) involved the least-developed countries pharmaceutical transition measure. The remainder were: 1 case of parallel importation; 3 research exceptions; and 32 non-patent-related measures. Of the 176 instances, 152 (86.4%) were implemented. They covered products for treating 14 different diseases. However, 137 (77.8%) concerned medicines for human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome or related diseases. The use of TRIPS flexibilities was found to be more frequent than is commonly assumed. Given the problems faced by countries today in procuring high-priced, patented medicines, the practical, legal pathway provided by TRIPS flexibilities for accessing lower-cost generic equivalents is increasingly important.

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

February 2018 Volume 40, Issue 2, p181-352, e1-e2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Conflict and Health

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

[Accessed 3 March 2018]

[No new digest content identified]

Contemporary Clinical Trials

Volume 65 Pages 1-166 (February 2018)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/contemporary-clinical-trials/vol/65/suppl/C>

[Reviewed earlier]

Current Opinion in Infectious Diseases

February 2018 - Volume 31 - Issue 1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Developing World Bioethics

December 2017 Volume 17, Issue 3 Pages 141–216

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/dewb.2017.17.issue-3/issuetoc>

[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 11 - Issue 6 - December 2017

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Disasters

January 2018 Volume 42, Issue 1 Pages 1–203

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/dis.2018.42.issue-1/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

EMBO Reports

01 December 2017; volume 18, issue 12

<http://embor.embopress.org/content/18/12?current-issue=y>

[Reviewed earlier]

Emergency Medicine Journal

January 2018 - Volume 35 - 1

<http://emj.bmjjournals.org/content/35/1>

[New issue; No digest content identified]

Emerging Infectious Diseases

Volume 24, Number 2—February 2018

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/>

[New issue; No digest content identified]

Epidemics

Volume 21, Pages 1-88 (December 2017)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

End of Life Journal

2016, Volume 7, Issue 1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Epidemiology and Infection

Volume 146 - Issue 3 - February 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. 1, Spring 2017

<http://www.utpjournals.press/toc/gsi/11/1>

Special Issue: Starvation and Genocide**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 4
<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rgph20/current>
[Reviewed earlier]

Globalization and Health
<http://www.globalizationandhealth.com/>
[Accessed 3 March 2018]
[No new digest content identified]

Health Affairs
February 2018. Vol. 37, No. 2
<https://www.healthaffairs.org/toc/hlthaff/current>
Diffusion Of Innovation
[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 1 - January 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>
Articles
[**Thresholds for decision-making: informing the cost-effectiveness and affordability of rotavirus vaccines in Malaysia**](#)
Tharani Loganathan; Chiu-Wan Ng; Way-Seah Lee; Raymond C W Hutubessy; Stéphane Verguet
...

Health Policy and Planning, Volume 33, Issue 2, 1 March 2018, Pages 204–214,
<https://doi.org/10.1093/heapol/czx166>

How do external donors influence national health policy processes? Experiences of domestic policy actors in Cambodia and Pakistan

Mishal S Khan; Ankita Meghani; Marco Liverani; Imara Roychowdhury; Justin Parkhurst
Health Policy and Planning, Volume 33, Issue 2, 1 March 2018, Pages 215–223,
<https://doi.org/10.1093/heapol/czx145>

Social costs of illicit financial flows in low- and middle-income countries: the case of infant vaccination coverage

Bienvenido Ortega; Jesús Sanjuán; Antonio Casquero
Health Policy and Planning, Volume 33, Issue 2, 1 March 2018, Pages 224–236,
<https://doi.org/10.1093/heapol/czx170>

Abstract

The liberalization of capital flows is generally associated with prospects of higher growth. However, in developing countries, opening the capital account may also facilitate the flow of capital out of the country through illicit financial flows (IFFs). Given that IFFs drain the scarce public resources available to finance the provision of public goods and services, the extent of illicit capital flows from developing countries is serious cause for concern. In this context, as a first step in analysing the social costs of IFFs in developing countries, this article studied the relationship between IFFs and infant immunization coverage rates. Data for 56 low- and middle-income countries for the period 2002–13 were used in the empirical analysis. The main result was that the relative level of IFFs to total trade negatively impacted vaccination coverage but only in the case of countries with very high levels of perceived corruption. In this case, the total effect of an annual 1 p.p. increase in the ratio of IFFs to total trade was to reduce the level of vaccination coverage rates over the coming years by 0.19 p.p. Given that there was an annual average of 18 million infants in this cluster of 25 countries, this result suggests that at least 34 000 children may not receive this basic health care intervention in the future as a consequence of this increase in IFFs in any particular year.

Reviews

Treatment of tuberculosis in complex emergencies in developing countries: a scoping review

Geraldine Munn-Mace; Divya Parmar
Health Policy and Planning, Volume 33, Issue 2, 1 March 2018, Pages 247–257,
<https://doi.org/10.1093/heapol/czx157>

Abstract

Almost 172 million people live in complex emergencies globally resulting from political and/or economic instability. The provision and continuity of health care in complex emergencies remain a significant challenge. Health agencies are often hesitant to implement tuberculosis programmes in particular because its treatment requires a longer commitment than most acute diseases. However, not treating tuberculosis promptly increases mortality and untreated tuberculosis further increases the incidence of tuberculosis. Given that complex emergencies are increasing globally, there is an urgent need to analyse the available evidence to improve our understanding of how best to deliver tuberculosis programmes in such settings. Using a scoping review method, we selected and analysed 15 studies on tuberculosis programmes in complex emergencies. We found that despite the challenges, tuberculosis programmes have been successful in complex emergencies. We identified seven cross-cutting factors that were found to be important: service providers and treatment regime, training and supervision, donor support, adherence, leadership and coordination, monitoring and government and community support. In general, programmes

showed greater creativity and flexibility to adapt to the local conditions and at times, it also meant diverting from the WHO guidelines. We identify areas of further research including the need to study the effectiveness of programmes that divert from the WHO guidelines and their implication on drug resistance.

Cost-effectiveness of health systems strengthening interventions in improving maternal and child health in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review

Wu Zeng; Guohong Li; Haksoon Ahn; Ha Thi Hong Nguyen; Donald S Shepard ...

Health Policy and Planning, Volume 33, Issue 2, 1 March 2018, Pages 283–297,

<https://doi.org/10.1093/heapol/czx172>

Health Research Policy and Systems

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

[Accessed 3 March 2018]

Research

2 March 2018

Developing a workbook to support the contextualisation of global health systems guidance: a case study identifying steps and critical factors for success in this process at WHO

Global guidance can help countries strengthen their health systems to deliver effective interventions to their populations. However, to have an impact, guidance needs to be contextualised or adapted to local settings; this process includes consideration of health system arrangements and political system factors. To date, methods to support contextualisation do not exist. In response, a workbook was designed to provide specific methods and strategies to enable the contextualisation of WHO's 'Optimizing health worker roles to improve maternal and newborn health' (OptimizeMNH) guidance at the national or subnational level. The objective of this study was to describe the process of developing the workbook and identify key steps of the development process, barriers that arose and facilitators that helped overcome some of these barriers.

Authors: Elizabeth Alvarez, John N. Lavis, Melissa Brouwers and Lisa Schwartz

Human Rights Quarterly

Volume 40, Number 1, February 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Humanitarian Exchange Magazine

<http://odihpn.org/magazine/the-humanitarian-consequences-of-violence-in-central-america/>

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 3 March 2018]
[No new digest content identified]

Infectious Diseases of Poverty
<http://www.idpjurnal.com/content>
[Accessed 3 March 2018]
[No new digest content identified]

International Health
Volume 10, Issue suppl_1, 1 March 2018
<http://inthealth.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 2 (2018) February 2018
<http://www.ijcmph.com/index.php/ijcmph/issue/view/35>
[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

Vol. 10 Issue: 5 2017

<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/toc/ijhrh/10/5>

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Infectious Diseases

February 2018 Volume 67, p1-138

[http://www.ijidonline.com/issue/S1201-9712\(17\)X0014-3](http://www.ijidonline.com/issue/S1201-9712(17)X0014-3)

[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology

Volume 25, 2018 - Issue 2

<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/currrenttoc.aspx>

Special Issue Linking mental health and psychosocial support and peacebuilding

[Reviewed earlier]

JAMA

February 27, 2018, Vol 319, No. 8, Pages 745-840

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

Viewpoint

International Medical Graduates—A Critical Component of the Global Health Workforce

Joseph Nwadiuko, MD, MPH; Varshini Varadaraj, MBBS, MS, MPH; Anju Ranjit, MD, MPH

JAMA. 2018;319(8):765-766. doi:10.1001/jama.2017.17961

This Viewpoint discusses international medical graduates practicing in the United States and Canada—benefits and drawbacks to remaining in North America or returning to their country of origin to practice.

JAMA Pediatrics

February 2018, Vol 172, No. 2, Pages 105-204

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

[Reviewed earlier]

JBI Database of Systematic Review and Implementation Reports

February 2018 - Volume 16 - Issue 2

<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)

Editorials

[Quality Measurement Is Key to Improving Family Planning Services and Outcomes for Adolescents in Low- and Middle-Income Countries](#)

Blair G. Darney, Biani Saavedra-Avendaño

p251–252

Published in issue: March 2018

Journal of Community Health

Volume 43, Issue 2, April 2018

<https://link.springer.com/journal/10900/43/2/page/1>

Original Paper

[Physically Demanding Labor and Health Among Indigenous Women in the Ecuadorian Highlands](#)

William F. Waters, [Jessica Ehlers](#), [Fernando Ortega](#)

Original Paper

[Use of Traditional Healing Practices in Two Ontario First Nations](#)

[Julie George](#), [Melissa MacLeod](#), [Kathryn Graham](#), [Sara Plain...](#)

Journal of Cultural Heritage

Volume 29 Pages 1-194 (January–February 2018)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/journal-of-cultural-heritage/vol/29/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.bmjjournals.org/content/current>
Healthy childhood and pregnancy

Understanding child disadvantage from a social determinants perspective

(12 February, 2018)
Child health and developmental inequities exist in all countries. Comprehensive and robust concepts of disadvantage are fundamental to growing an evidence base that can reveal the extent of inequities in childhood, and identify modifiable leverage points for change. We conceptualise and test a multidimensional framework of child disadvantage aligned to a social determinants and bioecological perspective.

Sharon Goldfeld, Meredith O'Connor, Dan Cloney, Sarah Gray, Gerry Redmond, Hannah Badland, Katrina Williams, Fiona Mensah, Sue Woolfenden, Amanda Kvalsvig, Anita T Kochanoff

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>
Articles

Clinical practice guidelines in India: Quality appraisal and the use of evidence in their development (pages 26-39)

Soumyadeep Bhaumik, Soushieta Jagadesh, May Ellatar, Neeraj Kohli, Muhammad Riedha and Monday Moi
Version of Record online: 11 JAN 2018 | DOI: 10.1111/jebm.12285

Ten years of clinical trial registration in a resource-limited setting: Experience of the Sri Lanka clinical trials registry (pages 46-50)

Udaya K. Ranawaka, Ashwini de Abrew, Manu Wimalachandra, Nithushi Samaranayake and Colvin Goonaratna
Version of Record online: 11 JAN 2018 | DOI: 10.1111/jebm.12284

Journal of Global Ethics

Volume 13, Issue 2, 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>

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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 7 Issue 3

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health

Volume 20, Issue 1, February 2018

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

Articles focused on Austria, Slovenia, Poland, Sweden, Germany, U.K., Italy

Journal of Infectious Diseases

Volume 217, Issue 3, 1 Feb 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of International Development

January 2018 Volume 30, Issue 1 Pages 1–158

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Medical Ethics

March 2018 - Volume 44 - 3

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Medical Internet Research

Vol 20, No 2 (2018): February

<http://www.jmir.org/2018/2>

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Operations Management

Volumes 53–56 Pages 1–70 (November 2017)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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, 19 February 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Pediatrics

March 2018 Volume 194, p1-270

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

[New issue; No digest content identified]

Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice

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

[Accessed 3 March 2018]

[No new digest content identified]

Journal of Public Health Management & Practice

January/February 2018 - Volume 24 - Issue 1

<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 Travel Medicine

Volume 25, Issue 1, 1 January 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

The Lancet

Mar 03, 2018 Volume 391 Number 10123 p813-910

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

Editorial

Stem cells, regenerative medicine, and Prometheus

The Lancet

Published: 03 March 2018

The possibility of regeneration fascinates us as much today as it did the ancient Greeks. In the story of Prometheus, an eagle was sent to peck his liver each day as punishment, while at night it regrew. Stem cells have a similar mythical character—part fact, part fantasy—that captures the imagination but also blurs reality. In today's issue, we publish the Lancet Commission: Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine (published online Oct 4, 2017) to assess advances in the field, including gene therapy, since our last Series on the topic in 2013, and how to plan future developments in a way that both promotes science and protects the public.

The commissioners emphasise the importance of well funded basic science that led to the insights and techniques that have made stem cell therapies possible. However, in-vitro findings have not always been replicated in humans. To improve translation, they suggest wider collaboration with clinician-scientists. The report notes that many regenerative therapies appeal to potentially vulnerable people, which raises concerns about ethics, safety (particularly for unregulated

autologous cell use), and financial structures for development and marketing. At the same time, the enormous advantage of curative gene therapy for a disease like Duchenne muscular dystrophy, which can restore independence and reduce health-care costs, is clear. To guide practice, the Commissioners propose a social contract that emphasises best science, equitable funding, strong governance, and transparent engagement with patients and the public.

Prometheus was punished by Zeus for stealing fire and giving it to humans, which enabled civilisation. In other interpretations, Prometheus is associated with scientific enquiry. Since our previous Series, the spark of regenerative medicine has become a flame that offers vast potential benefits, such as limbal stem cells licensed for corneal repair. But dangers persist that are incompletely understood, and the best way to harness stem cells and genes to alleviate true clinical need is unclear. The Commission provides a welcome mechanism to move past the smoke of hype and cultivate the flame of hope.

The Lancet Commissions

Lancet Commission: Stem cells and regenerative medicine

Giulio Cossu, Martin Birchall, Tracey Brown, Paolo De Coppi, Emily Culme-Seymour, Sahra Gibbon, Julian Hitchcock, Chris Mason, Jonathan Montgomery, Steve Morris, Francesco Muntoni, David Napier, Nazanin Owji, Aarathi Prasad, Jeff Round, Prince Saprai, Jack Stilgoe, Adrian Thrasher, James Wilson

- *Summary*

In this Commission, we argue that a combination of poor quality science, unclear funding models, unrealistic hopes, and unscrupulous private clinics threatens regenerative medicine's social licence to operate. If regenerative medicine is to shift from mostly small-scale bespoke experimental interventions into routine clinical practice, substantial rethinking of the social contract that supports such research and clinical practice in the public arena will be required.

Comment

Death and suffering in Eastern Ghouta, Syria: a call for action to protect civilians and health care

Samir Jabbour, Fouad M Fouad, Jennifer Leaning, Donna McKay, Rabie Nasser, Leonard S Rubenstein, Annie Sparrow, Paul Spiegel, Ahmad Tarakji, Ronald Waldman, Rola Hallam, Denis Mukwege, Ghanem Tayara

Since Feb 4, 2018, Syrian forces with Russian support have bombarded Eastern Ghouta, an enclave out of government control near Damascus. This military action has killed hundreds of civilians and injured more than 1550 people as of Feb 21, 2018,¹ in an area where about 390 000 people, most of whom are civilians, have lived under siege since October, 2013. The recent escalation is reportedly part of a Syrian Government offensive supported by its Russian and Iranian allies to retake Ghouta. In just 1 day, on Feb 20, 2018, PAX, an international peace movement, documented 110 civilians killed and hundreds injured in 131 air strikes, 44 barrel bombs, 28 surface-to-surface "elephant" missiles, five cluster bombs, and countless other artillery and rocket fire.² Amnesty International sees this as continuing "war crimes on an epic scale".³

The Syrian American Medical Society, which has tracked attacks on health-care facilities during the offensive, now reports that 25 hospitals and health centres have been hit, some more than once in 4 days.⁴ Several health-care facilities are destroyed or put temporarily out of service, reducing capacity by 50% at a time when patients most need care. A doctor in Eastern Ghouta said, "Hospitals are overwhelmed. Floors are overflowing with injured and blood. Those patients we discharged a couple of days ago are now back with more serious injuries...The word 'catastrophe' can't describe what's happening."⁴ The injured are running out of places to go.

Retaliatory shelling by rebel groups on Damascus neighbourhoods has also killed and maimed scores of civilians and also deserves condemnation.

Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) found that “the unspeakable suffering...was deliberately planned and meticulously implemented over time”.⁵ The Syrian Government has not contested PHR's finding but says it is attacking “terrorists”. This claim is not supported by patterns of attacks,⁶ which predominantly target civilian areas, and demonstrate a position that all civilians in opposition-held areas are legitimate targets.⁷

The people of Ghouta endured a deadly sarin chemical attack in August, 2013, in which 1466 people, including 426 children, died.⁸ This led to the US–Russia sponsored deal to remove the Syrian Government's chemical weapons stockpile. However, killing and destruction continued by other means. Ghouta has been subjected to regular shelling and artillery strikes, including of hospitals and civilian areas. Compounding the impact of Syrian Government violations of international humanitarian law, many Ghouta civilians suffer violence by authoritarian rebel groups and are impoverished by a war economy in which corrupt Syrian Government and rebel intermediaries participate.⁹ The worsening situation for civilians under siege and bombardment has long been reported but has not led to an improvement for civilians or even a slight lessening of their suffering.^{9, 10} The Syrian Government has allowed only minimal and intermittent aid and regularly removes urgently needed medical supplies from the very occasional convoy it permits.^{9, 10} In December, 2017, Ghouta doctors sent a letter to WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, pleading for support: “Once, we were family doctors, pediatricians, specialists...now we are specialists in war trauma, chemical attacks and siege-induced starvation.”¹¹ The Syrian American Medical Society estimates that more than 1000 critically ill patients now need medical evacuation. The Syrian Government has allowed only 37 as of Feb 17, 2018. Every day, patients die.

Inaction in the face of unrelenting attacks on civilians represents an epic failure of world leaders.¹² The UN Security Council has utterly failed the people of Syria. The UN Secretariat seems to operate without an effective strategy for political negotiations or aid delivery.^{8, 13} These compounded failures are increasing frustrations with the UN as a legitimate interlocutor on human rights violations everywhere,¹⁴ and translate into deaths and suffering. We cannot allow this situation to continue. Political negotiations have not prioritised or reduced attacks against civilians. The Syrian Government's continued ability to deny aid to populations it is besieging illustrates the failure of the current aid delivery process and the impotence of the UN. There are no mechanisms to ensure timely delivery of aid, delivery of sufficient aid for the entire population, or delivery of the most needed types of aid. From April to December, 2016, PHR documented that only three of the nine convoys to besieged areas in Eastern Ghouta provided aid sufficient for even half of the population living there. Of the remaining six convoys, three provided aid sufficient for less than a third of each area's besieged population.¹⁵ Eastern Ghouta has received aid only once since November, 2017.

In the face of this desperate situation, health professionals and concerned citizens still have something to contribute; we have an obligation to do so, and there is a long history of mobilisation that makes a difference. The three most urgent priorities are to stop the targeting and besieging of civilians, to end attacks on health-care facilities and other civilian targets, and to allow unobstructed flow of aid, including medical supplies and evacuation of the wounded.

Three levels of action are possible. First, citizens and health professionals must press government officials, especially in countries directly involved in the war, to act today. The UN Security Council must end its paralysis, and Russia in particular must not block action to end the siege and attacks

on civilians and hospitals. We will closely watch the expected vote on a Ghouta ceasefire at the UN Security Council. But the UN Security Council is not the only forum. Given the UN Security Council deadlock, in 2016, the UN General Assembly took the unusual step of establishing an international mechanism to investigate grave crimes committed in Syria.¹⁶ Justice for the unspeakable crimes we are witnessing is imperative for long-term stability in Syria, although it will not bring immediate relief to besieged Ghouta. While this can be a lengthy process, an initial step of imposing sanctions on parties to the crimes would have an impact.

Second, health professionals and concerned citizens must come together and mobilise. We call on health professionals and citizens around the world who are outraged about the situation in Ghouta and international inaction to join hands in advocacy, mobilisation, and public action and call for an end to the violence, attacks on health facilities, personnel, and patients, and for the protection of civilians in Syria.

Third, the UN Secretariat must change tactics and strategy to be more impactful. Protecting civilians, removing siege, and ensuring medical evacuations and flow of aid must be top of the agenda for any UN-mediated negotiation. The UN and its agencies, especially those operating in Damascus, should exert all pressure and use all leverage, including but not limited to flow of funds for aid, to ensure respect for international law and delivery of aid to people who need it the most. The lesson from the 2013 polio outbreak among children in non-government-controlled areas who did not receive vaccines is valuable. Under pressure, WHO and UN agencies used a whole-of-Syria approach to tell the Syrian Government that everyone across the conflict lines must get vaccinated in one programme. 3 million children were vaccinated across Syria, half of them in non-government controlled areas.¹⁷ Donor countries can press for reforming WHO–Syria operations to ensure this model extends to all health aid.

Collectively, these actions can contribute to protecting the people in Syria who are suffering so desperately.

We declare no competing interests.

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>

[New issue; No digest content identified]

Maternal and Child Health Journal

Volume 22, Issue 2, February 2018

<https://link.springer.com/journal/10995/22/2/page/1>

[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 554 Number 7693 pp403-554 22 February 2018

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

World View

Data can help to end malnutrition across Africa

Progress in the fight against hunger is patchy. New tools must target action to those who are most vulnerable, says Kofi Annan.

In 2000, the United Nations hosted the largest gathering of political leaders ever held. At that meeting, all 189 UN member states, plus leading development institutions, committed to the Millennium Development Goals, a set of eight ambitious goals for lifting more than one billion people worldwide out of extreme poverty.

The first goal — to cut extreme poverty and hunger in half by 2015 — was especially important to me, because it was crucial to achieving all the others. It was also controversial: experts thought it was impossible to achieve. But it sparked a global conversation about how to invest in agriculture, nutrition and food systems to ensure a future in which all children get the food they need to thrive, not just to survive.

Talk led to action, and action to results. Between 2000 and 2015, nearly every African country improved childhood nutrition, especially in reducing stunted growth caused by malnutrition. For example, in Burkina Faso, stunting in children younger than 5 dropped from 42% in 2006 to 27% in 2016. In Ghana, my home country, rates fell from 36% to 19% between 2003 and 2014. These numbers are brought to life by maps produced by the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation in Seattle. They illustrate rates of stunting, wasting and underweight in children — the best indicators for measuring child nutrition — across Africa from 2000 to 2015. These advanced statistical methods reveal progress at a level of detail that shows change almost down to the village level. A companion project has tracked childhood education, another crucial driver for improving people's lives.

The results alone are astonishing, especially for me — an African accustomed to international headlines depicting a continent consumed by war, famine and hunger. The Africa shown in these maps tells a different story: one of measurable, steady progress on issues long thought intractable.

The maps also highlight stark disparities, particularly in conflict-affected areas. There are villages where all children are too short for their age. Across most of the Sahel, a semi-arid swath of land from the Atlantic to the Red Sea, high rates of stunting persist, with no hint of improvement.

Indeed, they are a clear reminder that national averages do not tell the full story. In Kenya, for example, rates of wasting in children under 5 were below 6% on average nationwide in 2015, yet in certain regions plagued by several years of poor rains, crop failure and disease outbreaks, estimated levels of wasting reach as high as 28%. And Chad has areas of stunting that exceed 50%, despite a national average of about 37%. In Nigeria, we see progress in the south, but stagnant and high stunting rates in the drier, conflict-ridden north.

Such fine-grained insight brings tremendous responsibility to act. It shows governments, international agencies and donors exactly where to direct resources and support. The Sustainable Development Goals — which UN member states endorsed when the Millennium Development Goals expired in 2015 — include the first targets for reducing stunting and wasting. The data indicate that no African country is currently on track to reach all the targets associated with ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition.

This shows how crucial it is to invest in data. Data gaps undermine our ability to target resources, develop policies and track accountability. Without good data, we're flying blind. If you can't see it, you can't solve it.

Several nations, including Burkina Faso and Ghana, have reaped the benefits of regularly and frequently collecting data on key nutrition indicators. Importantly, they are using the data to inform decisions about policy and programmes. And countries that make nutrition a political priority are seeing results. For example, Senegal's stunting rate dropped by nearly one-third between 2011 and 2015, after the Prime Minister's office established the Cellule de Lutte contre la Malnutrition, a coordinating body tasked with reducing undernutrition.

This progress should spark a renewed commitment to refining data collection and analysis so as to hone interventions that can reach the most vulnerable individuals: infants, children and mothers. We must apply these lessons to communities that have not fared as well.

Nutrition is one of the best drivers of development: it sparks a virtuous cycle of socio-economic improvements, such as increasing access to education and employment. With the help of institutions such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation — which also supported the mapping project — I continue to advocate for better policies through my Foundation's Combatting Hunger programme. Eradicating malnutrition is crucial to delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals' promise of "leaving no one behind".

Current and former African leaders are now stepping up as part of the African Leaders for Nutrition Initiative, which was launched in January to catalyse and sustain political will. The group has committed to developing a Nutrition Accountability Score Card to track progress by country and region. These maps are another tool in our arsenal. Alone, they won't eradicate malnutrition — but they will enable Africa's leaders to act strategically.

Comment

[Six research priorities for cities and climate change](#)

Xuemei Bai and colleagues call for long-term, cross-disciplinary studies to reduce carbon emissions and urban risks from global warming.

Articles

[Mapping child growth failure in Africa between 2000 and 2015](#) Open

Aaron Osgood-Zimmerman, Anoushka I. Millear, Rebecca W. Stubbs, Chloe Shields, Brandon V. Pickering [+ et al.](#)

Geospatial estimates of child growth failure in Africa provide a baseline for measuring progress and a precision public health platform to target interventions to those populations with the greatest need.

[Mapping local variation in educational attainment across Africa](#) Open

Nicholas Graetz, Joseph Friedman, Aaron Osgood-Zimmerman, Roy Burstein, Molly H. Biehl [+ et al.](#)

Local-level analyses show that, despite marked progress in educational attainment from 2000 to 2015 across Africa, substantial differences persist between locations and sexes that have widened in many countries.

Nature Medicine

February 2018, Volume 24 No 2 pp113-246

<http://www.nature.com/nm/journal/v24/n2/index.html>

[Reviewed earlier]

New England Journal of Medicine

March 1, 2018 Vol. 378 No. 9

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

[New issue; No digest content identified]

Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly

Volume 47, Issue 1, February 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>

Articles

[Variation in Anthropometric Status and Growth Failure in Low- and Middle-Income Countries](#)

Iván Mejía-Guevara, Daniel J. Corsi, Jessica M. Perkins, Rockli Kim, S.V. Subramanian

Pediatrics Mar 2018, 141 (3) e20172183; DOI: 10.1542/peds.2017-2183

This is a global study designed to help understand differences in the distribution of child anthropometric status and growth failure Wpop and Bpop.

PharmacoEconomics

Volume 36, Issue 2, February 2018

<https://link.springer.com/journal/40273/36/2/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

PLOS Currents: Disasters

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

[Accessed 3 March 2018]

[No new digest content identified]

PLoS Currents: Outbreaks

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

[Accessed 3 March 2018]

[No new digest content identified]

PLoS Medicine

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

(Accessed 3 March 2018)

Policy Forum

Surveillance of antimicrobial consumption in animal production sectors of low- and middle-income countries: Optimizing use and addressing antimicrobial resistance

Daniel Schar, Angkana Sommanustweechai, Ramanan Laxminarayan, Viroj Tangcharoensathien
| published 01 Mar 2018 PLOS Medicine

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1002521>

Research Article

Delays in completion and results reporting of clinical trials under the Paediatric Regulation in the European Union: A cohort study

Thomas J. Hwang, Paolo A. Tomasi, Florence T. Bourgeois

| published 01 Mar 2018 PLOS Medicine

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1002520>

Abstract

Background

Few medicines have been approved for children, leading to rates of off-label prescribing reported to be as high as 90%. In 2007, the European Union adopted the Paediatric Regulation, which mandates that pharmaceutical companies conduct paediatric studies for all new medicines, unless granted a waiver. We aimed to evaluate the availability of paediatric trial results from studies required under the Paediatric Regulation for new medicines authorised in the EU.

Methods and findings

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) public database of paediatric investigation plans was searched for new medicines centrally authorised in the EU between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2014 with at least 1 required paediatric study. For our study cohort of paediatric clinical trials required for these medicines, we used internal EMA databases and publicly available trial registries to determine changes to the planned completion date or study design, rates of trial completion, time to trial completion, and results reporting (peer-reviewed publication or posting on trial registry). Cox proportional hazards regression models were constructed to examine factors associated with study completion. A total of 326 paediatric clinical trials were required for 122

novel medicines authorised by the EMA between 2010 and 2014. In all, 76% (247/326) of paediatric studies were not planned to be completed until after the initial marketing authorisation. The planned completion dates for 50% (162/326) were further postponed by a median of 2.2 years. Overall, 38% (124/326) of paediatric studies were completed as of 30 November 2017. The rate of trial completion for paediatric studies planned to be completed after initial marketing authorisation was 23% (56/247), versus 86% (68/79) for trials planned to be completed before authorisation (adjusted hazard ratio 0.11; 95% CI 0.06–0.19). Among completed studies, the results were reported in a public registry or in the peer-reviewed literature for 85% (105/124) at a median of 1.1 years after study completion, and 60% (74/124) were published in a peer-reviewed journal. Limitations of this study include the potential lack of generalisability to medicines not authorised by the EMA and the possibility for more of these trials to be completed or published in the future.

Conclusions

The completion of many paediatric studies required under the Paediatric Regulation has been delayed. Paediatric studies planned to be completed after marketing authorisation were associated with a lower likelihood of eventual completion, highlighting the need to examine the implementation of current policies in ensuring timely availability of important paediatric information.

Author summary

:: Why was this study done?

Most new medicines are developed and tested in adults, and clinicians often need to treat paediatric patients with products lacking paediatric safety, efficacy, or dosing information.

To increase the number of medicines that are appropriately studied in children, the European Union adopted the Paediatric Regulation in 2007, requiring pharmaceutical companies to study new medicines in children.

Ten years since its implementation, there has been limited assessment of the availability of paediatric trial information resulting from studies required under the regulation.

:: What did the researchers do and find?

For all new medicines centrally authorised in the EU between 2010 and 2014, we identified those with paediatric trial requirements under the Paediatric Regulation. A total of 326 paediatric clinical trials were required for 122 medicines and comprised our study cohort.

After a median follow-up of roughly 7 years, 38% of paediatric trials had been completed, and 17% of medicines had all paediatric requirements fulfilled.

Most paediatric studies (76%) were not planned to be completed until after marketing authorisation. In addition, delays occurred due to changes in the planned completion date, with 50% of studies extending the completion date at the request of pharmaceutical companies.

Overall, trials planned to be completed after marketing authorisation were associated with an 89% lower likelihood of completion compared to trials with planned completion before marketing authorisation.

The results for 85% of completed studies were published or publicly reported in a trial registry, at a median of 1.1 years after the completion date.

:: What do these findings mean?

Many paediatric studies required under the Paediatric Regulation have not been completed due to delays.

Among paediatric trials that were completed, trial results were disseminated in a timely fashion for a majority of the studies.

Our findings highlight the need to examine the implementation of current policies—including requirements around the timing of trial completion—to ensure timely availability of important paediatric information for new medicines.

Perspective

Preventing cholera outbreaks through early targeted interventions

Lorenz von Seidlein, Jacqueline L. Deen

| published 27 Feb 2018 PLOS Medicine

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1002510>

[Excerpt]

...Cholera outbreaks: Hit or miss

With funding from Gavi in place and an increasing OCV supply assured, one would think that large and disastrous cholera outbreaks would have been confined to history. However, events during the past few months have demonstrated how much of a hit-or-miss affair cholera outbreak control and prevention remains. In October 2017, 900,000 doses of OCV were mobilised from the international stockpile to prevent cholera outbreaks in Rohingya camps along the border between Bangladesh and Myanmar, even before cholera cases were reported [14]. Considering the cholera endemicity in Bangladesh in combination with desperate conditions in the refugee camps, WHO and the stockpile managers are to be congratulated for their timely action and foresight.

In contrast, OCV doses did not arrive in Yemen despite a humanitarian crisis of enormous proportions (994,751 suspected cases; 2,226 deaths by December 2017) [15]. Not only did WHO fail to mount the essential mass vaccination campaigns, but the explanation for this omission was once more that oral cholera vaccinations during an ongoing outbreak are inappropriate [16], a statement that is factually incorrect. Management of the Yemen cholera outbreak has been complex, and many parties carry responsibility for the lack of successful interventions. Yet, WHO has the mandate to support decision-making in such difficult circumstances. By the time the vaccines were requested and shipment was finally approved (though never used), the outbreak had already reached its peak, highlighting the critical need for a rapid response.

The decision of which requests to the OCV stockpile should be granted (and for how many doses) falls to an International Coordinating Group (ICG) composed of representatives from United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and WHO [17]. Over the years, some requests were rejected on technical grounds, while others were assigned too low a priority to ever be delivered. Ultimately, only half the requested doses (51%; 12.8 million doses) have been shipped in 46 deployments between 2013 and 2017 [10]. The criteria for these decisions and any competing interests of the coordinating group members are not transparently disclosed, and the decisions do not always appear fair; yet they have far-reaching consequences...

Research Article

The potential impact of case-area targeted interventions in response to cholera outbreaks: A modeling study

Flavio Finger, Enrico Bertuzzo, Francisco J. Luquero, Nathan Naibei, Brahma Touré, Maya Allan, Klaudia Porten, Justin Lessler, Andrea Rinaldo, Andrew S. Azman

| published 27 Feb 2018 PLOS Medicine

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1002509>

Cholera prevention and control interventions targeted to neighbors of cholera cases (case-area targeted interventions [CATIs]), including improved water, sanitation, and hygiene, oral cholera vaccine (OCV), and prophylactic antibiotics, may be able to efficiently avert cholera cases and deaths while saving scarce resources during epidemics. Efforts to quickly target interventions to

neighbors of cases have been made in recent outbreaks, but little empirical evidence related to the effectiveness, efficiency, or ideal design of this approach exists. Here, we aim to provide practical guidance on how CATIs might be used by exploring key determinants of intervention impact, including the mix of interventions, “ring” size, and timing, in simulated cholera epidemics fit to data from an urban cholera epidemic in Africa.

PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases

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

(Accessed 3 March 2018)

Research Article

Prolonging herd immunity to cholera via vaccination: Accounting for human mobility and waning vaccine effects

Corey M. Peak, Amanda L. Reilly, Andrew S. Azman, Caroline O. Buckee

I published 28 Feb 2018 PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0006257>

Abstract

Background

Oral cholera vaccination is an approach to preventing outbreaks in at-risk settings and controlling cholera in endemic settings. However, vaccine-derived herd immunity may be short-lived due to interactions between human mobility and imperfect or waning vaccine efficacy. As the supply and utilization of oral cholera vaccines grows, critical questions related to herd immunity are emerging, including: who should be targeted; when should revaccination be performed; and why have cholera outbreaks occurred in recently vaccinated populations?

Methods and findings

We use mathematical models to simulate routine and mass oral cholera vaccination in populations with varying degrees of migration, transmission intensity, and vaccine coverage. We show that migration and waning vaccine efficacy strongly influence the duration of herd immunity while birth and death rates have relatively minimal impacts. As compared to either periodic mass vaccination or routine vaccination alone, a community could be protected longer by a blended “Mass and Maintain” strategy. We show that vaccination may be best targeted at populations with intermediate degrees of mobility as compared to communities with very high or very low population turnover. Using a case study of an internally displaced person camp in South Sudan which underwent high-coverage mass vaccination in 2014 and 2015, we show that waning vaccine direct effects and high population turnover rendered the camp over 80% susceptible at the time of the cholera outbreak beginning in October 2016.

Conclusions

Oral cholera vaccines can be powerful tools for quickly protecting a population for a period of time that depends critically on vaccine coverage, vaccine efficacy over time, and the rate of population turnover through human mobility. Due to waning herd immunity, epidemics in vaccinated communities are possible but become less likely through complementary interventions or data-driven revaccination strategies.

Author summary

Cholera vaccination can be a relatively quick means to temporarily prevent cholera from spreading in an at-risk population. In order to understand how long this temporary protection remains and therefore the timeline for when we need to install longer-term water and sanitation solutions, we must know how long we can expect the vaccine to provide herd protection. To answer this and other related questions, we developed a mathematical model to test different vaccination strategies in a simulated population and in a case study of a displaced-persons camp in Bentiu, South Sudan. We found that the duration of vaccine-derived herd protection can be short (<1 year) in settings of moderate transmission potential and high population mobility, but this

duration can be extended through a strategy that complements a one-time mass vaccination campaign with ongoing, routine vaccination. We show that short-lived vaccine efficacy and high population turnover in the Bentiu camp can help explain why the camp had a cholera outbreak despite two high-coverage vaccination campaigns in the two previous years. Our results support, and provide timelines for, cholera vaccination as initial protection while longer-term structural interventions can be implemented.

PLoS One

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

[Accessed 3 March 2018]

[No new digest content identified]

PNAS - Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/>

[Accessed 3 March 2018]

Transparency in authors' contributions and responsibilities to promote integrity in scientific publication

Marcia K. McNutt, Monica Bradford, Jeffrey M. Drazen, Brooks Hanson, Bob Howard, Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Véronique Kiermer, Emilie Marcus, Barbara Kline Pope, Randy Schekman, Sowmya Swaminathan, Peter J. Stang and Inder M. Verma

PNAS 2018; published ahead of print February 27, 2018,

<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1715374115>

Social norm enforcement in ethnically diverse communities

Fabian Winter and Nan Zhang

PNAS 2018; published ahead of print February 26, 2018,

<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1718309115>

Significance

How does ethnic diversity influence the maintenance of social norms in complex, Western societies? We provide evidence from a natural field experiment examining reactions to norm violations in multiethnic German neighborhoods. We uncover asymmetric patterns of norm enforcement in interethnic encounters: "Native" Germans are more active in sanctioning norm violations, while ethnic minorities are more likely to be targeted for sanctions. We link these dynamics to prevailing status inequalities between minorities and natives in German society. We further show that, as a consequence of such asymmetries, social control tends to rise with ethnic diversity.

Abstract

Recent waves of immigration to Western nations have fueled a debate over the consequences of ethnic diversity for social cohesion. One prominent argument in this debate holds that diversity is detrimental to trust and cooperation because individuals in heterogeneous communities face difficulties in enforcing social norms across ethnic lines. We examine this proposition in a field experiment involving real-life interactions among residents of multiethnic German neighborhoods. We find significant ethnic asymmetries in the pattern of norm enforcement: Members of the majority "native" German population are more active in sanctioning norm violations, while ethnic minorities are more likely to find themselves the target of sanctions. We interpret these results in light of prevailing status inequalities between ethnic minorities and the native majority. We further calculate that, as a result of ethnic discrimination, social control is likely to rise in communities with moderate minority population shares.

Citywide cluster randomized trial to restore blighted vacant land and its effects on violence, crime, and fear

Charles C. Branas, Eugenia South, Michelle C. Kondo, Bernadette C. Hohl, Philippe Bourgois, Douglas J. Wiebe and John M. MacDonald

PNAS 2018; published ahead of print February 26, 2018,

<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1718503115>

Reforestation can sequester two petagrams of carbon in US topsoils in a century

Lucas E. Nave, Grant M. Domke, Kathryn L. Hofmeister, Umakant Mishra, Charles H. Perry, Brian F. Walters and Christopher W. Swanston

PNAS 2018; published ahead of print February 26, 2018,

<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1719685115>

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>

[New issue; No digest content identified]

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.publichealthjrnl.com/current>

[New issue; No digest content identified]

Public Health Ethics

Volume 11, Issue 1, 1 April 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Public Health Reports

Volume 133, Issue 1, January/February 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

Qualitative Health Research

Volume 28, Issue 4, March 2018

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

Research Articles

Researcher Self-Care in Emotionally Demanding Research: A Proposed Conceptual Framework

Smita Kumar, Liz Cavallaro

First Published December 9, 2017; pp. 648–658

Preview

Researchers are emotionally and psychologically affected by emotionally demanding research that demands a tremendous amount of mental, emotional, or physical energy and potentially affects or depletes the researcher's well-being. Little attention has been given to preparing doctoral students and novice researchers engaged in such studies. Four possible types of emotionally demanding research experiences are presented: sensitive issues, personal trauma previously experienced, experience of traumatic life events during research, and unexpected events that arise during research in what was previously not identified as a sensitive issue. The need for self-care is highly relevant to each type, despite their different impacts on researcher well-being. This conceptual article furthers conversation in the field about how researchers and educators can address the need for self-care to prepare novice researchers and proposes a conceptual framework for researcher self-care in emotionally demanding research, with an aim for future empirical study.

Research Articles

Unraveling the Mobilization of Memory in Research With Refugees

Ruth Kevers, Peter Rober, Lucia De Haene

First Published December 18, 2017; pp. 659–672

Preview

In this article, we explore how narrative accounts of trauma are co-constructed through the interaction between researcher and participant. Using a narrative multiple-case study with Kurdish refugee families, we address how this process takes place, investigating how researcher and participants were engaged in relational, moral, collective, and sociopolitical dimensions of remembering, and how this led to the emergence of particular ethical questions. Case examples indicate that acknowledging the multilayered co-construction of remembering in the research relationship profoundly complicates existing deontological guidelines that predominantly emphasize the researcher's responsibility in sensitively dealing with participants' alleged autobiographical trauma narratives. Instead, our analysis invites qualitative researchers to engage in a continued, context-specific ethical reflection on the potential risks and benefits that are invoked in studies with survivors of collective violence. In this article, we explore how narrative accounts of trauma are co-constructed through the interaction between researcher and participant. Using a narrative multiple-case study with Kurdish refugee families, we address how this process takes place, investigating how researcher and participants were engaged in relational, moral, collective, and sociopolitical dimensions of remembering, and how this led to the emergence of particular ethical questions. Case examples indicate that acknowledging the multilayered co-construction of remembering in the research relationship profoundly complicates existing deontological guidelines that predominantly emphasize the researcher's responsibility in sensitively dealing with participants' alleged autobiographical trauma narratives. Instead, our analysis invites qualitative researchers to engage in a continued, context-specific ethical reflection on the potential risks and benefits that are invoked in studies with survivors of collective violence.

Refugee Survey Quarterly

Volume 37, Issue 1, 1 March 2018

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

Articles

[Humanitarian Protection Advocacy in East Asia: Charting a Path Forward](#)

Andrew Wolman

Refugee Survey Quarterly, Volume 37, Issue 1, 1 March 2018, Pages 25–43,

<https://doi.org/10.1093/rsq/hdx020>

[Seeking Asylum in Times of Crisis: Reception, Confinement, and Detention at Europe's Southern Border](#)

Giuseppe Campesi

Refugee Survey Quarterly, Volume 37, Issue 1, 1 March 2018, Pages 44–70,

<https://doi.org/10.1093/rsq/hdx016>

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 3 March 2018]

Research

2 March 2018

[HIV status disclosure to male partners among rural Nigerian women along the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV cascade: a mixed methods study](#)

Authors: Angela Odiachi, Salome Erekaha, Llewellyn J. Cornelius, Christopher Isah, Habib O. Ramadhani, Laura Rapoport and Nadia A. Sam-Agudu

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

February 2018 Volume 38, Issue 2 Pages 213–426

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/risa.2018.38.issue-2/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

Risk Management and Healthcare Policy

Volume 10, 2017

<https://www.dovepress.com/risk-management-and-healthcare-policy-archive56>

[Reviewed earlier]

Science

02 March 2018 Vol 359, Issue 6379

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

Policy Forum

[Linking climate policies to advance global mitigation](#)

By Michael A. Mehling, Gilbert E. Metcalf, Robert N. Stavins

Science02 Mar 2018 : 997-998 Restricted Access

Joining jurisdictions can increase efficiency of mitigation

Summary

The November 2017 negotiations in Bonn, Germany, under the auspices of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) validated that the Paris Agreement has met one of two necessary conditions for success. By achieving broad participation, including 195 countries, accounting for 99% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (1), the agreement dramatically improves on the 14% of global emissions associated with countries acting under the Kyoto Protocol (2), the international agreement it will replace in 2020. But the second necessary condition, adequate collective ambition of the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that countries have individually pledged, has not been met. One promising approach to incentivize countries to increase ambition over time is to link different climate policies, such that emission reductions in one jurisdiction can be counted toward mitigation commitments of another jurisdiction. Drawing on our research and our experiences in Bonn, we explore options and challenges for facilitating such linkages in light of the considerable heterogeneity that is likely to characterize regional, national, and subnational policy efforts.

Review

[Science of science](#)

By Santo Fortunato, Carl T. Bergstrom, Katy Börner, James A. Evans, Dirk Helbing, Staša

Milojević, Alexander M. Petersen, Filippo Radicchi, Roberta Sinatra, Brian Uzzi, Alessandro

Vespignani, Ludo Waltman, Dashun Wang, Albert-László Barabási

Science02 Mar 2018

Abstract

Identifying fundamental drivers of science and developing predictive models to capture its evolution are instrumental for the design of policies that can improve the scientific enterprise—for example, through enhanced career paths for scientists, better performance evaluation for organizations hosting research, discovery of novel effective funding vehicles, and even identification of promising regions along the scientific frontier. The science of science uses large-scale data on the production of science to search for universal and domain-specific patterns. Here, we review recent developments in this transdisciplinary field.

Social Science & Medicine

Volume 198 In progress (February 2018)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/social-science-and-medicine/vol/198/suppl/C>

[Reviewed earlier]

Stability: International Journal of Security & Development

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

[accessed 3 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 9, Issue 10 (October 2017)

<http://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/9/10>

[Reviewed earlier]

Torture Journal

Volume 27 - Issue No. 3

<http://www.irct.org/publications/torture-journal/128>

[Reviewed earlier]

Trauma, Violence, & Abuse

Volume 19, Issue 2, April 2018

<http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/tvaa/current>

Review Manuscripts

[Abuse of Older Persons With Dementia: A Review of the Literature](#)

Boye Fang, Elsie Yan

First Published May 31, 2016; pp. 127–147

Preview

In view of the rapidly aging population, increasing attention has been paid to studying persons with dementia. Factors associated with its onset, prognosis, and treatment as well as ways to support caregivers in the community have been extensively studied. Despite the fact that older persons with dementia are at higher risk of abuse compared to their cognitively unimpaired counterparts in institutions and the community, however, relatively little attention has been paid to understanding such abuse. This review summarizes the available literature on abuse of older persons with dementia. It compares methodologies used across studies and highlights the implications of using different informants, sampling strategies, and abuse subtypes in studying abuse of persons with dementia and discussed the relevant cultural considerations for research. The results of this review provide important information for researchers, policy makers, and practitioners.

[Trafficking and Health: A Systematic Review of Research Methods](#)

Abby C. Cannon, Jennet Arcara, Laurie M. Graham, Rebecca J. Macy

First Published May 17, 2016; pp. 159–175

Preview

Trafficking in persons (TIP) is a human rights violation with serious public health consequences. Unfortunately, assessing TIP and its health sequelae rigorously and reliably is challenging due to

TIP's clandestine nature, variation in definitions of TIP, and the need to use research methods that ensure studies are ethical and feasible. To help guide practice, policy, and research to assess TIP and health, we undertook a systematic literature review of 70 peer-reviewed, published articles to (a) identify TIP and health research methods being used, (b) determine what we can learn about TIP and health from these varied methodologies, and (c) determine the gaps that exist in health-focused TIP research. Results revealed that there are various quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis methods being used to investigate TIP and health. Furthermore, findings show that the limitations of current methodologies affect what is known about TIP and health. In particular, varying definitions, participant recruitment strategies, ethical standards, and outcome measures all affect what is known about TIP and health. Moreover, findings demonstrate an urgent need for representative and nonpurposive recruitment strategies in future investigations of TIP and health as well as research on risk and protective factors related to TIP and health, intervention effectiveness, long-term health outcomes, and research on trafficked people beyond women trafficked for sex. We offer recommendations for research, policy, and practice based on review results.

Travel Medicine and Infectious Diseases

January-February, 2018 Volume 21

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

Editorial

[Influenza risk at Muslim pilgrimages in Iraq and Saudi Arabia](#)

Philippe Gautret

Vol. 21, p1–2

Published online: October 26, 2017

Tropical Medicine & International Health

February 2018 Volume 23, Issue 2 Pages i–iv, 121–250

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/tmi.2018.23.issue-2/issuetoc>

[Reviewed earlier]

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/>

n°85 - October 2017

World Heritage and Modern Heritage

Modern heritage – the architecture, town planning and landscape design of the modern era, or the last two hundred years or so – is still underrepresented on the World Heritage List. And yet it is an integral part of many urban ensembles, which represent a majority of sites on the List. Raising awareness of the significance of this heritage, and addressing issues on its preservation and valorization, is the focus of the World Heritage Centre's Modern Heritage Programme, and of many heritage experts. Drawing attention to these structures, and encouraging the development of legal protection for them, is beginning to build momentum.

In this issue, we will look closely at the Sydney Opera House (Australia), from its construction to its role today as a vibrant cultural centre; Grimeton Radio Station (Sweden), a monument to early wireless transatlantic communication built in 1922-1924 and still in working condition; and the city of Brasilia (Brazil), that landmark of town planning by urban planner Lucio Costa and architect Oscar Niemeyer. We will also learn about the evolution of the identification of modern heritage in the Arab region, and in an interview with Hubert Jan Henket, architect and co-founder of the International Committee for Documentation and Conservation of Buildings, Sites and neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement (DOCOMOMO), we will explore the recognition of modern heritage, international collaboration and other aspects of conservation.

In addition, the issue presents the 21 new sites inscribed on the World Heritage List during the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee in Krakow, from 2 to 12 July 2017. These include two sites that are the first to be inscribed in their country: Mbanza Kongo in Angola, and in Eritrea, the site of Asmara: A Modernist City of Africa. Asmara is an exceptional example of early modernist urbanism at the beginning of the 20th century and its application in an African context. As pointed out in the lead article by Alfredo Conti, Vice President of ICOMOS, the international community has started recognizing modern heritage that until recently was barely valued at all. Identifying and preserving our modern heritage is indeed an important issue of the moment.

Mechtild Rössler

Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre

World Journal of Emergency Medicine

2018 - Vol. 9 - No 1 January 2018

<http://wjem.org/journal/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

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