

# **ge<sup>2</sup>p<sup>2</sup> global foundation**

governance, ethics, evidence, policy, practice

## **The Sentinel**

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

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**Period ending 14 April 2018**

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

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

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*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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## **Syria :: Security Council – Chemical Weapons – Airstrikes**

### ***Editor's Note:***

*The extraordinary and disturbing series of Security Council Meetings over the last week included too many low points to fully capture here. But included below are links to the videos of the SC meetings on Syria held on Friday and Saturday [if you elect to watch the four+ hours of meeting coverage prepare to be disheartened]. Also below is the report on yesterday's meeting and the sobering briefing at Friday's meeting by the UN Secretary General.*

### **UN Security Council 14 Apr 2018**

#### **[The Situation in the Middle East \(Syria\) - Threats to international peace and security - Security Council, 8233rd meeting](#)**

[Video: 2:42.06]

#### **[Following Air Strikes against Suspected Chemical Weapons Sites in Syria, Security Council Rejects Proposal to Condemn Aggression](#)**

14 April 2018

SC/13296

*[Excerpt]*

On the heels of air strikes meant to hamper Syria's ability to use chemical weapons, the Security Council today rejected a proposal by the Russian Federation to condemn such aggression by the United States and its allies over suspected chemical weapons use in the country, amid pressure from the Secretary-General to abide by the tenets of international law.

The draft resolution — which was defeated by a recorded vote of 8 against (Côte d'Ivoire, France, Kuwait, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States) to 3 in favour (Bolivia, China, Russian Federation), with 4 abstentions (Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Peru) — would have demanded the United States and its allies immediately cease such actions and refrain from any further use of force in violation of international law.

It also would have expressed grave concern that such acts had taken place at a time when the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) fact-finding mission had begun to collect evidence in the Syrian city of Douma.

Briefing the Council, Secretary-General António Guterres said it was his duty to remind States of their obligation, particularly in peace and security matters, to act consistently with the Charter of the United Nations and with international law in general.

"I urge all Member States to show restraint in these dangerous circumstances and to avoid any acts that could escalate matters and worsen the suffering of the Syrian people," he asserted. "If the law is ignored, it is undermined."

Speaking before the vote, the representative of the Russian Federation said his Government had called for the meeting — the fifth that week on the Syria situation — to discuss aggressive actions by the United States. It was shameful that, in justifying its aggression, that Government had cited its Constitution. Washington, D.C, must learn: the international code of behaviour regarding the use of force was regulated by the Charter.

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Decrying that the United Kingdom and France had taken part in such an illegal military venture, he said: "You're constantly tempted by neo-colonialism. There is no serious work you're doing in the Council. You don't consult us, yet claim otherwise." The conflict could end within a day if Washington, D.C, London and Paris ordered their hand-picked terrorists to stop fighting the Syrian authorities.

The United States delegate, meanwhile, said the time for talk had ended the previous night when her country, along with the United Kingdom and France, had acted, not in revenge, punishment or a symbolic show of force, but to deter the future use of chemical weapons by holding the Syrian regime accountable.

She said a disinformation campaign by the Russian Federation was in full force. However, a large body of information demonstrated Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's culpability. The targets selected were at the heart of the regime's illegal chemical weapons programme, and the action taken by the three countries had been legitimate and proportional. In the coming weeks, the Council should reflect on its role in defending the international rule of law...

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### **UN Security Council 13 Apr 2018**

#### **The situation in the Middle East (8231st meeting), 2) Sudan and South Sudan (8232nd meeting]**

[Video: 2:16:41]

#### **Cold War 'Back with a Vengeance' amid Multiple Entrenched Divides in Middle East, Secretary-General Tells Security Council, Urging Efforts to Avert Further Chaos**

SG/SM/18986-SC/13294

13 April 2018

*Following are UN Secretary-General António Guterres' remarks to the Security Council meeting on the Middle East, in New York today:*

The situation in the Middle East is in chaos — to such an extent it has become a threat to international peace and security. The region is facing a true Gordian knot — different fault lines crossing each other and creating a highly volatile situation with risks of escalation, fragmentation and division as far as the eye can see with profound regional and global ramifications.

We see a multiplicity of divides. The first is the memory of the cold war. But, to be precise, it is more than a simple memory. The cold war is back — with a vengeance, but with a difference. The mechanisms and the safeguards to manage the risks of escalation that existed in the past no longer seem to be present.

Second, the Palestinian-Israeli divide. Third, the Sunni-Shia divide, evident from the Gulf to the Mediterranean. It is important to note that apparent religious divides are normally the result of political or geostrategic manipulations.

Finally, a wide range of different factors — from opposing attitudes in relation to the role of the Muslim Brotherhood or the status of the Kurds, to the dramatic threats to communities that have been living in the region for millennia and are part of the rich diversity of Middle Eastern societies.

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This multiplicity of divides is reflected in a multiplicity of conflicts with different degrees of interconnection, several of them clearly linked to the threat of global terrorism.

Many forms of escalation are possible. We see the wounds of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict deepening once again. The recent violence in Gaza has resulted in many needless deaths and injuries. I repeat my call for an independent and transparent investigation into these incidents. I also appeal to those concerned to refrain from any act that could lead to further casualties, and in particular, any measures that could place civilians in harm's way.

This tragedy underlines the urgency of revitalizing the peace process for a two-State solution that will allow Palestinians and Israelis to live in two democratic States side by side in peace and within secure and recognized borders. I reaffirm the United Nations' readiness to support these efforts.

In Yemen, we are witnessing the worst humanitarian disaster in today's world. There is only one pathway to ending the Yemeni conflict and addressing the humanitarian crisis — a negotiated political settlement through inclusive intra-Yemeni dialogue. My Special Envoy, Martin Griffiths, is doing everything possible to facilitate that political settlement — and he will brief the Council next week.

In Libya, I encourage all parties to continue to work with my Special Representative Ghassan Salamé, as he engages in the political process with a broad range of Libyan interlocutors across the country to implement the United Nations Action Plan. It is high time to end the Libyan conflict.

Iraq demonstrates that progress is possible with concerted local, regional and global commitment. With the defeat of Da'esh, and after overcoming the risk of fragmentation, the Government of Iraq must now focus on reconstruction, reforms and reconciliation. I hope the upcoming elections will consolidate this progress.

At the recent Paris and Rome conferences, the international community reaffirmed its support for Lebanon's sovereignty, stability and State security institutions. It is absolutely essential to avoid a new Israel-Hizbullah conflict that could inevitably result in many more victims and much greater destruction than the last war. I reiterate the critical importance to act on key principles and commitments on Lebanon, including Security Council resolutions, such as [resolution] 1701 (2006), and the policy of disassociation. The dangers of the links to the Syrian conflict are evident in the recent confrontations between Iran and Israel in Syria.

Syria indeed today represents the most serious threat to international peace and security. In Syria, we see confrontations and proxy wars involving several national armies, a number of armed opposition groups, many national and international militia, foreign fighters from everywhere in the world and various terrorist organizations.

From the beginning, we have witnessed systematic violations of international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international law tout court — in utter disregard of the letter and spirit of the United Nations Charter. For eight long years, the people of Syria have endured suffering upon suffering.

I reiterate: there is no military solution to the conflict. The solution must be political through the Geneva intra-Syrian talks, as stipulated in resolution 2254 (2015) of the Security Council, in line with the consistent efforts of my Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura.

Syrians have lived through a litany of horrors: atrocity crimes, sieges, starvation, indiscriminate attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, the use of chemical weapons, forced displacement, sexual violence, torture, detention and enforced disappearances. The list goes on.

In a moment of hope, the Security Council adopted resolution 2401 (2018) demanding that all parties cease hostilities without delay for a durable humanitarian pause. Unfortunately, no such cessation of hostilities ever really took place. That is the bleak panorama of Syria today.

In this panorama, I am outraged by the continued reports of the use of chemical weapons in Syria. I reiterate my strong condemnation of the use of chemical weapons by any party to the conflict and under any circumstances. Their use is abhorrent and a clear violation of international law. The seriousness of the recent allegations requires a thorough investigation using impartial, independent and professional expertise.

In this regard, I reaffirm my full support for the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons — the OPCW — and its fact-finding mission in undertaking the required investigation into these allegations. The fact-finding mission should be granted full access, without any restrictions or impediments to perform its activities. I take note that the Syrian Government has requested it and committed to facilitate it. The first team of the OPCW is already in Syria. A second is expected today or tomorrow. But, we need to go further.

In a letter to the Council two days ago I expressed “my deep disappointment that the Security Council was unable to agree upon a dedicated mechanism to attribute responsibility for the use of chemical weapons in Syria”, following the end of the mandate of the Joint Investigative Mechanism, or JIM.

I want to repeat today that the norms against chemical weapons must be upheld...

As I wrote in the same letter: “Ensuring accountability for a confirmed use of chemical weapons is our responsibility, not least to the victims of such attacks. A lack of accountability emboldens those who would use such weapons by providing them with the reassurance of impunity. This in turn further weakens the norm proscribing the use of chemical weapons and the international disarmament and non-proliferation architecture as a whole. I urge all Member States to act responsibly in these dangerous circumstances. I appeal to the Security Council to fulfil its duties and not give up on efforts to agree upon a dedicated, impartial, objective and independent mechanism for attributing responsibility with regard to the use of chemical weapons. I stand ready to support such efforts.”

Increasing tensions and the inability to reach a compromise in the establishment of an accountability mechanism threaten to lead to a full-blown military escalation. In my contacts with you — especially with the permanent members of the Security Council — I have been reiterating my deep concerns about the risks of the current impasse and stressed the need to avoid the situation spiralling out of control.

This is exactly the risk we face today — that things spiral out of control. It is our common duty to stop it.

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**[Forced Displacement](#)**

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World Bank

April 11, 2018 Type: Brief

Globally, there are an estimated 65.6 million people who have fled their homes either as refugees (22.5 million), internally displaced persons (40.3 million), or asylum seekers as a result of conflict...

..."Under its mandate to reduce poverty, the World Bank Group is concerned about the welfare of the displaced as well as their host communities. The Bank is actively engaged to address this challenge through financing, data and analytics and operations, working in complementary ways with the United Nations Refugee Agency UNHCR and across humanitarian-development partners. As part of a global effort, the Bank takes a development approach, focused on addressing the social and economic dimensions of displacement crises in the medium-term, to help both refugees and host countries thrive.

The flagship report *Forcibly Displaced: Toward a Development Approach Supporting Refugees, the Internally Displaced, and Their Hosts*, examines available data to better understand the scope of the challenge, and suggests a development approach that aims to help the displaced access jobs and services so they can become self-reliant and rebuild their lives with dignity. It also emphasizes the need to support host communities manage the arrival of large numbers of people.

For low-income countries, the International Development Association, the Bank's fund for the poorest, is making an additional \$2 billion available to support refugees and host communities. Eight countries so far - Cameroon, Chad, Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Niger, Pakistan, and Uganda - have been found eligible for this financing, and projects are under preparation. Overall, interventions will aim to make a shift from crisis response to managing risks; support host communities and lagging regions; move towards social and economic inclusion; and take regional and country-level approaches.

For middle-income countries, the Global Concessional Financing Facility, launched in partnership with the UN and Islamic Development Bank, has unlocked \$1.4 billion in concessional financing for Jordan and Lebanon, promoting job creation and expanding vital public services and infrastructure.

The GCFF has approved nearly US\$200 million in grants to leverage five times that amount in concessional financing for projects to improve the lives of Syrian refugees and the communities hosting them by promoting job creation and expanding vital public services and infrastructure.

In the long term, the Bank is doing more to help fragile and conflict affected areas address the drivers of conflict and create more stable societies that provide opportunities for all, so that people will not need to risk their lives and flee in the first place....

### **[Forcibly Displaced: Toward a Development Approach Supporting Refugees, the Internally Displaced, and Their Hosts](#)**

World Bank

2017 :: 187 pages

PDF:

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/25016/9781464809385.pdf?sequence=11&isAllowed=y>

*Forcibly Displaced — Toward a development approach supporting refugees, the internally displaced, and their hosts* is a groundbreaking study conducted in partnership with the United

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Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which examines the role of development in resolving the challenge of forced displacement. It responds to the growing need to better manage these crises as an important development challenge, part of an overall effort to reduce poverty and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The aim of development support is to address the longer term, social and economic dimensions of displacement, in close collaboration with humanitarian and other partners working in complementary ways.

While the current crisis is severe—with a reported 65 million people living in forced displacement—the report finds that over the past 25 years, the majority of both refugees and Internally Displaced Persons under UNHCR's mandate can be traced to just a few conflicts in the following areas: Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Sudan, Colombia, the Caucasus and the former Yugoslavia.

Since people typically flee to neighbors of their countries of origin, the responsibility of hosting has not been shared evenly. About 15 countries have consistently been hosting the majority of refugees. At the end of 2015, Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan, Syria's neighbors, hosted 27 % of all refugees worldwide; Pakistan and Iran, Afghanistan's neighbors, hosted 16 %; and Ethiopia and Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan's neighbors, hosted 7%.

"Forced displacement denies development opportunities to millions, creating a major obstacle to our efforts to end extreme poverty by 2030," said World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim. "We're committed to working with our partners to help the displaced overcome their ordeal and seize economic opportunities, while ensuring that host communities can also benefit and continue to pursue their own development."...

*Report Excerpt [p.29]*

...To help the forcibly displaced rebuild their lives in a durable manner, development actors should:

**:: Support returnees and the communities that receive them.** The impact of return on receiving communities is in many respects similar to the impact of forced displacement on host communities: it is a shock that has to be managed. Receiving communities are likely to face considerable economic and social difficulties, which typically affect both the returnees and those who stayed throughout the conflict. Development actors should support the countries of return in their recovery efforts. They should also help create socioeconomic opportunities for the returnees and their communities, to the extent that these are economically viable and can be sustained.

**:: Help people who are "de facto" integrated acquire a satisfactory legal status.** For example, providing formal legal migrant status to de facto integrated refugees may be a way to recognize the reality of their situation and the normality of human mobility. Such an approach distinguishes between citizenship (formal political membership and associated rights) and residency (economic and social integration). And it makes economic security a priority over political membership. Development actors should support countries willing to explore such solutions, including with financing.

**:: Work to end situations of "continuing limbo" where people remain dependent in camps for extended periods.** Development actors should support efforts to transform camps into settlements. They should also work with other partners to enhance the way assistance is provided so as to gradually reduce dependency—for example, by strengthening targeting, supporting people in rejoining the labor force, and building capacity to allow for a gradual shift to country systems.

**:: Remain engaged over the medium term to help overcome lasting vulnerabilities.**  
Forced displacement can leave scars that take decades, sometimes generations, to heal. Development support may be needed for very long periods. This would typically include assistance to overcome trauma or destitution, building on programs that have been developed for marginalized or excluded groups.

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## **Governance – Judicial Integrity**

### **[First Advisory Board of the Global Judicial Integrity Network appointed at Vienna launch](#)**

Vienna, 10 April 2018 - After two days of discussions among more than 350 participants and in the presence of chief and senior justices from around the world, the Global Judicial Integrity Network was formally launched by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration.

During the conference closing session the Terms of Reference of the Global Judicial Integrity Network were endorsed by acclamation. The Terms outline the Network's mission statement, objectives, participation and organization of work, as well as the role of the Secretariat (carried out by UNODC) and of the Advisory Board.

The Advisory Board of the Network will help identify priority challenges and emerging topics in judicial integrity, and assist judiciaries in addressing those challenges as they arise.

**The conference concluded with the adoption, by acclamation, of the Declaration on Judicial Integrity** and the invitation by Masoud Mohamed Alameri, Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Council of Qatar, to hold the next conference of the Global Judicial Integrity Network in Qatar. Addressing the participants, Chief Justice Alameri stressed: "As we proceed with the Global Judicial Integrity Network, we should remember that our efforts are of historic value to us, as it will be the first purely judicial project connecting and bringing together the world's judicial authorities under the auspices of the United Nations."

### **[Declaration on Judicial Integrity](#)** [April 2018]

Recalling Article 11 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which recognizes the crucial role of the judiciary in combating corruption and requires that States parties, in accordance with the fundamental principles of the legal system and without prejudice to judicial independence, take measures to strengthen integrity and prevent opportunities for corruption among members of the judiciary, including rules with respect to the conduct of members of the judiciary,

Convinced that a justice system based on the principles of integrity, transparency, accountability and professionalism is key to the rule of law, to upholding public trust, and to ensuring the effective delivery of justice;

Recalling the work carried out by the Judicial Integrity Group, including in the development of the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct and the Commentary thereto;

Re-committing ourselves to the effective implementation of the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct, as endorsed by ECOSOC Res. 2006/23;

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Recalling with appreciation the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in developing the Resource Guide on Strengthening Judicial Integrity and Capacity and the Implementation Guide and Evaluative Framework for Article 11 and in providing assistance to States in strengthening judicial integrity, accountability, capacity and professionalism;

We, the members of Judiciaries here gathered, on 9 and 10 April 2018 at the United Nations in Vienna, decide to:

**1. Continue our efforts in upholding judicial independence and promoting integrity, accountability and transparency in the justice system;**

2. Promote peer-learning and the exchange of good practices in strengthening and upholding judicial integrity;

3. Support the creation and the strengthening of oversight and accountability mechanisms, without prejudice to judicial independence;

4. Support initiatives that promote transparency in the recruitment and promotion of judges and magistrates, as well as on court and case management and on disciplinary proceedings, when appropriate;

5. Support initiatives that promote the training of judges on effectively complying with relevant standards of conduct;

**6. Work together, as appropriate, to develop guidance materials and other knowledge products to help our judiciaries to address new challenges to judicial integrity and independence, including those created by the emergence of new information technology tools and social media;**

**7. Recognizing that the above mentioned objectives should be pursued at the global level to the benefit of every region, launch the Global Judicial Integrity Network as a platform of mutual support by judges for judges, and welcome the readiness of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to facilitate the Network;**

8. Invite all judges and judiciaries to participate in the Global Judicial Integrity Network;

9. Express our appreciation to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for hosting this first meeting of the Global Judicial Integrity Network...

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## **Development Financing**

### **[Financing for Development: Progress and Prospects 2018](#)**

Report of the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development

UN DESA

April 2018 :: 201 pages

PDF:

[https://developmentfinance.un.org/sites/developmentfinance.un.org/files/Report\\_IATF\\_2018.pdf](https://developmentfinance.un.org/sites/developmentfinance.un.org/files/Report_IATF_2018.pdf)

#### *Abstract*

The 2018 report of the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development finds that most types of development financing flows increased in 2017, and that there has been progress across all the action areas of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. This progress was underpinned by an upturn in the world economy, but at the same time the report warns that risks could derail development progress and structural impediments continue to undermine sustainable development prospects.

The 2018 report provides policy options which, if implemented, would put the world on a sustained and sustainable growth and development path. It also examines the financing

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challenges to the SDGs under in-depth review in 2018 to help assess progress in the means of implementation for goals on water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, sustainable cities and communities, sustainable production and consumption, and terrestrial ecosystems. The 2018 report is the second substantive assessment of progress in implementing the Financing for Development outcomes and the means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The assessment draws on the expertise, analysis and data from almost 60 agencies and international institutions that make up the Task Force, which is led by UN DESA and includes the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organisation, as well as UN agencies such as UNCTAD and UNDP.

*Press Release*

### **[Short-termism impedes progress of hundreds of millions of people, United Nations report says](#)**

13 April 2018, New York

*Major report released in advance of the G20 and World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings*

The prospects of around 800 million of the world's poorest people remain dire. The global economy is experiencing a moderate upturn, and momentum around sustainable investing is growing, the UN said today. But the vast majority of investment is still short-term oriented and commitments by the international community to create sustainable economies are not being met.

There is an increasing interest in socially responsible investing, but that is no substitute for a broader transformation in the financial system. The report states that the current system rewards investors, financiers and project managers that prioritize short-term profits. Similarly, policy makers are excessively focused on short-term considerations. But there is a price to pay. Infrastructure projects are shelved in favour of short term priorities. Small businesses and women remain excluded from the financial system.

"The good economic news in some regions masks the very real risk that the poorest will be left behind," said LIU Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. "There is no room for complacency."...

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### **Development :: OECD Aid**

#### **OECD - [Development aid stable in 2017 with more sent to poorest countries](#)**

09/04/2018 - Foreign aid from official donors totalled USD 146.6 billion in 2017, a small decrease of 0.6% from 2016 in real terms as less money was spent on refugees inside donor countries but with more funds flowing to countries most in need of aid, according to preliminary official data collected by the OECD.

Stripping out in-donor refugee costs, net ODA was up 1.1% from 2016 in real terms (i.e. correcting for inflation and currency fluctuations). ODA spent by donor countries on hosting refugees fell by 13.6% to USD 14.2 billion as refugee arrivals, mainly in Europe, decreased. In-donor refugee costs were 9.7% of total net ODA, down from 11% in 2016.

Bilateral (country to country) aid to least-developed countries increased by 4% in real terms to USD 26 billion, following several years of declines. Aid to Africa rose by 3% to USD 29 billion and, within that, aid to sub-Saharan Africa was also up 3% to USD 25 billion. Humanitarian aid rose by 6.1% in real terms to USD 15.5 billion.

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A 1988 DAC rule allows donor countries to count certain refugee expenses as ODA for the first year after their arrival. Australia, Korea and Luxembourg did not count any in-donor refugee costs as ODA in 2017 but nine countries spent over 10% of their ODA on refugees. Among them, Germany, Greece, Iceland and Italy used over 20% of ODA for in-donor refugee costs.

Overall, total net ODA flows rose in 11 countries in 2016, with the biggest increases in France, Italy, Japan and Sweden. ODA fell in 18 countries, in many cases due to lower numbers of refugee arrivals, with the largest declines seen in Australia, Austria, Greece, Hungary, Norway, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland.

:: [Download the data in Excel](#)

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## **Development :: USAID - Venezuela**

### **[U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Mark Green's Remarks on Humanitarian Assistance for Venezuela](#)**

April 14, 2018

Chief of Mission Residence Lima, Peru

...To be clear, the humanitarian assistance that we are announcing today is not about politics. It is about helping the victims of a massive crisis. This aid [USD\$16 million] is based upon need and need alone, because America will always stand with the hungry and the displaced. That's simply who we are as Americans.

However, we cannot pretend that this situation falls into the same category as the natural disasters that we have seen over the last year - hurricanes and earthquakes. Let's be honest, in some ways, this is more tragic because it is entirely man-made and regime-made. Now, we have all heard stories of the terrible suffering and the hunger among Venezuelans. What I think many people don't realize, especially those of us in the U.S., is that this crisis is also causing the largest displacement in Latin American history. Hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans are fleeing their homeland to escape the brutality and the corruption of the Maduro regime - 1.6 million, in fact. They're fleeing not only to their immediate neighbors but to something like 20 other countries as well...

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## **Development – Digital Inclusion/**

### **[UNESCO calling for feedback on guidelines for digital inclusion](#)**

11 April 2018

...In an increasingly online world, people without the required digital skills and literacy – the 750 million people who cannot read or write and the many more who have low literacy – now face a double exclusion, not only from full participation in the real world but also from opportunities in the digital one.

There is a need to both develop the digital skills and literacy amongst this group, as well as create inclusive digital solutions that are suitable for the digital skills they have today in order to ensure inclusion and equal participation for all.

*UNESCO Guidelines for Digital Inclusion for Low-skilled and Low-literate People*

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Recognising that apps and services, if designed appropriately, can provide an entry point for low-skilled and low-literate people into digital usage and can support improved livelihoods and skills development, UNESCO is currently drafting a set of guidelines for more inclusive design of digital solutions.

The draft guidelines have been developed in consultation with an international expert group, and are informed by a landscape review [Digital Inclusion for Low- skilled and Low-literate People](#) and a set of fourteen [case studies](#).

There are many excellent guides on effective digital development and on how to practise user-centred design. In a way that complements and extends existing resources, UNESCO aims to focus the lens on low-skilled and low-literate users as much as possible with the guidelines...

## **[Digital Inclusion for Low- skilled and Low-literate People](#)**

UNESCO

2018 :: 118 page

*Executive summary [Editor's text bolding]*

The twenty-first century has seen the emergence of knowledge societies and digital economies around the world. Underpinning these changes have been the proliferation of mobile devices, increased sophistication of computers, and cheaper and more widely available internet access. In 2015 the number of internet users had more than tripled in a decade - from 1 billion in 2005 to an estimated 3.2 billion (ITU, 2016).

The digital revolution has changed the way almost half the world lives and works, learns and socializes. From a livelihood perspective, it has affected many key sectors - including health, agriculture and government - and how essential services are delivered. Business transactions have become dramatically cheaper, faster and more convenient.

But what about those who do not possess the skills and literacy necessary to access the myriad services of today's digital world, to fully participate in knowledge societies? How can digital solutions be designed to be more inclusive, and how can these individuals develop the skills needed to fully utilize the digital opportunities?

UNESCO and Pearson have partnered to research the answer to these questions. As a first step, this landscape review seeks to explore how technology solutions outside of the education sector can be designed to be more inclusive, accessible and usable for people with low levels of skills and literacy; what skills such people need to utilize effectively inclusive digital solutions; and what key characteristics of the overall environment are needed for successful implementation of more inclusive solutions. It is important to note that low literacy in this review includes young people and adults who are illiterate in the sense that they cannot read or write.

**Five development areas and contexts - health, agriculture, government, displaced populations, and green and environmental practices - are foregrounded to help us understand the links between digital solutions, skills development and livelihoods.**

In line with the holistic development agenda of 2030, it was decided to focus outside of the traditional education lens, considering instead areas that contribute broadly to improving livelihoods and well-being. The five focus areas represent a cross-section of areas covered by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) where the use of digital technologies, especially for development purposes, is either well established for users with low levels of skills and literacy, such as health, or showing promise, such as for green and environmental services.

The landscape review aims to inform the work of digital solution providers, development partners and governments - to move towards the development and implementation of more inclusive digital solutions and raise awareness of the skills needed to use them. **Thirty-two projects from at least twenty-five countries, in contexts both rural and urban, were selected for this review, to illustrate key characteristics of digital inclusion for the target audience...**

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## **Emergencies**

### **POLIO**

#### ***Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)***

##### **Polio this week as of 3 April 2018** [GPEI]

:: New on [www.polioeradication.org](http://www.polioeradication.org): Bill Gates and Aliko Dangote support [polio eradication efforts in Nigeria](#). We talk with [Professor Rose Leke, Chair of the African Regional Certification Commission](#), and with [Dr Ondrej Mach](#), who explains why we are developing new polio vaccines for the post-eradication era.

:: The report following the February meeting of the [Global Commission for Certification of Poliomyelitis Eradication \(GCC\)](#) is now published and available [here](#). The GCC came together to review the criteria that will need to be met to achieve global certification of eradication.

:: In Kenya, advance notification of a circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) detected from an environmental sample is being investigated (to be officially reflected in next week's global data). A cVDPV2 was isolated from an environmental sample collected on 21 March 2018 from Nairobi, linked to the cVDPV2 confirmed from Mogadishu, Somalia. No cases of paralysis associated with this virus have been detected, however a risk assessment is ongoing as is planning for a potential regional response.

*Summary of newly-reported viruses this week:*

***Afghanistan:*** Two new wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) positive environmental samples have been reported in Kandahar province.

***Pakistan:*** One new wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) positive environmental sample has been reported in Sindh province

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##### **WHO Grade 3 Emergencies** [to 14 April 2018]

The Syrian Arab Republic - *No new announcements identified*

Iraq - *No new announcements identified*

Nigeria - *No new announcements identified*

Yemen - *No new announcements identified.*

WHO concerned about suspected chemical attacks in Syria

11 April 2018 – WHO is deeply alarmed by reports of the suspected use of toxic chemicals in Douma city, East Ghouta.

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##### **WHO Grade 2 Emergencies** [to 14 April 2018]

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

Cameroon - *No new announcements identified*

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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**

:: Syrian Arab Republic: Response to the East Ghouta Crisis in Rural Damascus Situation Report No. 3 (3 April – 11 April 2018) 11 Apr 2018

:: Turkey | Syria: Situation in North-western Syria - Situation Report No.2 (as of 10 April 2018)

DRC - *No new announcements identified.*  
Iraq - *No new announcements identified.*  
Yemen - *No new announcements identified.*

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### **UN OCHA – Corporate Emergencies**

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

#### **Ethiopia**

:: Ethiopia Humanitarian Bulletin Issue 50 | 26 March - 08 April 2018

#### **Rohingya Refugee Crisis**

:: ISCG Situation Report: Rohingya Refugee Crisis, Cox's Bazar | 12 April 2018

Somalia - *No new announcements identified.*  
Nigeria - *No new announcements identified.*

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### **UN OCHA – Corporate Emergencies**

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

Ethiopia - *No new announcements identified.*

Rohingya Refugee Crisis - *No new announcements identified.*

Somalia - *No new announcements identified.* - *No new announcements identified.*

Nigeria - *No new announcements identified.*

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### ***Agency/Government/IGO Watch***

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*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 14 April 2018]

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

14 April 2018

SC/13296

#### **[Following Air Strikes against Suspected Chemical Weapons Sites in Syria, Security Council Rejects Proposal to Condemn Aggression](#)**

On the heels of air strikes meant to hamper Syria's ability to use chemical weapons, the Security Council today rejected a proposal by the Russian Federation to condemn such aggression by the United States and its allies over suspected chemical weapons use in the country, amid pressure from the Secretary-General to abide by the tenets of international law.

14 April 2018

SG/SM/18990-SC/13297

#### **[Addressing Security Council on Air Strikes against Syria, Secretary-General Reminds Members of Responsibility for Maintaining Peace](#)**

13 April 2018

SC/13293

#### **[Secretary-General Warns Security Council to Swiftly Unite on Syrian Conflict, Preventing Dangerous Developments from Worsening](#)**

The current state of chaos in the Middle East, including the conflict in Syria, had become a threat to international peace and security, Secretary-General António Guterres told the Security Council this morning, appealing to the 15-member body to overcome divisions and prevent dangerous situations from spinning out of control.

13 April 2018

SG/SM/18986-SC/13294

#### **[Cold War 'Back with a Vengeance' amid Multiple Entrenched Divides in Middle East, Secretary-General Tells Security Council, Urging Efforts to Avert Further Chaos](#)**

11 April 2018

SG/SM/18984

#### **[Secretary-General Expresses Regret over Security Council Failure to Reach Agreement on Reported Chemical Weapons Use in Syria](#)**

10 April 2018

SC/13288

#### **[Following Three Draft Texts on Chemical Weapons Attack in Syria, Security Council Fails to Agree upon Independent Investigative Mechanism](#)**

The Security Council, voting today on three separate draft resolutions in response to recent allegations of a chemical weapons attack in the Syrian town of Douma, failed to rally the votes needed to launch an "independent mechanism of investigation" into the incident, as delegates voiced frustration over the continued paralysis and the expanding rifts between nations.

10 April 2018

SG/SM/18981

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## [Secretary-General Outraged by Continued Reports of Chemical Weapons Use in Syria](#)

9 April 2018  
SC/13284

### [In Emergency Meeting, Security Council Speakers Voice Grave Concern over Alleged Chemical Weapons Use in Syria, as Versions of Recent Attacks Sharply Differ](#)

In an emergency meeting following claims of chemical weapons attacks against civilians in Douma, Syria, both Security Council members and officials briefing them voiced grave concern that the use of such weapons risked being normalized — and could contribute to rapidly escalating tensions between world Powers — for the first time since the end of the cold war.

**UN OHCHR** Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 14 April 2018]

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/media.aspx?IsMediaPage=true>  
*Selected Press Releases – "TOP NEWS"*

[UN report details scale and horror of detention in Libya](#)

[UN experts call on Myanmar to drop prosecution of Reuters reporters](#)

[World must react to chemical attacks, or face dire consequences – Zeid](#)

[Viet Nam: UN experts call for change after jailing of rights defenders](#)

[Slovenia: UN expert commends protection for minorities, but urges more progress](#)

[UN expert group on mercenaries to visit Chad](#)

[UN rights experts condemn Israel's response to Palestinian protests in Gaza](#)

[Sudan: UN expert to visit to assess human rights](#)

**Human Rights Council** [to 14 April 2018]

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc/pages/hrcindex.aspx>  
13 April 2018

### [Press statement on on the alleged use of chemical weapons in eastern Ghouta](#)

*Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic*

Geneva, 13 April 2018 – The Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic is gravely concerned by the continuing reports of use of chemical weapons in Syria. As of January 2018, we had reported on [34 documented incidents](#) of the use of chemical weapons by various parties to the conflict.

We condemn in the strongest possible terms the use of such weapons by any party to the conflict as this is strictly prohibited under international law including the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention, ratified by 192 states including Syria. Perpetrators of such attacks must be identified and held accountable.

The Commission welcomes both the technical investigation about to be despatched by the Organisation for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the commitment of the Syrian Arab Republic's representative at the United Nations Security Council that it will have full and unfettered access and freedom of movement in fulfilling its task.



We stress the imperative need to preserve evidence, and call upon all relevant authorities to ensure no party tampers with suspected sites, objects, witnesses, or victims before independent monitors and investigators are able to access the area.

We applaud the efforts of the Secretary General to persuade member States of the UN Security Council to establish a body to replace the Security-Council mandated UN–OPCW Joint Investigation Mechanism that can investigate and attribute responsibilities should the use of chemical weapons be verified by the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission.

We also support calls for the Secretary General to use the authority given to him by the General Assembly and endorsed by the Security Council (in instances in which the use of chemical weapons has been alleged, and when member States bring such reports to his attention) to establish an investigation that can attribute such responsibilities.

We urge the Syrian authorities and all other parties to fully cooperate with all internationally mandated bodies, including this Commission, concerning access, the provision of security, and providing full and unfettered access and freedom of movement for investigators on the ground. We remain ready to assist in this and any other investigations into violations of international human rights and humanitarian law in Syria.

**Committee on the Rights of the Child** [to 14 April 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 14 April 2018]  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Children/Pages/ChildrenIndex.aspx>  
*No new digest content identified.*

**SRSB/CAAC** Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict [to 14 April 2018]  
<https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/virtual-library/press-release-archive/>  
*No new digest content identified.*

**Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health** [to 14 April 2018]  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Health/Pages/SRRightHealthIndex.aspx>  
*No new digest content identified.*

**SRSB/SVC** Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict [to 14 April 2018]  
<http://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/media/press-releases/>  
*No new digest content identified*

**UN OCHA** [to 14 April 2018]  
<https://www.unocha.org/media-centre/press-releases>  
*Selected Press Releases*  
13 April 2018

[Donors Announce \\$528 Million in Funding to Scale Up Aid Delivery to People in Urgent Need in DRC](#) [See *Week in Review* above for more detail]

[Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock, Opening remarks at the Humanitarian Conference on the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)

12 April 2018

[Humanitarian agencies working in DPR Korea urgently require \\$111m for life-saving aid](#)

[High-level joint conference on the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan, Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan and priority needs in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq](#)

10 April 2018

[Statement by Panos Moutzisz, Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis, on Growing Displacement](#) [EN/AR]

[Humanitarian Coordinator condemns killing of aid worker, calls for the release of seven others held by armed group](#)

8 April 2018

[UN Deputy Humanitarian Chief: "All people affected by humanitarian crises in Myanmar must get the assistance and protection they need"](#) [EN/MY]

**Centre for Humanitarian Data/HDX** [to 14 April 2018]

<https://centre.humdata.org/>

*No new digest content identified.*

**UNAIDS** [to 14 April 2018]

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

11 April, 2018

[WHO and UNICEF issue new guidance to promote breastfeeding in health facilities globally](#)

GENEVA - The World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF today issued new ten-step guidance to increase support for breastfeeding in health facilities that provide maternity and newborn services. Breastfeeding all babies for the first two years would save the lives of more than 820,000 children under age 5 annually.

[UNICEF calls for the protection of children in the Gaza Strip](#)

AMMAN, 10 April 2018 - "In the last 10 days, three children were killed and dozens more were seriously injured in the recent tragic events in the Gaza Strip. UNICEF deplors all acts of violence against children.

[Latin America and the Caribbean: a decade lost in ending child marriage](#)

PANAMA/NEW YORK, 10 April 2018 - Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) is the only region in the world where the prevalence of child marriage and early unions has not decreased in the last decade, UNICEF's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean said today.

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

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GENEVA, 10 April 2018 - This is a summary of what was said by Christophe Boulierac, UNICEF spokesperson in Geneva – to whom quoted text may be attributed – at today's press briefing at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

### **Nearly one billion people in Africa to be protected against yellow fever by 2026**

ABUJA, 10 April 2018 — Nearly one billion people will be vaccinated against yellow fever in 27 high-risk African countries by 2026 with support from the World Health Organization (WHO), Gavi – the Vaccine Alliance, UNICEF and more than 50 health partners.

### **High risk of disease outbreaks in earthquake-hit Papua New Guinea - UNICEF and WHO**

PORT MORESBY, 9 April 2018 – UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) have cautioned about the high potential of waterborne and vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks in earthquake-affected areas of Papua New Guinea.

### **Statement by UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta H. Fore on continuing violence in Syria**

NEW YORK, 8 April 2018 – “There continues to be no respite for the children of Syria. Shelling on Damascus City has reportedly led to civilian casualties and violence has resumed in the besieged enclave of Douma in Eastern Ghouta, with fatal attacks against civilian infrastructure and damage to health facilities.

**UNHCR** Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [to 14 April 2018]

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

*Briefing Notes*

[UNHCR alarm at escalating Syria humanitarian needs](#) 10 Apr 2018

*Press releases and news comments*

[Bangladesh and UNHCR agree on voluntary returns framework for when refugees decide conditions are right](#) 13 Apr 2018

[UNHCR Desperate Journeys report provides snapshot of changing refugee movements to Europe](#) 11 Apr 2018

**IOM / International Organization for Migration** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*Selected Announcements*

2018-04-13 15:22

### **IOM Calls for Funding to Match Needs, at DR Congo Humanitarian Conference**

Geneva – Deadly violence has forced millions of people from their homes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

### **Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Reach 16,847 in 2018; Deaths Reach 557**

2018-04-13 15:16

Geneva – IOM, the UN Migration Agency reports that 16,847 migrants and refugees entered Europe by sea in 2018 through 11 April, with the vast majority arriving in Italy.

### **IOM, UNHCR, ICMC Present Innovative European Models for Protection of Refugees**

2018-04-13 15:14

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– On Thursday (12/04), IOM, the UN Migration Agency, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) presented the outcomes of a project that developed innovative models to provide more opportunities for the protection of...

### **UN Migration Agency Launches Regional Action Plan to Strengthen Response to Venezuelan Outflows**

2018-04-10 15:07

Buenos Aires – IOM today (10/04) launches a Regional Action Plan, detailing its support to Governments hosting Venezuelan nationals in the Americas and the Caribbean.

### **IOM, Partners Continue Vaccination Campaigns in South Sudan, Reach over 144,000 People in March**

2018-04-10 15:03

Juba – In the coming days, IOM will begin the second round of an oral cholera vaccination campaign in Malakal and Wau, South Sudan.

**UNAIDS** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**WHO & Regional Offices** [to 14 April 2018]

***Latest News***

### **Guidance to promote breastfeeding in health facilities**

11 April 2018 – Breastfeeding all babies for the first 2 years would save the lives of more than 820,000 children under age 5 annually.

***Highlights***

### **Denmark hosts the WHO Global Dialogue on Partnerships for Sustainable Financing of Noncommunicable Disease Prevention and Control**

April 2018 – Noncommunicable diseases are responsible for 40 million deaths globally every year. Tackling NCDs is a global priority, but despite this, investment is still lacking and action is needed to reach the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal target 3.4 of reducing premature deaths from NCDs by one third by 2030. In response, Denmark is co-hosting the WHO Global Dialogue in Copenhagen from 9 to 11 April 2018

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**WHO Regional Offices**

*Selected Press Releases, Announcements*

**WHO African Region AFRO**

*Selected Featured News*

:: Tanzania rolls out vaccination against cervical cancer 12 April 2018

:: Nearly one billion people in Africa to be protected against yellow fever by 2026 10 April 2018

**WHO Region of the Americas PAHO**

*- No new announcements identified.*

**WHO South-East Asia Region SEARO**

*- No new announcements identified.*

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## **WHO European Region EURO**

- :: [Multidisciplinary primary care teams in Spain provide person-centred care](#) 11-04-2018
- :: [Surveillance teams risk all to track disease outbreaks in northern Syria](#) 11-04-2018
- :: [Northern Syria: access to primary health care gives hope to malnourished child](#) 10-04-2018
- :: [Bringing health services closer to people in Kyrgyzstan](#) 05-04-2018

## **WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region EMRO**

- :: [WHO concerned about suspected chemical attacks in Syria](#) 11 April 2018

## **WHO Western Pacific Region**

- *No new announcements identified.*

## **World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

## **UNFPA** United Nations Population Fund [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

## **UNDP** United Nations Development Programme [to 14 April 2018]

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

*Selected Press Releases/Announcements*

### **Special Event on 'Leaving no One Behind'**

Remarks at the special event marking the 127th birth anniversary year of Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

Posted on April 13, 2018

## **UN Division for Sustainable Development** [to 14 April 2018]

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

[13 April 2018 - The achievement of Sustainable Development Goals globally depends on regional cooperation, experts say at Boao Forum for Asia](#)

[11 April 2018 - Draft programme of the first week of the HLPF from 9-13 July 2018 is now available](#)

## **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

## **UN Statistical Commission :: UN Statistics Division** [to 14 April 2018]

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

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

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

*No new digest content identified.*

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**UNEP** United Nations Environment Programme [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**UNISDR** UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**UN DESA** United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [to 14 April 2018]

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

6 April 2018, New York

**[Short-termism impedes progress of hundreds of millions of people, United Nations report says](#)**

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

**UNESCO** [to 14 April 2018]

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

11 April 2018

**[UNESCO calling for feedback on guidelines for digital inclusion](#)**

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

11 April 2018

**[UNESCO Initiative – Protection of cultural heritage is an important factor of ocean safeguarding efforts](#)**

Underwater cultural heritage, such as historic shipwrecks and sunken cities, is increasingly subject to treasure-hunt, pillage, industrial damage and destruction. UNESCO's 2001 Convention aims to harmonize the protection of submerged heritage with that accorded to cultural heritage on land, and strengthen this work within the framework of ocean safeguarding initiatives.

On 23 and 24 April 2018, UNESCO is convening two meetings relating to the protection of the ocean's heritage.

10 April 2018

**[New UNESCO Chair for Gender and Vulnerability in Disaster Risk Reduction](#)**

The first UNESCO Chair for Gender and Vulnerability in Disaster Risk Reduction at Kobe University (Japan) was launched on 06 April 2018. This new Chair will help raise awareness on the importance of building disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies and programs that are both gender sensitive and inclusive.

**UNODC** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [to 14 April 2018]

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

10/04/2018 –

**[First Advisory Board of the Global Judicial Integrity Network appointed at Vienna launch](#)**

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

**UN-HABITAT** United Nations Human Settlements Programme [to 14 April 2018]

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

Posted April 13, 2018

### **[UN-Habitat Executive Director at Africa Carbon Forum: city-level action needed to help achieve climate targets in the Continent](#)**

Nairobi, 12 April 2018 — In the context of the first Africa Climate Week, UN-Habitat Executive Director Maimuna Moh'd Sharif has addressed Ministers during the High Level Ministerial Opening of the Africa Carbon Forum.

**FAO** Food & Agriculture Organization [to 14 April 2018]

<http://www.fao.org/news/archive/news-by-date/2018/en/12-04-2018>

### **[Positive prospects for solar-powered irrigation systems](#)**

FAO presented a global overview of the benefits and risks of solar-powered irrigation at an international forum in Rome (12-13 April) hosted in partnership with Germany's Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit and the International Water Management Institute.

### **[FAO chief urges Asian and Pacific countries to bring the fight against hunger back on track](#)**

12 April 2018, Nadi, Fiji – FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva today urged governments in the Asia and Pacific region to sharpen their focus on achieving Zero Hunger, and to do so by reducing rural poverty and adapting the agricultural sectors to climate change.

**ILO** International Labour Organization [to 14 April 2018]

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

*Arab Labour Conference, Cairo*

### **[Private sector holds key to future employment growth in the Arab region - ILO Regional Director](#)**

11 April 2018

At the 45th Arab Labour Conference in Cairo, ILO Regional Director for Arab States, Ruba Jaradat, addressed the one-week event during its opening session and met with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, the Director-General of the Arab Labour Organization and with ministers and social partners from the Arab world.

*Fair recruitment*

### **[New online ratings help migrant workers avoid unscrupulous recruiters](#)**

11 April 2018

A new web platform aimed at migrant workers lists user reviews of recruitment agencies. By helping migrants avoid falling for false promises, the website is an important tool to promote fair recruitment.

**ICAO** International Civil Aviation Organization [to 14 April 2018]

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

9/4/18

### **[ICAO issues call for innovative solutions for drone airspace management](#)**

Montréal, 9 April 2018 – Drone deliveries, drone inspections and even autonomous flying taxis are near term realities, and to make these services safe and efficient ICAO has begun the consultative work needed to establish low-altitude traffic management guidance for domestic unmanned aircraft systems (UAS).

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Recognizing that an agreed global approach will greatly assist businesses and others in launching their UAS services with suitable levels of investment confidence and operational safety, ICAO is now convening its second DRONE ENABLE event for 13-14 September in Chengdu, China. Its focus will be on exploring new solutions with experts and innovators from industry, academia and other areas to help globally coordinate the development of UAS activities, and safely integrate UAS traffic management systems and existing conventional air traffic management systems...

**IMO** International Maritime Organization [to 14 April 2018]  
<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/Home.aspx>  
13/04/2018

**[UN body adopts climate change strategy for shipping](#)**

IMO adopts an initial strategy on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from ships, with a vision which aims to phase them out, as soon as possible in this century

**WMO** World Meteorological Organization [to 14 April 2018]  
<https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release>  
13 April 2018

**[Commission for Climatology gains new direction](#)**

Geneva, 13 April 2018 - For the first time in its nearly 90-year history, WMO's Commission for Climatology has a female president and vice president, with the election of Manola Brunet (Spain) and Barbara Tapia (Chile).

**UNIDO** United Nations Industrial Development Organization [to 14 April 2018]  
<http://www.unido.org/news-centre/news.html>  
13 April 2018

**[UNIDO's work with the business sector presented in Geneva](#)**

GENEVA, – The importance of public-private partnerships for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been highlighted today at the World Association For Sustainable Development's (WASD) 16th International Annual Conference organized together with the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations System.

**International Organization for Standardization (ISO)** [to 14 April 2018]  
[https://www.iso.org/news\\_archive/x/](https://www.iso.org/news_archive/x/)  
*No new digest content identified.*

**UNWTO** World Tourism Organization [to 14 April 2018]  
<http://media.unwto.org/news>  
12 April 2018

**[UNWTO and UN Environment join forces to empower media as environment and wildlife defenders](#)**

**[African tourism administrations undersign the Declaration of Kinshasa on fostering tourism as a driver of biodiversity and environmental protection](#)**

Madrid, Spain 11 April 2018 - An intense week of exchange of experiences and capacity building linked to wildlife and biodiversity protection has taken place in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo. A major result of the regional initiative that lies under the framework of

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the UNWTO/Chimelong Programme on Wildlife and Sustainable Tourism has been the Declaration of Kinshasa that addresses poaching and carbon footprint as major concerns of the sector.

**WIPO** World Intellectual Property Organization [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**CBD** Convention on Biological Diversity [to 14 April 2018]

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

11 APRIL 2018

**[“The future of all life now depends on us” - Sir David Attenborough joins world experts in calling for action for nature](#)**

- On 12 April, Sir David Attenborough joins the head of the UN’s Convention on Biological Diversity and a panel from government, business and civil society to discuss how to mobilise global action to tackle what is said to be the greatest threat to humanity: the biodiversity crisis

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**USAID** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

**[U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Mark Green's Remarks on Humanitarian Assistance for Venezuela](#)**

April 14, 2018

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

**[The United States Announces Additional Humanitarian Assistance for Venezuelans in Need](#)**

April 13, 2018

Today, the United States announced nearly \$16 million in humanitarian assistance for Venezuelans who have fled their country due to the crisis there.

**[Statement From USAID Administrator Mark Green on President Trump's Nomination of Bonnie Glick as USAID Deputy Administrator](#)**

April 13, 2018

On behalf of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), I welcome President Trump's nomination of Bonnie Glick to serve as the next USAID Deputy Administrator. With her extensive leadership and overseas experience, both at the U.S. Department of State and more recently within the private sector, Bonnie will bring a wealth of knowledge to the Agency. We look forward to working with the Senate to support her confirmation.

**[The United States Announces Additional Humanitarian Assistance for the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)**

April 13, 2018

Today, the U.S. government announced nearly \$67 million in additional humanitarian assistance for the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) at the DRC Humanitarian Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland.

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## **Statement From USAID Administrator Mark Green on the New Global Malaria Coordinator**

April 10, 2018

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) welcomes Dr. Kenneth Staley as the new Global Malaria Coordinator, responsible for the strategy and implementation of the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI).

**DFID** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*Selected Press Releases*

### **Commonwealth unites to end scourge of plastic**

15 April 2018 Defra and DFID Press release

Countries from across the Commonwealth have today pledged to eliminate avoidable single use plastic in an ambitious bid to clean up the world's oceans.

Prime Minister Theresa May announced today that New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Ghana have joined the UK and Vanuatu-led Commonwealth Clean Oceans Alliance – an agreement between member states to join forces in the fight against plastic pollution.

The group has pledged to ban microbeads in rinse-off cosmetics and personal care products and cut plastic bag use by 2021, and will work with NGOs and businesses from across the Commonwealth to push for global change and protect the environment for future generations.

To drive this forward, the Prime Minister has also announced a £61.4 million package of funding to boost global research and help countries across the Commonwealth stop plastic waste from entering the oceans in the first place...

### **Emergency humanitarian UK aid package to DRC as violence escalates**

13 April 2018 DFID Press release

**ECHO** [to 14 April 2018]

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

103/04/2018

### **The EU pledges €77 million for the DRC crisis at Geneva donors' conference**

In Geneva, the European Union co-hosted the 'Humanitarian Conference on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)'. On this occasion, Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides reiterated the EU's support in...

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**African Union** [to 14 April 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]*

April 10, 2018

### **AUC Launches Online Knowledge Management Platform**

**ASEAN** Association of Southeast Asian Nations [to 14 April 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]*

*No new digest content identified.*

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**European Commission** [to 14 April 2018]

<http://europa.eu/rapid/search-result.htm?query=18&locale=en&page=1>  
14/04/2018 -

**Statement by President Jean-Claude Juncker on the situation in Syria**

European Commission - Statement Brussels, 14 April 2018 Last night, France, the United Kingdom and the United States responded in a coordinated military action to the heinous chemical weapons attack carried out by the Syrian regime against civilians in Douma on 7 April.

**EU remains the world's leading donor of development assistance: €75.7 billion in 2017**

European Commission - Press release Brussels, 10 April 2018 The European Union and its Member States continue to be the world's leading provider of Official Development Assistance (ODA) with an overall amount of €75.7 billion in 2017, confirm the newly released figures by the OECD-DAC.

**OECD** [to 14 April 2018]

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

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

9-April-2018

**Development aid stable in 2017 with more sent to poorest countries**

Foreign aid from official donors totalled USD 146.6 billion in 2017, a small decrease of 0.6% from 2016 in real terms as less money was spent on refugees inside donor countries but with more funds flowing to countries most in need of aid, according to preliminary official data collected by the OECD.

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

**Organization of American States (OAS)** [to 14 April 2018]

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

April 13, 2018

**OAS Secretary General Inaugural speech VIII Summit of the Americas**

*Initial text:*

*We, the Americas, clearly have a problem. And we will continue having that problem. Corruption is a hereditary, autoimmune disease in any political system run by human beings. It respects borders of no kind, be they ideological, or political color, or even levels of institutional strength...*

**Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** [to 14 April 2018]

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

April 8, 2018

**OIC Condemns Chemical Weapons Attack On Eastern Ghouta**

The General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) expressed its denunciation of the attack using internationally banned chemical weapons on Eastern Ghouta Region of Damascus that claimed the lives of innocent civilians, defying the most basic humanitarian principles and rules of the International Law. The OIC considered the attack as falling within the act of a war crime and a crime against humanity

**Group of 77** [to 14 April 2018]

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

[Statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by H.E. Mr. Mohamed Edrees, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations, at the fifty-first session of the Commission on Population and Development \(New York, 9 April 2018\)](#)

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**UNCTAD** [to 14 April 2018]

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

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

*Press Releases*

11 Apr 2018 –

**[Global Commodities Forum 2018: upskilling workers can cut dependence on commodity exports for more than 90 countries](#)**

With more than 90 developing economies dependent on commodity exports, according to the latest UNCTAD data, building the human skills needed to add value to raw materials and provide decent work are key objectives to be discussed at UNCTAD's eighth [Global Commodities Forum](#) at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 23–24 April.

Moving up the value chain would help commodity-dependent developing countries achieve their Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 4 (on professional education), Goal 8 (on providing decent work) and Goal 9 (on industrial development).

“Lack of skilled workers dissuades investment in value added activities, which, in turn, limits incentives for young adults to acquire more skills,” chief of UNCTAD’s commodity implementation and outreach section Yanchun Zhang said. With more than 90 developing economies dependent on commodity exports, according to the latest UNCTAD data, building the human skills needed to add value to raw materials and provide decent work are key objectives to be discussed at UNCTAD's eighth [Global Commodities Forum](#) at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 23–24 April.

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“Lack of skilled workers dissuades investment in value added activities, which, in turn, limits incentives for young adults to acquire more skills,” chief of UNCTAD’s commodity implementation and outreach section Yanchun Zhang said...

**World Customs Organization – WCO** [to 14 April 2018]

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

13 April 2018

**[WCO Europe Regional Heads of Customs Conference in Russia](#)**

**WTO - World Trade Organisation** [to 14 April 2018]

[http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news_e.htm)

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

9 April 2018

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## **WTO members discuss ways of improving the transparency of regional trade agreements**

WTO members discussed how to improve work on enhancing the transparency of regional trade agreements (RTAs) at a meeting of the Committee on RTAs on 9-10 April at the WTO. They reviewed five RTAs covering countries in Europe, Asia and Africa. The new chair of the committee, Ambassador Julian Braithwaite of the United Kingdom, presided at this first committee meeting of 2018

9 April 2018

## **China initiates WTO dispute complaint against US tariffs on steel, aluminium products**

China has requested WTO dispute consultations with the United States concerning certain US duties imposed on imports of steel and aluminium products. The request was circulated to WTO members on 9 April.

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## **IPU Inter-Parliamentary Union** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

## **International Court of Justice** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

## **International Criminal Court (ICC)** [to 14 April 2018]

*Trying individuals for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity*

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

12 April 2018 Press Release:

**ICC Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, concludes mission to Argentina: "The Rome Statute's 20th anniversary, an occasion to reaffirm and demonstrate collective commitment to the fight against impunity"**

8 April 2018

## **Nigeria and other States renew support for ICC**

The Federal Government of Nigeria has pledged its "continued backing and unflinching support" to the International Criminal Court (ICC) upon the election of Judge Chile Eboe-Osuji as President of the Court on 11 March 2018. This was conveyed in a letter of congratulations on behalf of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, H.E. Muhammadu Buhari, signed by the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Hon. Abubakar Malami...

Since the election of the Court's new Presidency, expressions of strong support have also arrived from many other States, including letters from the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany and the State of Palestine, as well as messages in various forms from Andorra, Argentina, Bangladesh, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, Greece, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, the Slovak Republic, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and other countries...

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## **World Bank** [to 14 April 2018]

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<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]*

### **Lifted by India, South Asia Regains Growth Lead, Still Lags on Jobs**

WASHINGTON, April 15, 2017 – South Asia has regained its lead as the fastest growing region in the world, supported by recovery in India. With the right mix of policies and reforms, growth is expected...

Date: April 15, 2018 Type: Press Release

### **World Bank Provides US\$500 Million to Egypt for Improving Teaching and Learning Conditions in Public Schools**

Washington, April 13, 2018 – The World Bank announced today a new US\$500 million investment in Egypt's education reforms, to support increasing access to quality Kindergarten education, improving the quality...

Date: April 13, 2018 Type: Press Release

### **Yemen Emergency Electricity Access Project**

The Yemen Emergency Electricity Access Project is an operation that seeks to improve access to electricity in rural and peri-urban areas within the Republic of Yemen. It is financed by a US\$ 50 million...

Date: April 13, 2018 Type: Brief Language: English

### **New Solar Project to Restore Electricity to Over One Million Yemenis**

Washington, April 13, 2018 - The World Bank announced today a new project to finance off-grid solar systems in Yemen to power vital basic services, and improve access to electricity for vulnerable Yemenis...

Date: April 13, 2018 Type: Press Release

### **Blockchain & Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT)**

Blockchain is one type of a distributed ledger. Distributed ledgers use independent computers (referred to as nodes) to record, share and synchronize transactions in their respective electronic ledgers...

Date: April 12, 2018 Type: Brief

### **Forced Displacement**

Globally, there are an estimated 65.6 million people who have fled their homes either as refugees (22.5 million), internally displaced persons (40.3 million), or asylum seekers as a result of conflict...

Date: April 11, 2018 Type: Brief

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

### **Keynote Address: Transparency and Public Accountability is at the Core of Good Corporate Governance**

Honorable Speaker Karu Jayasuriya, Mr. Gamini Wijesinghe, Auditor General, Dinesh Weerakkody, Chairman of the Human Resources Development Council, President and Public-Sector Wing of Chartered Accountants...

Date: April 10, 2018 Type: Speeches and Transcripts

**IMF** [to 14 April 2018]

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

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

April 12, 2018

### **[Belt and Road Initiative: Strategies to Deliver in the Next Phase](#)**

By Christine Lagarde, IMF Managing Director  
IMF-PBC Conference — Beijing

April 11, 2018

### **[Fix the Roof While the Window of Opportunity is Open: Three Priorities for the Global Economy](#)**

By Christine Lagarde, IMF Managing Director  
Speech at University of Hong Kong

April 10, 2018

### **[Minding the Gaps to Deliver Prosperity for Asia](#)**

#### **African Development Bank Group** [to 14 April 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]*

### **[Three leading development finance institutions sign loan agreement to support capital markets and high impact sectors in Africa](#)**

13/04/2018 - Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and ALCB Fund Board Members have signed a loan agreement to support high impact sectors in Africa focusing on housing, agriculture and SMEs.

### **[African Development Bank is key to Africa's economic development, say Southern African Governors](#)**

10/04/2018 - The Southern African Governors of the African Development Bank have described the Bank as the future of Africa's development, and called on it to lead the way to faster-paced development of the continent.

#### **Asian Development Bank** [to 14 April 2018]

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

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

[13 April 2018](#)

### **[ADB Signs Deals Worth \\$375 Million to Improve Irrigation, Public-Private Partnership in Punjab](#)**

ADB and the Government of Pakistan today signed two loans totaling \$375 million to improve irrigation services and promote public-private partnerships (PPP) in Punjab province.

[11 April 2018](#)

### **[Asia's Workers Will Benefit from New Technologies, But Government Action is also Needed — ADB Study](#)**

Technological advances have transformed the two billion worker Asian labor market, helping create 30 million jobs annually in industry and services over the last 25 years, drive increases in productivity and wages, and reduce poverty.

[11 April 2018](#)

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## **Exports, Domestic Demand Deliver Solid Growth in Asia and the Pacific — ADB**

Growth picked up across most of the economies in developing Asia, supported by continued high demand for exports and rapidly expanding domestic demand, says a new ADB report.

### **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** [to 14 April 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, April 11, 2018

### **AIIB invests \$140M to Improve Rural Connectivity in India**

Approximately 1.5 million rural residents in Madhya Pradesh, India, stand to directly benefit from improved livelihoods, education and mobility with the USD140-million loan approved by the Board of Directors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

### **IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development** [to 14 April 2018]

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

11 Apr 18

### **Why feminism's next wave has everything to do with farming**

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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 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

### **Amref Health Africa** [to 14 April 2018]

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

April 12th, 2018

### **With Ksh372.5 Million Grant, USAID and Amref Partner with Clan Leaders to End Child Marriage and FGM in Marsabit and Samburu**

Nairobi– Today, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Amref Health Africa, together with the Governors of Marsabit and Samburu Counties, and the Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs, launched a new approach to ending child marriage and eradicating Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) through partnership with clan elders and youth leaders. The three-year “Koota Injena” (“Come let us talk”) project, made possible by a grant of Ksh372.5 million from the U.S. Government, will work with vulnerable girls who are at risk of child marriage and FGM in the Rendille, Borana, Gabra, and Samburu communities.

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**Aravind Eye Care System** [to 14 April 2018]  
<http://www.aravind.org/default/currentnewscontent>  
*No new digest content identified.*

**BRAC** [to 14 April 2018]  
<http://www.brac.net/#news>  
*No new digest content identified.*

**CARE International** [to 14 April 2018]  
<http://www.care-international.org/news/press-releases>  
10th Apr 2018  
**[CARE International calls on donors to increase commitment to humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo](#)**

CARE International is calling on donors to significantly increase their commitment to the humanitarian crisis in the DRC ahead of this week's pledging conference taking place in Geneva

6th Apr 2018  
**[Joint INGO Statement for the High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen](#)**  
*[See Week in Review above for full text]*

**Clubhouse International** [to 14 April 2018]  
<http://www.clubhouse-intl.org/news.html>  
*No new digest content identified.*

**Danish Refugee Council** [to 14 April 2018]  
<https://www.drc.dk/news>  
13.04.2018  
**[Funding crisis pushes millions of Congolese people to tipping point](#)**  
Millions of people caught up in a humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo risk rising levels of hunger, death and disease due to a lack of aid funding, a coalition of humanitarian organisations warned ahead of a conference in Geneva today.

**ECPAT** [to 14 April 2018]  
<http://www.ecpat.net/news>  
11/04/2018  
**[Central African Republic \(CAR\) Report](#)**  
The conflict in the Central African Republic (CAR) has made its children extremely vulnerable to being sexually exploited, says new ECPAT [research](#).  
The CAR Country Overview Report says that the country's civil conflict, which erupted in 2012 and continues to this day, has exacerbated an already precarious situation for the country's children, who account for about half of the 4.5 million population.

**Fountain House** [to 14 April 2018]

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<http://www.fountainhouse.org/about/news-press>  
*No new digest content identified.*

**Humanity & Inclusion** [nee Handicap International] [to 14 April 2018]  
[http://www.handicap-international.us/press\\_releases](http://www.handicap-international.us/press_releases)  
*No new digest content identified.*

**Heifer International** [to 14 April 2018]  
<http://www.heifer.org/about-heifer/press/press-releases.html>  
*No new digest content identified.*

**HelpAge International** [to 14 April 2018]  
<http://www.helpage.org/newsroom/press-room/press-releases/>  
*No new digest content identified.*

**ICRC** [to 14 April 2018]  
<https://www.icrc.org/en/whats-new>  
*Selected News Releases, Statements, Reports*  
13-04-2018 | News release

**[Central African Republic: Trauma unit 'completely full' after violence in Bangui](#)**

The trauma unit at a major hospital in the Central African Republic is filled to capacity after an outbreak of fighting in the capital, where ambulances transporting the wounded have often been delayed because of street battles and barricades.

**IFRC** [to 14 April 2018]  
<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/press-releases/>  
*Global*

**[Everyone Counts: report reveals millions receiving life-saving health services from Red Cross and Red Crescent](#)**

More than 170 million vulnerable people around the world received health services from Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers in 2016, a new report revealed today.  
10 April 2018

**IRC International Rescue Committee** [to 14 April 2018]  
<http://www.rescue.org/press-release-index>  
*Selected Press Releases & Statements*  
*Statement*

**[IRC's David Miliband responds to news of airstrikes in Syria](#)**  
April 13, 2018

*Statement*

**[IRC: Without a strategy, US airstrikes mean more danger for Syrian civilians](#)**  
April 11, 2018

*Perspective*

**[U.S. lags far behind in its commitment to admit 45,000 refugees this year](#)**

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April 11, 2018

**IRCT** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Islamic Relief** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Landsea** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Medecins du Monde** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières** [to 14 April 2018]

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

April 13, 2018

### **Central African Republic: MSF Treats Wounded Amid Violence in Bangui**

MSF has treated 80 wounded patients amid violence in Bangui over the past week. In the early morning of April 8, United Nations and Central African Republic security forces launched a joint operation in the PK5 neighborhood in Bangui, which involved heavy fighting and resulted in dozens of people injured.

*Press release*

### **Syria: Displaced People From Eastern Ghouta Need Treatment**

April 13, 2018

Roughly 60,000 people have been displaced from eastern Ghouta, near Damascus, to northwestern Syria in the past month. A significant number of these men, women, and children are injured or sick and in need of medical care. Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) supports the main hospital in charge of triaging and treating these patients at a location known as the "zero point," where people arrive on buses.

**Mercy Corps** [to 14 April 2018]

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

DR Congo, April 13, 2018

### **DR Congo: Funding crisis pushes millions of Congolese people to tipping point**

A joint release by Mercy Corps and 19 other organisations working in DR Congo. Millions of people caught up in a humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo risk rising levels of hunger, death and disease due to a lack of aid funding, a coalition of humanitarian organisations warned ahead of a conference in Geneva today.

Somalia, April 12, 2018

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## **Mercy Corps: Facing Famine Threat, Millions Of Somalis In Desperate Need**

Global organization calls for urgent investment as famine prevention funding stalls

**Operation Smile** [to 14 April 2018]

<http://www.operationssmile.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 14 April 2018]

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

13 April 2018

### **Funding crisis pushes millions of Congolese people to tipping point**

An international donor conference in Geneva today hopes to raise \$1.7 billion to help more than 10 million people in desperate need across the Democratic Republic of Congo - to date only 12 per cent of the UN appeal has been funded.

**Norwegian Refugee Council** [to 14 April 2018]

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

Published 12. Apr 2018

### **"The consequence of too little aid is that people die"**

On Friday, there will be a humanitarian conference in Geneva on the crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). We asked the NRC's Secretary General, Jan Egeland what this conference means for over 13 million Congolese who are in acute need. what this conference means for over 13 million Congolese who are in acute need.

**Pact** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Partners In Health** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**PATH** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*Press release | April 12, 2018*

### **New study results from Uganda strengthen the case for contraceptive self-injection**

Study finds that self-administration enables women to use injectable contraception longer

*Announcement | April 10, 2018*

### **PATH names Anthony Okoth as Country Director for Kenya office**

**Plan International** [to 14 April 2018]

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

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*No new digest content identified.*

**Save The Children** [to 14 April 2018]

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

Wednesday 11 April 2018

**[Somaliland's drought threatens progress in protecting females from sexual violence](#)**

The devastating drought in the Horn of Africa is threatening progress made towards stamping out some of the worst forms of abuse against women and girls, Save the Children is warning. After an unprecedented four consecutive failed rains in Somaliland, and despite a global decline in child marriage<sup>[1]</sup>, the aid organisation is deeply concerned by encountering repeated cases of forced child marriage as a result of the drought.

**SOS-Kinderdorf International** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Tostan** [to 14 April 2018]

<http://www.tostan.org>

*No new digest content identified.*

**Women for Women International** [to 14 April 2018]

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

<http://www.tostan.org>

April 10, 2018|

**[Women for Women International Welcomes Ambassadors](#)**

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Women for Women International announced today the signing of several additional influencers, actresses, and humanitarians to its cohort of Ambassadors in 2018, including actress Dawn-Lyen Gardner, model and humanitarian Philomena Kwao, actress Alison Pill, and New York Times Bestselling Author Marianne Williamson.

**World Vision** [to 14 April 2018]

<http://wvi.org/>

*No new digest content identified.*

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**Center for Media Ethics and Responsibility/CMFR** [to 14 April 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 14 April 2018]

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<https://freedomhouse.org/news>

*Selected Press Releases, Statements, Research  
Press Releases*

**[Russia: Court Bans Secure Messaging App 'Telegram'](#)**

April 13, 2018

Freedom House issued the following statement in response to today's decision of the Tagansky District Court in Moscow to block the popular instant messaging app Telegram.

*Joint Letters*

**[Columbia: Letter to Vice President Pence on Assassinations of Community Leaders](#)**

April 13, 2018

Widespread assassination of social leaders in Colombia poses a threat to peace and U.S. policy goals that Vice President Pence must address.

*Press Releases*

**[Confronting Illiberalism: Nations in Transit Releases 2018 edition](#)**

April 11, 2018

Attacks on opposition parties, the press, and civil society organizations are becoming the norm in Central and Eastern Europe as the spread of illiberal politics undermines the foundations and prospects for democracy, according to Nations in Transit 2018.

**Transparency International** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

*No new digest content identified.*

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**ChildFund Alliance** [to 14 April 2018]

<https://childfundalliance.org/>

*No new digest content identified.*

**CONCORD** [to 14 April 2018]

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

Apr 10, 2018

**[Future EU Budget: CONCORD's reaction to the single External Instrument proposal](#)**

Ahead of the European Commission's communication on the future EU budget, CONCORD reacts to the proposal of a single External Instrument. By merging 12 instruments into one in the next Multi-annual Financial Framework, the EU would not live up to its commitments on sustainable development. Read our redlines and concerns.

Apr 9, 2018

**[Aid shrinks as refugee costs decrease – System failure exposed](#)**

Brussels, 9 April 2018 – For the first time since 2012, total aid has globally decreased (by 0.6%), show the latest statistics of the OECD Development Assistance Committee. This drop can be explained by the decline of in-donor refugee costs reported as aid (-13.6% on 2016). Reflecting this global trend, European DAC members are the main reason for the shift in the statistics with drops in refugee costs in many Member States such as Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece and Slovenia.

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**Disasters Emergency Committee** [to 14 April 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 14 April 2018]

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

*Press release 10 April 2018*

**[The Elders warn against escalation to 'uncontrollable war' in Syria](#)**

Expressing deep alarm at the prospect of a further escalation of the Syrian war following the latest reported chemical weapons attack, The Elders call on all parties to avoid further military action.

**END Fund** [to 14 April 2018]

<https://end.org/media-hub/>

*Selected Press Releases and Major Announcements  
No new digest content identified.*

**Evidence Aid** [to 14 April 2018]

[www.evidenceaid.org](http://www.evidenceaid.org)

*No new digest content identified.*

**Gavi** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Global Fund** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Hilton Prize Coalition** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*An Alliance of Hilton Prize Recipients  
No new digest content identified.*

**ICVA - International Council of Voluntary Agencies** [to 14 April 2018]

<https://icvanetwork.org/>

*No new digest content identified.*

**INEE** – an international network for education in emergencies [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

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**InterAction** [to 14 April 2018]

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

Apr 12, 2018

**[InterAction reports on fulfilling humanitarian commitments in 2017](#)**

At the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in 2016, InterAction made ten discrete commitments with the collective aim of better serving those in humanitarian need across the globe. During the summit, 20 initiatives were also launched to strengthen the WHS process and help turn commitments into reality. InterAction plays a significant role in one of these Initiatives, the Grand Bargain, which has the express purpose of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance. Participating agencies agreed to submit self-reports concretely identifying how they are fulfilling various WHS commitments. InterAction's 2017 self-reports for both World Humanitarian Summit and Grand Bargain commitments are now available. Read further to learn how InterAction has engaged over the last year to support the commitments.

**Start Network** [to 14 April 2018]

[http://www.start-network.org/news-blog/#.U9U\\_O7FR98E](http://www.start-network.org/news-blog/#.U9U_O7FR98E)

13 Apr 18

**[Bangladesh Innovation Lab hosts capacity building workshop in Dhaka](#)**

by Amrina Rana

*News Article*

The Disaster and Emergencies Preparedness Programme (DEPP) Bangladesh Innovation Lab organised Capacity Building training at the [Dhaka Community hospital](#) on the 3rd April. Ten shortlisted innovators from the DEPP Labs Bangladesh team attended the training programme along with respected academics from the consortium partner organisations and other noted organisations.

12 Apr 18

*LIVE: Mitigating a deadly cholera outbreak in Malawi*

**[Start Fund Members use the Crisis Anticipation window to contain and mitigate the killer disease](#)**

by Sarah Klassen

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**Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP)** [to 14 April 2018]

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

09 Apr 2018

*Blog*

**[Why 'localisation' shines a spotlight on ignorance – and what NGOs can do to counter it](#)**

John Tipper

Recognition of the need for humanitarian response to be 'context relevant' has been increasing. It comes up in discussions on coordination, accountability, localisation, and effectiveness and is now broadly accepted as something humanitarian response should be striving towards. Despite this awareness, there is little clarity about what context relevance looks like or how to achieve it...

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**CHS Alliance** [to 14 April 2018]

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

11/04/2018

**[We are revising the CHS Self-Assessment tool!](#)**

At the beginning of the year, we have launched a consultation process in order to make the CHS Self-Assessment tool more user-friendly and offer more support throughout the exercise. We invited those of you who have completed the self-assessment process to participate in a survey. Thanks for your comments and suggestions!

11/04/2018

**[Invitation to review the 2018 edition of the Humanitarian Accountability Report \(HAR\)](#)**

Why does our sector struggle to make change happen even when we all agree it should? With the Agenda for Humanity and the Grand Bargain underway, it's critical that the humanitarian system overcome its past difficulties and be better equipped to successfully drive the reform agenda forward.

11/04/2018

**[Shelter/NFI Cluster in South Sudan puts people at the centre](#)**

The Shelter/Non-Food Items (NFI) Cluster in South Sudan has created a commitment document to boost their Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP). It aims to put affected people and communities at the centre of humanitarian action, in compliance with the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS).

11/04/2018

**[Sharing resources on PSEA](#)**

Due to the increased interest in issues around Protection against Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (PSEA), on 27 March 2018, the CHS Alliance and Bond hosted a webinar to share resources with HR professionals and senior managers. The webinar was intended to assist organisations to get started with reviewing their safeguarding procedures and practice.

**Development Initiatives** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**EHLRA/R2HC** [to 14 April 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 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP)** [to 14 April 2018]

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<https://phap.org/>

*No new digest content identified.*

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**Center for Global Development** [to 14 April 2018]

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

4/11/18

[Using Supervised Learning to Select Audit Targets in Performance-Based Financing in Health: An Example from Zambia - Working Paper 481](#)

Dhruv Grover , [Sebastian Bauhoff](#) and Jed Friedman

We examine alternative strategies for targeted sampling of health clinics for independent verification. Our results indicate that machine learning methods, particularly Random Forest, outperform other approaches and can increase the cost-effectiveness of verification activities.

**ODI** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*Selected Press releases*

[Commonwealth countries need to create 50,000 jobs every day for growing number of young people seeking work – new research](#)

| 13 April 2018

Commonwealth countries need to create 50,000 jobs every day to provide work for the growing number of young people entering labour markets

*Selected Research/Publications*

[Opportunities for Commonwealth development: creating jobs, sharing prosperity and increasing resilience](#)

Briefing papers | April 2018 | Moizza Binat Sarwar, Maximiliano Mendez-Parra, Dirk Willem te Velde, Emily Wilkinson and Hanna Nomm

To mark the Commonwealth Summit 2018, this briefing considers how the Commonwealth can support progress in trade, resilience and 'leave no one behind'.

**Urban Institute** [to 14 April 2018]

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

April 13, 2018

[Manufacturing Employment: Fact and Fiction](#)

Despite employing only 11 percent of all workers and 15 percent of male workers today, manufacturing industries are at the center of most discussions of how to grow the US economy. This brief, the first in a series on manufacturing's role in the US economy, shows the evolution of manufacturing employment and earnings across industrial clusters and which US regions have been impacted the most by these shifts. I find that,

[Stephen Rose](#)

Brief

[Is Foreign Trade the Cause of Manufacturing Job Losses?](#)

This brief, the second in a series on manufacturing's role in the US economy, shows the difference between the gross and net effects of trade on manufacturing employment. I analyze the economics of trade and how it affects domestic employment, trade and employment trends across manufacturing industries in three periods, and how many manufacturing jobs the US would have if we had no trade deficit. I find that the net effect of

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[Stephen Rose](#)

April 13, 2018

Brief

### **[Manufacturing and the Economic Position of Men without a College Degree](#)**

This brief, the third in a series on manufacturing's role in the US economy, explores the relationship between the declining share of manufacturing employment and the earnings of men without a four-year college degree. Examining employment for these men by industrial group and occupational cluster, I find that the share of men without four-year college degrees in manufacturing has declined dramatically between 1960 and 2015, and

[Stephen Rose](#)

April 13, 2018

Brief

### **[Early Childhood Educator Compensation in the Washington Region: Highlights from a Research Report](#)**

This fact sheet highlights findings from an Urban Institute study examining the compensation of early childhood educators in the Washington, DC, metropolitan region. Early childhood educators earn \$15 an hour, considerably less than public school kindergarten teachers. Hispanic educators earn just 75 cents on average for every dollar earned by their white counterparts, and black educators earn 84 cents to the dollar.

[Shirley Adelstein](#), [Julia B. Isaacs](#), [Daniel Kuehn](#)

April 12, 2018

Highlights

### **[Teen Food Literacy Curriculum](#)**

This document provides detailed discussion guides and instructions for facilitating a 13-session course intended to teach leadership skills to teens through the lens of food literacy and advocacy. The course was developed as part of the Portland, Oregon, pilot Teen Food Program, which engaged teens, service providers, and researchers to design and then pilot a program to improve young people's access to food.

[Micaela Lipman](#), [Megan Thompson](#)

April 12, 2018

Research Report

### **[Exploring Teen Food Insecurity in Portland, Oregon](#)**

Food insecurity can strain teens' growth and future success, leading some to make risky decisions when facing a lack of options. This report describes an approximately three-year collaboration by a group of teens, service providers, and researchers to design and pilot a program to improve young people's access to food in the New Columbia community in Portland, Oregon.

[Martha M. Galvez](#), [Megan Thompson](#), [Micaela Lipman](#), [Susan J. Popkin](#), [Elaine Waxman](#)

April 12, 2018

Research Report

### **[Early Childhood Educator Compensation in the Washington Region](#)**

This study examines the compensation of early childhood educators in the Washington, DC, metropolitan region. It documents the low hourly wages of early childhood educators in center-based, family child care, and school settings. It considers costs, benefits, and potential strategies associated with increasing educator compensation to achieve parity with public school kindergarten teachers. It speaks to the ongoing debate over

[Julia B. Isaacs](#), [Shirley Adelstein](#), [Daniel Kuehn](#)

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April 12, 2018  
Research Report

### **Reflections on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act**

Mark Mazur, Director of the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center, testified before the Joint Economic Committee during a hearing entitled "Unleashing America's Economic Potential." In his testimony, Mazur presented a review of the principles of desirable tax policy, clear and less clear findings about the effects of the Tax Cut and Jobs Act, as well as the law's impact on the nation's fiscal position. He concludes with some

[Mark J. Mazur](#)

April 11, 2018  
Testimony

### **Bringing Evidence to the Refugee Integration Debate**

There is a major disconnect between the current policy debate and the reality of refugee outcomes in the US. After a tumultuous year of policy changes for the refugee resettlement program and as refugees are being framed as security, economic, and cultural threats, policymakers must consider the evidence base on the realities of refugees and their local communities. Today's policy debates are not grounded in the evidence that

[Hamutal Bernstein](#)

April 9, 2018  
Research Report

**World Economic Forum** [to 14 April 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 14 April 2018]

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

*News*

### **Sculpting Nature's Masterpiece: The Big Brain**

April 11, 2018

Allen Discovery Center researchers discovered evidence that a gene called "ASPM" is behind the expansion of the cerebral cortex.

**BMGF - Gates Foundation** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

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**Annie E. Casey Foundation** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Blue Meridian Partners** [to 14 April 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 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Co Impact** [to 14 April 2018]

[www.co-impact.io](http://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 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**GHIT Fund** [to 14 April 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 14 April 2018]

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

04/12/2018

**[Female shop owners catalyzing financial inclusion in the Philippines](#)**

Grameen Foundation's digitally powered Community Agent Network (CAN) has equipped and empowered a largely female field force to break through barriers to financial services for the country's low-income communities

**William and Flora Hewlett Foundation** [to 14 April 2018]

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

April 10, 2018

**[Can news coverage of cyber issues get past hacks and attacks?](#)**

News coverage of cyber issues has increased in recent years, but many stories focus on the latest breach rather than delving into policy, according to a new study by George Washington

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University 's Institute for Public Diplomacy and Global Communication. The study, commissioned by the Hewlett Foundation, analyzed news coverage from 2014 to 2017 in major...

April 9, 2018

**[Hewlett, Knight, Koch foundations, with other funders, will support independent research on Facebook's role in elections and democracy](#)**

MENLO PARK, Calif. - The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, with the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Charles Koch Foundation, Democracy Fund, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Laura and John Arnold Foundation, and Omidyar Network, announced today that it will support a new research initiative to increase public understanding of Facebook's role in elections...

**Conrad N. Hilton Foundation** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*Press Release*

**[Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Awards More Than \\$13 Million in Grants in the First Quarter of 2018](#)**

April 11, 2018

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Awards More Than \$13 Million in Grants in the First Quarter of 2018

*Press Release*

**[Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Awards More Than \\$13 Million in Grants in the First Quarter of 2018](#)**

April 11, 2018

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Awards More Than \$13 Million in Grants in the First Quarter of 2018

*Our News*

**[Sharing our Partner Feedback: Announcing Grantee Perception Report Findings](#)**

April 10, 2018 By Edmund J. Cain

We deeply value our grantee partnerships. Learn more about our recent Grantee Perception Report and how we will apply this feedback moving forward.

**IKEA Foundation** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**HHMI - Howard Hughes Medical Institute** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*Research* Apr 12 2018

**[Cancer Protein Could Point to New Targets for Treatment](#)**

The crystal structure of a G protein commonly mutated in pituitary tumors could help researchers develop anti-cancer drugs.

*Research* Apr 11 2018

**[Mutant Ferret Offers Clues to Human Brain Size](#)**

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Scientists have engineered ferrets genetically to study abnormally small brain size in humans – and, in the process, discovered hints as to how our brains evolved.

*Research Apr 11 2018*

### **The Neural Circuitry of Parental Behavior**

HHMI scientists have deconstructed the brain circuits that control parenting behavior in mice and identified discrete sets of cells that control actions, motivations, and hormonal changes involved in nurturing young animals.

**Kaiser Family Foundation** [to 14 April 2018]

[http://www.kff.org/search/?post\\_type=press-release](http://www.kff.org/search/?post_type=press-release)

April 12, 2018 *News Release*

### **Nonelderly Adults with Opioid Addiction Covered by Medicaid Were Twice as Likely as those with Private Insurance or the Uninsured to Have Received Treatment in 2016**

Among the 1.9 million nonelderly adults with opioid addiction, those with Medicaid were twice as likely as those with private insurance or no insurance to have received treatment in 2016, according to a new analysis by the Kaiser Family Foundation. The role of Medicaid in combating the opioid epidemic has...

April 9, 2018 *News Release*

### **New Washington Post/KFF Survey Examines Activism in the Trump Era**

A new Washington Post/Kaiser Family Foundation survey explores activism in today's America, providing a detailed look at how the public engages in political and social causes, and the issues that are motivating them. Among the most extensive studies of political rallygoers and protesters in more than a decade, the survey finds that one in five adults across the country say they have participated in political rallies or protests since the beginning of 2016; about half of that group say they attended an event to support or oppose President Trump or his Administration's policies...

**Aga Khan Foundation** [to 14 April 2018]

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

12 April 2018

### **PAMF and Orange Money launch a new mobile banking service in Madagascar**

Antananarivo, Madagascar, 12 April 2018 - The Premiere Agence de Microfinance (PAMF) launched a new digital credit and savings service in Madagascar, distributed by Orange Money via mobile phones...

According to Jesse Fripp, General Manager of the Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance (AKAM), a founding shareholder of PAMF: "This service will promote financial inclusion by putting savings and credit within the reach of unbanked people nationwide. By enabling our clients to save money easily and providing quick access to funds at all times, we help them build financial resilience. This initiative reflects AKAM's global vision of using digital technology for financial inclusion and improving the quality of life of low-income people"...

**Kellogg Foundation** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**MacArthur Foundation** [to 14 April 2018]

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

April 10, 2018 - *Grantee Research*

**[Shifting Behavior Related to Gender Norms, Power Dynamics](#)**

A study by Promundo found a social science-based curriculum for couples in Rwanda reduced intimate partner violence by 40 percent after almost two years

**Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Open Society Foundation** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**David and Lucile Packard Foundation** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Pew Charitable Trusts** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Rockefeller Foundation** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** [to 14 April 2018]

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

*No new digest content identified.*

**Science Philanthropy Alliance** [to 14 April 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..."*

April 10, 2018

**[Talking in Texas about Science Philanthropy: How to Give \[Alliance blog\]](#)**

Sue Merrilees is an advisor with the Science Philanthropy Alliance. This is the second of a two-part blog...

**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*

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*(UNDP) and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, and supported by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Ford Foundation and the MasterCard Foundation, the Brach Family Foundation, and other key organizations such as Asociación de Fundaciones Empresariales (AFE) in Colombia, Brach Family Charitable Foundation, CAF America, Council on Foundations, East Africa Association of Grantmakers (EAAG), European Foundation Centre, Filantropi Indonesia (FI), GlobalGiving, The Humanitarian Forum, World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists, and Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support (WINGS).*  
*No new digest content identified.*

### **Alfred P. Sloan Foundation**

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

*No new digest content identified.*

### **Wellcome Trust** [to 14 April 2018]

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

Published: 12 April 2018

#### **How to make sense of the brain's billions of neurons**

A unique global collaboration is attempting to transform the way we study the brain. If it succeeds, it could start to address longstanding unanswered questions about how brain disorders alter our neural circuits.

#### **Genetic changes linked to adult kidney cancer can occur in childhood**

News / Published: 12 April 2018

Researchers at the Wellcome Sanger Institute have discovered that key genetic changes which may lead to kidney cancer can occur as early as childhood or adolescence. This can be up to 50 years before the disease is diagnosed

#### **How we've defined what success looks like for Wellcome's work**

Explainer / Published: 10 April 2018

Chonnetia Jones, our Director of Insight and Analysis, explains how developing a success framework is leading to new ways of thinking and working across Wellcome

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### ***:: Journal Watch***

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

### **American Journal of Infection Control**

April 2018 Volume 46, Issue 4, p363-478, e25-e30

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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**American Journal of Preventive Medicine**

April 2018 Volume 54, Issue 4, p479-610, e59-e82

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**American Journal of Public Health**

April 2018 108(4)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene**

Volume 98, Issue 3, 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Annals of Internal Medicine**

3 April 2018 Vol: 168, Issue 7

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**BMC Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation**

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

(Accessed 14 April 2018)

*Research*

| 13 April 2018

**[Costs and cost-efficiency of a mobile cash transfer to prevent child undernutrition during the lean season in Burkina Faso: a mixed methods analysis from the MAM'Out randomized controlled trial](#)**

*This study assessed the costs and cost-efficiency of a mobile cash transfer implemented in Tapoa Province, Burkina Faso in the MAM'Out randomized controlled trial from June 2013 to December 2014, using mixed methods and taking a societal perspective by including costs to implementing partners and beneficiary households.*

Authors: Chloe Puett, Cécile Salpéteur, Freddy Hougbe, Karen Martínez, Dieynaba S. N'Diaye and Audrey Tonguet-Papucci

**BMJ Global Health**

March 2018 - Volume 3 - 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**BMC Health Services Research**

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

(Accessed 14 April 2018)

*Research article*

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**"We are like co-wives": Traditional healers' views on collaborating with the formal Child and Adolescent Mental Health System in Uganda**

*Early identification and management of mental illness in childhood and adolescence helps to avert debilitating mental illness in adulthood but the attention given to Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) h...*

Authors: Angela Akol, Karen Marie Moland, Juliet N. Babirye and Ingunn Marie S. Engebretsen

Citation: BMC Health Services Research 2018 18:258

Published on: 10 April 2018

**BMC Infectious Diseases**

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

(Accessed 14 April 2018)

*Research article*

**Population sensitivity of acute flaccid paralysis and environmental surveillance for serotype 1 poliovirus in Pakistan: an observational study**

*To support poliomyelitis eradication in Pakistan, environmental surveillance (ES) of wastewater has been expanded alongside surveillance for acute flaccid paralysis (AFP). ES is a relatively new method of surv...*

Authors: Kathleen M. O'Reilly, Robert Verity, Elias Durry, Humayun Asghar, Salmaan Sharif, Sohail Z. Zaidi, M. Zubair M. Wadood, Ousmane M. Diop, Hiro Okayasu, Rana M. Safdar and Nicholas C. Grassly

Citation: BMC Infectious Diseases 2018 18:176

Published on: 13 April 2018

*Research article*

**Characteristics of human encounters and social mixing patterns relevant to infectious diseases spread by close contact: a survey in Southwest Uganda**

*Quantification of human interactions relevant to infectious disease transmission through social contact is central to predict disease dynamics, yet data from low-resource settings remain scarce.*

Authors: O. le Polain de Waroux, S. Cohuet, D. Ndazima, A. J. Kucharski, A. Juan-Giner, S. Flasche, E. Tumwesigye, R. Arinaitwe, J. Mwanga-Amumpaire, Y. Boum II, F. Nackers, F. Checchi, R. F. Grais and W. J. Edmunds

Citation: BMC Infectious Diseases 2018 18:172

Published on: 11 April 2018

*Research article*

**Planning for globally coordinated cessation of bivalent oral poliovirus vaccine: risks of non-synchronous cessation and unauthorized oral poliovirus vaccine use**

*Oral polio vaccine (OPV) containing attenuated serotype 2 polioviruses was globally withdrawn in 2016, and bivalent OPV (bOPV) containing attenuated serotype 1 and 3 polioviruses needs to be withdrawn after th...*

Authors: Radboud J. Duintjer Tebbens, Lee M. Hampton and Kimberly M. Thompson

Citation: BMC Infectious Diseases 2018 18:165

Published on: 10 April 2018

**BMC Medical Ethics**

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

(Accessed 14 April 2018)

[No new digest content identified]

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## **BMC Medicine**

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

(Accessed 14 April 2018)

[No new digest content identified]

## **BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth**

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

(Accessed 14 April 2018)

[No new digest content identified]

## **BMC Public Health**

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

(Accessed 14 April 2018)

*Research article*

### **[Improving social accountability processes in the health sector in sub-Saharan Africa: a systematic review](#)**

*Social accountability is a participatory process in which citizens are engaged to hold politicians, policy makers and public officials accountable for the services that they provide. In the Fifteenth Ordinary ...*

Authors: Georges Danhoundo, Khalidha Nasiri and Mary E. Wiktorowicz

Citation: BMC Public Health 2018 18:497

Published on: 13 April 2018

*Research article*

### **[Correlates of healthy life expectancy in low- and lower-middle-income countries](#)**

*Healthy life expectancy (HALE) at birth is an important indicator of health status and quality of life of a country's population. However, little is known about the determinants of HALE as yet globally or even...*

Authors: Md Shariful Islam, Md Nazrul Islam Mondal, Md Ismail Tareque, Md Aminur Rahman, Md Nazrul Hoque, Md Munsur Ahmed and Hafiz T. A. Khan

Citation: BMC Public Health 2018 18:476

Published on: 11 April 2018

*Research article*

### **[Contesting restrictive mobility norms among female mentors implementing a sport based programme for young girls in a Mumbai slum](#)**

*Harmful gender norms are known structural barriers to many public health and development interventions involving adolescent girls. In India, restrictions on girls' liberty to move freely in public spaces contr...*

Authors: Shweta Bankar, Martine Collumbien, Madhumita Das, Ravi K. Verma, Beniamino Cislighi and Lori Heise

Citation: BMC Public Health 2018 18:471

Published on: 10 April 2018

## **BMC Research Notes**

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

(Accessed 14 April 2018)

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[No new digest content identified]

### **BMJ Open**

April 2018 - Volume 8 - 4

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Bulletin of the World Health Organization**

Volume 96, Number 4, April 2018, 225-296

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/96/4/18-000418/en/>

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Child Care, Health and Development**

Volume 44, Issue 3 Pages: 343-506 May 2018

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/13652214/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Clinical Therapeutics**

April 2018 Volume 40, Issue 4, p497-668

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

[New issue; No digest content identified]

### **Conflict and Health**

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

[Accessed 14 April 2018]

[No new digest content identified]

### **Contemporary Clinical Trials**

Volume 66 Pages 1-92 (March 2018)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Current Opinion in Infectious Diseases**

April 2018 - Volume 31 - Issue 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Developing World Bioethics**

March 2018 Volume 18, Issue 1 Pages 1-64

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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## **Development in Practice**

Volume 28, Issue 3, 2018

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

*Article*

### **[Harnessing community-led innovations: the role of participatory media in addressing gender-based violence](#)**

Verena Thomas, Jackie Kauli & Anou Borrey

Pages: 345-357

Published online: 13 Apr 2018

*Article*

### **[Drumming and digital inclusion: music, identity formation, and transformative empowerment in Afro-Brazilian community development NGOs](#)**

Joe Straubhaar & Stuart Davis

Pages: 374-387

Published online: 13 Apr 2018

*Article*

### **[Youth-led communication for social change: empowerment, citizen media, and cultures of governance in Northern Ghana](#)**

Lise Grauenkaer & Thomas Tufte

Pages: 400-413

Published online: 13 Apr 2018

*Article*

### **[Power and development in practice: NGOs and the development agenda setting](#)**

Jonathan Makuwira

Pages: 422-431

Published online: 13 Apr 2018

*Article*

### **[Instrumentalising the digital: adolescents' engagement with ICTs in low- and middle-income countries](#)**

Shakuntala Banaji, Sonia Livingstone, Anulekha Nandi & Mariya Stoilova

Pages: 432-443

Published online: 13 Apr 2018

## **Development Policy Review**

Volume 36, Issue 3 Pages: i-iv, 263, 265-386 May 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

## **Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology**

Volume 13, Issue 4, 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

## **Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness**

:

Volume 12 - Issue 1 - February 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Disasters**

April 2018 Volume 42, Issue 2 Pages 205–404

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **EMBO Reports**

01 April 2018; volume 19, issue 4

<http://embor.embopress.org/content/19/4?current-issue=y>

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Emergency Medicine Journal**

March 2018 - Volume 35 - 3

<http://emj.bmj.com/content/35/3>

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Emerging Infectious Diseases**

Volume 24, Number 4—April 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Epidemics**

Volume 22, Pages 1-78 (March 2018)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/epidemics/vol/22/suppl/C>

***Special Issue: The RAPIDD Ebola Forecasting Challenge***

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Epidemiology and Infection**

Volume 146 - Issue 5 - April 2018

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/epidemiology-and-infection/latest-issue>

[New issue; No digest content identified]

### **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 28, Issue 1, 1 February 2018

<https://academic.oup.com/eurpub/issue/28/1>

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[Reviewed earlier]

**Food Policy** Volume 75

Volume 76 Pages 1-130 (April 2018)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/food-policy/vol/75/suppl/C>

*Review Article*

**[Review: Time Use as an Explanation for the Agri-Nutrition Disconnect: Evidence from Rural Areas in Low and Middle-Income Countries](#)**

Open access - Review article

Pages 8-18

Deborah Johnston, Sara Stevano, Hazel J. Malapit, Elizabeth Hull, Suneetha Kadiyala

*Research Articles*

**[Impacts of the Malawi social cash transfer program on household food and nutrition security](#)**

Original research article

Pages 19-32

Kristen Brugh, Gustavo Angeles, Peter Mvula, Maxton Tsoka, Sudhanshu Handa

**[Making decisions without reliable information: The struggle of local traders in the pastoral meat supply chain](#)**

Original research article

Pages 33-43

Guyo M. Roba, Margareta A. Lelea, Oliver Hensel, Brigitte Kaufmann

**[Calories and poverty during a prolonged crisis](#)**

Original research article

Pages 56-69

Jorge Valero-Gil, Magali Valero

**[Participation in the market chain and food security: The case of the Ugandan maize farmers](#)**

Original research article

Pages 81-98

P. Montalbano, R. Pietrelli, L. Salvatici

**Food Security**

Volume 10, Issue 2, April 2018

<https://link.springer.com/journal/12571/10/2/page/1>

*Review*

**[Governance of food systems across scales in times of social-ecological change: a review of indicators](#)**

Aogán Delaney, Tom Evans, John McGreevy, Jordan Blekking, Tyler Schlachter... Pages 287-310

*Review*

**[Food loss and food waste research in the Arab world: a systematic review](#)**

Mohamad G. Abiad, Lokman I. Meho

*Original Paper*

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**[Impacts of improved maize varieties in Nigeria: ex-post assessment of productivity and welfare outcomes](#)**

Tahirou Abdoulaye, Tesfamichael Wossen, Bola Awotide

*Original Paper*

**[Post-harvest management and associated food losses and by-products of cassava in southern Ethiopia](#)**

Aditya Parmar, Asnake Fikre, Barbara Sturm, Oliver Hensel

*Conference Report*

**[A planetary health approach to secure, safe, sustainable food systems: workshop report](#)**

Robyn G. Alders, Natalie Ratanawongprasat, Hettie Schönfeldt...

**Forced Migration Review (FMR)**

February 2018

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

***Syrians in displacement***

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

**Forum for Development Studies**

Volume 45, Issue 1, 2017

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Genocide Studies International**

Vol. 11, No. 2, Fall 2017

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Geoheritage**

Volume 10, Issue 1, March 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Global Health Action**

Volume 11, 2018 – Issue 1

<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/zgha20/11/1?nav=toCList>

*Review Article*

**[Non-communicable diseases in Indian slums: re-framing the Social Determinants of Health](#)**

Lily Beth Lumagbas, Harry Laurence Selby Coleman, Joske Bunders, Antoine Pariente, Anne Belonje & Tjard de Cock Buning

Article: 1438840

Published online: 28 Mar 2018

*Capacity Building*

**Operational research within a Global Fund supported tuberculosis project in India: why, how and its contribution towards change in policy and practice**

Karuna D Sagili, Srinath Satyanarayana, Sarabjit S Chadha, Nevin C Wilson, Ajay M V Kumar, Patrick K Moonan, John E Oeltmann, Vineet K Chadha, Sharath Burugina Nagaraja, Smita Ghosh, Terrence Q Lo, Tyson Volkmann, Matthew Willis, Kalpita Shringarpure, Ravichandra Chinnappa Reddy, Prahlad Kumar, Sreenivas A Nair, Raghuram Rao, Mohammed Yassin, Perry Mwangala, Rony Zachariah, Jamhoih Tonsing, Anthony D Harries & Sunil Khaparde

Article: 1445467

Published online: 19 Mar 2018

*Article*

**Implications of healing power and positioning for collaboration between formal mental health services and traditional/alternative medicine: the case of Ghana**

Lily Kpobi & Leslie Swartz

Article: 1445333

Published online: 13 Mar 2018

*Article*

**Improving access to medicines via the Health Impact Fund in India: a stakeholder analysis**

Patrick McMullan, Vamadevan S. Ajay, Ravi Srinivas, Sandeep Bhalla, Dorairaj Prabhakaran & Amitava Banerjee

Article: 1434935

Published online: 02 Mar 2018

*introduction*

**Special Issue: Monitoring Health Determinants with an Equity Focus**

Joy St. John

Article: 1410049

Published online: 25 Jan 2018

*Capacity Building*

**Implementation of genomics research in Africa: challenges and recommendations**

Sally N. Adebamowo, Veronica Francis, Ernest Tambo, Seybou H. Diallo, Guida Landouré, Victoria Nembaware, Eileen Dareng, Babu Muhamed, Michael Odutola, Teniola Akeredolu, Barbara Nerima, Petronilla J. Ozumba, Slee Mbhele, Anita Ghanash, Ablo P. Wachinou & Nicholas Ngomi of the H3Africa Study Coordinators Working Group as members of the H3A Consortium

Article: 1419033

Published online: 16 Jan 2018

**ABSTRACT**

Background: There is exponential growth in the interest and implementation of genomics research in Africa. This growth has been facilitated by the Human Hereditary and Health in Africa (H3Africa) initiative, which aims to promote a contemporary research approach to the study of genomics and environmental determinants of common diseases in African populations.

**Objective:** The purpose of this article is to describe important challenges affecting genomics research implementation in Africa.

**Methods:** The observations, challenges and recommendations presented in this article were obtained through discussions by African scientists at teleconferences and face-to-face meetings, seminars at consortium conferences and in-depth individual discussions.

**Results:** Challenges affecting genomics research implementation in Africa, which are related to limited resources include ill-equipped facilities, poor accessibility to research centers, lack of expertise and an enabling environment for research activities in local hospitals. Challenges related to the research study include delayed funding, extensive procedures and interventions requiring multiple visits, delays setting up research teams and insufficient staff training, language barriers and an underappreciation of cultural norms. While many African countries are struggling to initiate genomics projects, others have set up genomics research facilities that meet international standards.

**Conclusions:** The lessons learned in implementing successful genomics projects in Africa are recommended as strategies to overcome these challenges. These recommendations may guide the development and application of new research programs in low-resource settings.

### **Global Health: Science and Practice (GHSP)**

Vol. 6, No. 1 March 21, 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Global Public Health**

Volume 13, 2017 Issue 6

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

***Special Issue: Re-situating Abortion: Bio-politics, Global Health and Rights in Neo-liberal Times.*** Guest Editors: Maya Unnithan and Silvia de Zordo

*Article*

[Re-situating abortion: Bio-politics, global health and rights in neo-liberal times](#)

Maya Unnithan & Silvia de Zordo

Pages: 657-661

Published online: 02 Mar 2018

### **Globalization and Health**

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

[Accessed 14 April 2018]

[No digest content identified]

### **Health Affairs**

March 2018. Vol. 37, No. 3

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

***Advancing Health Equity***

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Health and Human Rights**

Volume 19, Issue 2, December 2017

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

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## ***Special Section on Romani People and the Right to Health***

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Health Economics, Policy and Law**

Volume 13 - Issue 2 - April 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Health Policy and Planning**

Volume 33, Issue 3, 1 April 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Health Promotion International**

Volume 33, Issue 2, 1 April 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Health Research Policy and Systems**

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

[Accessed 14 April 2018]

*Review*

| 10 April 2018

#### **[What can we learn from interventions that aim to increase policy-makers' capacity to use research? A realist scoping review](#)**

*Health policy-making can benefit from more effective use of research. In many policy settings there is scope to increase capacity for using research individually and organisationally, but little is known about what strategies work best in which circumstances. This review addresses the question: What causal mechanisms can best explain the observed outcomes of interventions that aim to increase policy-makers' capacity to use research in their work?*

Authors: Abby Haynes, Samantha J. Rowbotham, Sally Redman, Sue Brennan, Anna Williamson and Gabriel Moore

### **Human Rights Quarterly**

Volume 40, Number 1, February 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Humanitarian Exchange Magazine**

Number 71 March 2018

<https://odihpn.org/magazine/humanitarian-response-urban-areas/>

#### **[Humanitarian response in urban areas](#)**

Humanitarian crises are increasingly affecting urban areas either directly, through civil conflict, hazards such as flooding or earthquakes, urban violence or outbreaks of disease, or indirectly, through hosting people fleeing these threats. The humanitarian sector has been slow to understand how the challenges and opportunities of working in urban spaces necessitate

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changes in how they operate. For agencies used to working in rural contexts, the dynamism of the city, with its reliance on markets, complex systems and intricate logistics, can be a daunting challenge. Huge, diverse and mobile populations complicate needs assessments, and close coordination with other, often unfamiliar, actors is necessary.

### **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 14 April 2018]

[No new digest content identified]

### **Infectious Diseases of Poverty**

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

[Accessed 14 April 2018]

[No new digest content identified]

### **International Health**

Volume 10, Issue suppl\_1, 1 March 2018

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

***Special Issue: Onchocerciasis: The Beginning of the End***

[Reviewed earlier]

### **International Human Rights Law Review**

Volume 6, Issue 2, 2017

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **International Journal of Community Medicine and Public Health**

Vol 5, No 4 (2018) April 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction**

Volume 27, Pages 1-648 (March 2018)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **International Journal of Epidemiology**

Volume 47, Issue 1, 1 February 2018

<https://academic.oup.com/ije/issue/47/1>

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[Reviewed earlier]

**International Journal of Heritage Studies**

Volume 24, Issue 7 2018

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

***Tools for a Critical Heritage: Exploring Shared Authority and Stakeholder-Defined Values of Heritage***

**[Introduction: tools for a critical heritage](#)**

Elizabeth Kryder-Reid

Pages: 691-693

Published online: 11 Apr 2018

*Article*

**[From the ground up: cultural heritage practices as tools for empowerment in the Homeless Heritage project](#)**

Rachael Kiddey

Pages: 694-708

Published online: 12 Jan 2017

*Article*

**[Shared heritage, shared authority, shared accountability? Co-generating museum performance criteria as a means of embedding 'shared authority'](#)**

Jane Legget

Pages: 723-742

Published online: 18 Jan 2018

*Abstract*

This New Zealand case study presents insights from the perspectives of Māori and non-Māori museum stakeholders. It aimed to understand which activities and responsibilities mattered to stakeholders, in order to develop more meaningful accountability for their shared heritage. Using a participatory mixed method, the research explored how museum stakeholders assess their museum's performance. Māori and non-Māori generated, sorted and rated 'possible performance statements'. A cultural analysis, using proprietary software, produced concept maps which illustrate differently nuanced museum constructs with different relative importance for constituent elements. Pattern-matching revealed divergent priority accorded certain museum activities, but also commonalities. Both cultural groups prioritised factors not generally featured in compliance-driven approaches to accountability reporting. For Māori, greatest importance was placed on care of taonga ('treasures'), Māori-specific practice and engagement with Māori, while collections and staff were the key assessment factors for non-Māori. Incorporating stakeholder perspectives in a museum performance framework provides opportunities to report performance on dimensions which matter to wider communities. Where shared authority is taken seriously and stakeholders are involved, accountability becomes meaningful. This collaborative approach to performance framework development offers a tool for embedding the realities of shared authority into planning and delivering the museum's activities and responsibilities.

**International Journal of Human Rights in Healthcare**

Volume 11 Issue 1 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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## **International Journal of Infectious Diseases**

April 2018 Volume 69, In Progress Open Access

[http://www.ijidonline.com/issue/S1201-9712\(18\)X0003-4](http://www.ijidonline.com/issue/S1201-9712(18)X0003-4)

*Original Reports*

### **[Socioeconomic factors associated with full childhood vaccination in Bangladesh, 2014](#)**

Matthew L. Boulton, Bradley F. Carlson, Laura E. Power, Abram L. Wagner  
p35–40

Published online: February 5, 2018

*Highlights*

- :: Full vaccination of children is high in Bangladesh, although it varies by vaccine type.
- :: Full vaccination coverage was lowest among non-locals in all regions.
- :: The mothers' access to care and autonomy in healthcare decision-making are associated with higher vaccination coverage in their children.
- :: Increasing childhood vaccination coverage will be key to meeting national goals for disease elimination and to improve child health in Bangladesh.

## **International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology**

Volume 25, 2018 - Issue 3

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

[Reviewed earlier]

## **International Migration Review**

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

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

[Reviewed earlier]

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

March 2018| Vol 16| Issue 1

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

[Reviewed earlier]

## **JAMA**

April 10, 2018, Vol 319, No. 14, Pages 1415-1520

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

*Research Letter*

### **[Acute Malnutrition and Anemia Among Rohingya Children in Kutupalong Camp, Bangladesh](#)**

Eva Leidman, MSPH; Alexa Humphreys, MS; Blanche Greene Cramer, DrPH; et al.

JAMA. 2018;319(14):1505-1506. doi:10.1001/jama.2018.2405

Nearly 700 000 ethnic minority Rohingya people have crossed the border between Myanmar and Bangladesh after violence in Rakhine State, which escalated in August 2017, joining an estimated 200 000 who fled in earlier waves of displacement since the 1990s. The population of 2 preexisting refugee camps and surrounding makeshift settlements have more than doubled with the new influx. Concerns have been raised about the nutritional status of the Rohingya children.

To assess the health and nutritional status of children aged 6 to 59 months, we conducted a cross-sectional population-representative survey in the Kutupalong refugee camp from October 22 through 28, 2017. Households were randomly selected from a list updated the week preceding data collection. Weight, height, mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC), and presence of bilateral pitting edema were measured using standard procedures.<sup>1</sup> Weight-for-height z score (WHZ) and height-for-age z score (HAZ) were calculated based on 2006 World Health Organization (WHO) growth standards.<sup>2</sup> Two definitions of global acute malnutrition (GAM) and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were investigated because both can be criteria for admission to treatment programs. GAM was defined as a WHZ less than -2 or MUAC less than 125 mm. SAM was defined as WHZ less than -3 or MUAC less than 115 mm. All acute malnutrition categories additionally included children with edema. Chronic malnutrition was defined as an HAZ less than -2. Anemia screening was conducted by measuring hemoglobin (Hb 301, HemoCue) and classified according to WHO cutoffs.<sup>3</sup> Children aged 6 to 23 months (the target group for fortified food distributions) consuming at least 4 of 7 food groups during the day preceding the survey were classified as receiving minimum dietary diversity.<sup>4</sup> Respondents self-reported registration as refugees with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Wilson score CIs and results of the Pearson  $\chi^2$  test were used to compare registered and unregistered children. Two-sided tests were considered significant at a P value of less than .05. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention determined this study was exempt from human subjects research review because it collected data for programmatic purposes.

### **JAMA Pediatrics**

April 2018, Vol 172, No. 4, Pages 309-400

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **JBI Database of Systematic Review and Implementation Reports**

April 2018 - Volume 16 - Issue 4

<http://journals.lww.com/jbisrir/Pages/currenttoc.aspx>

*Systematic Reviews*

#### **Action research in the healthcare field: a scoping review**

*Action research is an approach that involves collaboration to develop a process through knowledge building and social change. Several viewpoints of action research have been introduced as the different traditions of developed action research. To develop a coherent process, researchers have to posit their worldviews and theoretical framework and align these with the research aims and procedures, and local transformation needs. This diversity leads to a variety of action research practices in healthcare. Particularly, in this review, we raised the need for examining participants' experiences and changes related to the action research process.*

Cordeiro, Luciana; Soares, Cassia Baldini

JBI Database of Systematic Reviews and Implementation Reports. 16(4):1003-1047, April 2018.

### **Journal of Adolescent Health**

March 2018 Volume 62, Issue 3, Supplement, S1-S86

[http://www.jahonline.org/issue/S1054-139X\(17\)X0028-1](http://www.jahonline.org/issue/S1054-139X(17)X0028-1)

#### ***Adolescent and Young Adult Male Health***

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Journal of Community Health**

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

**Journal of Cultural Heritage**

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

**Journal of Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainable Development**

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

**Journal of Development Economics**

Volume 132 Pages 1-150 (May 2018)  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/journal-of-development-economics/vol/132/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 2, April 2018  
<http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/jre/current>  
***Ethical Issues in Biobanking and use of Biospecimens***  
[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health**

April 2018 - Volume 72 - 4  
<http://jech.bmj.com/content/current>  
[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Evidence-Based Medicine**

February 2018 Volume 11, Issue 1 Pages 1–67  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jebm.2018.11.issue-1/issuetoc>  
[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Global Ethics**

Volume 13, Issue 3, 2017  
<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjge20/current>  
[Reviewed earlier]

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

Volume 29, Number 1, February 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Human Trafficking**

Volume 4, Issue 3, 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Management**

Volume 8 Issue 1

<https://www.emeraldinsight.com/toc/jhlscm/8/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health**

Volume 20, Issue 2, April 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies**

Volume 16, 2018\_ Issue 1-2

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

***Special Issue: Mediatization and Politicization of Refugee Crisis in Europe***

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Infectious Diseases**

Volume 217, Issue 8 15 April 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of International Development**

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

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/10991328/current>

***Fiscal Policy, State Building and Economic Development***

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Medical Ethics**

April 2018 - Volume 44 - 4

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Medical Internet Research**

Vol 20, No 4 (2018): April

<http://www.jmir.org/2018/4>

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Operations Management**

Pages 1-54 (January 2018)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/journal-of-operations-management/vol/57/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 March 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Pediatrics**

April 2018 Volume 195, p1-312

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice**

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

[Accessed 14 April 2018]

[No new digest content identified]

**Journal of Public Health Management & Practice**

March/April 2018 - Volume 24 - Issue 2

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of Public Health Policy**

Volume 39, Issue 1, February 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**Journal of the Royal Society – Interface**

March 2018; volume 15, issue 140

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

:

[Reviewed earlier]

## **Journal of Travel Medicine**

Volume 25, Issue 1, 1 January 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

## **The Lancet**

Apr 14, 2018 Volume 391 Number 10129 p1455-1548

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

*Comment*

### **[A call to action: improving women's, children's, and adolescents' health in the Muslim world](#)**

Amina J Mohammed

We have witnessed considerable progress in reducing maternal and child mortality in recent decades, but fragility and inequity continue to leave our most vulnerable communities behind. The study presented by Nadia Askeer and colleagues<sup>1</sup> in The Lancet sheds welcome light on why, despite improvements, progress in reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH) has been generally slower in some Muslim majority countries (MMCs). This study has a special meaning to me, not only as Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations; but as a Muslim woman, a mother, and a grandmother.

In its universality, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development urges us to go the last mile to deliver a sustainable, prosperous, and inclusive future for all—leaving no one behind. Building on the traditional development paradigm, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) promise a world in which people not only survive but thrive.

The health and wellbeing of women and children are key. At a historic 1·2 billion,<sup>2</sup> today's adolescents also demand our focus so we can unlock a demographic dividend that can yield benefits for generations to come. With the proportionally youngest population of all major religious groups,<sup>3</sup> this holds particular relevance for MMCs.

As Akseer and colleagues note, greater investment in national public health systems in MMCs is needed to reduce out-of-pocket health-care spending and improve RMNCAH outcomes, particularly for reproductive and maternal health and childhood vaccination. As we work to achieve universal health coverage, this investment must be central to our efforts to strengthen entire health systems so that we can ensure access to quality, affordable, and respectful services for all. Increased efforts at the community level will also be important, including through the strengthening of local institutions, skilled, gender-responsive community health workers, the engagement of men and boys, and the buy-in of religious communities. We must also strengthen our communications and advocacy efforts to improve practices and promote healthy behaviours such as birth spacing, exclusive breastfeeding, and care for lactating mothers, particularly in Islamic countries. Coupled with greater intergenerational engagement, we can create the environment needed to improve health outcomes for years to come.

In an evolving and complex development landscape, we must move beyond the traditional silos that have hampered our efforts to address the contextual barriers that keep so many back, particularly women and girls. Simply put, we cannot achieve the RMNCAH targets of SDG 3—globally or within the Islamic context—without also investing in social sectors. These

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investments must work to improve the overall status of women, which continues to halt progress globally against RMNCAH targets and the SDGs.

The current study articulates this well, with better RMNCAH outcomes observed in countries such as Bangladesh and Egypt, where targeted investments beyond the health sector have been made to improve girls' access to education and women's empowerment. Health does not exist in a vacuum. Success will require bold partnerships, building linkages and leveraging unique functions within and across sectors to deliver on an integrated agenda. Strengthened engagement of women in decision-making processes, particularly at the local level, will be paramount to help ensure approaches that prioritise both the health and wellbeing of our women and girls.

Greater investments in RMNCAH are also some of our greatest tools in the face of rising levels of conflict and humanitarian crisis, which disproportionately affect MMCs. We must prioritise the potential of women and adolescents as agents of peace through greater investments across health, education, and economic sectors.

The Every Woman Every Child (EWEC) Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030)<sup>4</sup> provides a roadmap for country-specific implementation of the SDGs, accounting for the very barriers raised in the current study. I was pleased to play a part in the development and launching of this robust strategy during the SDG Summit in 2015. The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) previously committed to implementing the first EWEC global strategy (2010–15), and since its launch in 2015, nearly 20 OIC member states have committed to implement the updated EWEC global strategy. I encourage OIC leaders and member states to recommit to implementing the EWEC global strategy as a key driver of the 2025 Programme of Action,<sup>5</sup> the United Nations Commission on Population and Development, and the broader SDGs.

With just 12 years to deliver on the promises enshrined within the 2030 agenda, the time for action is now. I call on my fellow leaders, including those in predominantly Muslim countries, to consider the findings of this study and work together—with ambitious resolve, across borders and sectors—to fully implement the 2030 agenda. Investing in women's, children's, and adolescents' health is a smart place to start.

#### *Articles*

#### **[Status and drivers of maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health in the Islamic world: a comparative analysis](#)**

Nadia Akseer, Mahdis Kamali, Nour Bakhache, Maaz Mirza, Seema Mehta, Sara Al-Gashm, Zulfiqar A Bhutta  
1493

#### *Review*

#### **[Countdown to 2030: tracking progress towards universal coverage for reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health](#)**

Countdown to 2030 Collaboration

#### *Summary*

Building upon the successes of Countdown to 2015, Countdown to 2030 aims to support the monitoring and measurement of women's, children's, and adolescents' health in the 81 countries that account for 95% of maternal and 90% of all child deaths worldwide. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, the rate of decline in prevalence of maternal and child mortality, stillbirths, and stunting among children younger than 5 years of age needs to accelerate considerably compared with progress since 2000. Such accelerations are only

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possible with a rapid scale-up of effective interventions to all population groups within countries (particularly in countries with the highest mortality and in those affected by conflict), supported by improvements in underlying socioeconomic conditions, including women's empowerment. Three main conclusions emerge from our analysis of intervention coverage, equity, and drivers of reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health (RMNCH) in the 81 Countdown countries. First, even though strong progress was made in the coverage of many essential RMNCH interventions during the past decade, many countries are still a long way from universal coverage for most essential interventions. Furthermore, a growing body of evidence suggests that available services in many countries are of poor quality, limiting the potential effect on RMNCH outcomes. Second, within-country inequalities in intervention coverage are reducing in most countries (and are now almost non-existent in a few countries), but the pace is too slow. Third, health-sector (eg, weak country health systems) and non-health-sector drivers (eg, conflict settings) are major impediments to delivering high-quality services to all populations. Although more data for RMNCH interventions are available now, major data gaps still preclude the use of evidence to drive decision making and accountability. Countdown to 2030 is investing in improvements in measurement in several areas, such as quality of care and effective coverage, nutrition programmes, adolescent health, early childhood development, and evidence for conflict settings, and is prioritising its regional networks to enhance local analytic capacity and evidence for RMNCH.

### **The Lancet**

Apr 14, 2018 Volume 391 Number 10129 p1455-1548

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

*Comment*

### **[A call to action: improving women's, children's, and adolescents' health in the Muslim world](#)**

Amina J Mohammed

We have witnessed considerable progress in reducing maternal and child mortality in recent decades, but fragility and inequity continue to leave our most vulnerable communities behind. The study presented by Nadia Askeer and colleagues<sup>1</sup> in The Lancet sheds welcome light on why, despite improvements, progress in reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH) has been generally slower in some Muslim majority countries (MMCs). This study has a special meaning to me, not only as Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations; but as a Muslim woman, a mother, and a grandmother.

In its universality, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development urges us to go the last mile to deliver a sustainable, prosperous, and inclusive future for all—leaving no one behind. Building on the traditional development paradigm, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) promise a world in which people not only survive but thrive.

The health and wellbeing of women and children are key. At a historic 1·2 billion,<sup>2</sup> today's adolescents also demand our focus so we can unlock a demographic dividend that can yield benefits for generations to come. With the proportionally youngest population of all major religious groups,<sup>3</sup> this holds particular relevance for MMCs.

As Akseer and colleagues note, greater investment in national public health systems in MMCs is needed to reduce out-of-pocket health-care spending and improve RMNCAH outcomes, particularly for reproductive and maternal health and childhood vaccination. As we work to achieve universal health coverage, this investment must be central to our efforts to strengthen entire health systems so that we can ensure access to quality, affordable, and respectful services for all. Increased efforts at the community level will also be important, including through the strengthening of local institutions, skilled, gender-responsive community health workers, the engagement of men and boys, and the buy-in of religious communities. We must

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also strengthen our communications and advocacy efforts to improve practices and promote healthy behaviours such as birth spacing, exclusive breastfeeding, and care for lactating mothers, particularly in Islamic countries. Coupled with greater intergenerational engagement, we can create the environment needed to improve health outcomes for years to come.

In an evolving and complex development landscape, we must move beyond the traditional silos that have hampered our efforts to address the contextual barriers that keep so many back, particularly women and girls. Simply put, we cannot achieve the RMNCAH targets of SDG 3—globally or within the Islamic context—without also investing in social sectors. These investments must work to improve the overall status of women, which continues to halt progress globally against RMNCAH targets and the SDGs.

The current study articulates this well, with better RMNCAH outcomes observed in countries such as Bangladesh and Egypt, where targeted investments beyond the health sector have been made to improve girls' access to education and women's empowerment. Health does not exist in a vacuum. Success will require bold partnerships, building linkages and leveraging unique functions within and across sectors to deliver on an integrated agenda. Strengthened engagement of women in decision-making processes, particularly at the local level, will be paramount to help ensure approaches that prioritise both the health and wellbeing of our women and girls.

Greater investments in RMNCAH are also some of our greatest tools in the face of rising levels of conflict and humanitarian crisis, which disproportionately affect MMCs. We must prioritise the potential of women and adolescents as agents of peace through greater investments across health, education, and economic sectors.

The Every Woman Every Child (EWEC) Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030)<sup>4</sup> provides a roadmap for country-specific implementation of the SDGs, accounting for the very barriers raised in the current study. I was pleased to play a part in the development and launching of this robust strategy during the SDG Summit in 2015. The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) previously committed to implementing the first EWEC global strategy (2010–15), and since its launch in 2015, nearly 20 OIC member states have committed to implement the updated EWEC global strategy. I encourage OIC leaders and member states to recommit to implementing the EWEC global strategy as a key driver of the 2025 Programme of Action,<sup>5</sup> the United Nations Commission on Population and Development, and the broader SDGs.

With just 12 years to deliver on the promises enshrined within the 2030 agenda, the time for action is now. I call on my fellow leaders, including those in predominantly Muslim countries, to consider the findings of this study and work together—with ambitious resolve, across borders and sectors—to fully implement the 2030 agenda. Investing in women's, children's, and adolescents' health is a smart place to start.

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### **Lancet Global Health**

Apr 2018 Volume 6 Number 4 e351-e468

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Lancet Infectious Diseases**

Apr 2018 Volume 18 Number 4 p357-474 e107-e159

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Lancet Respiratory Medicine**

Apr 2018 Volume 6 Number 4 p231-314 e11-e15

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Maternal and Child Health Journal**

Volume 22, Issue 4, April 2018

<https://link.springer.com/journal/volumesAndIssues/10995>

:



[Reviewed earlier]

### **Medical Decision Making (MDM)**

Volume 38, Issue 3, April 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **The Milbank Quarterly**

*A Multidisciplinary Journal of Population Health and Health Policy*

Volume 96, Issue 1 Pages: 1-212 March 2018

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14680009/96/1>

[New issue; No digest content identified]

### **Nature**

Volume 556 Issue 7700, 12 April 2018

[http://www.nature.com/nature/current\\_issue.html](http://www.nature.com/nature/current_issue.html)

*Editorial* | 09 April 2018

#### **[New awards aim to celebrate women in science](#)**

*Prizes will reward outstanding scientific discovery and exceptional efforts to engage girls and young women in science.*

*Letter* | 04 April 2018

#### **[Accelerated increase in plant species richness on mountain summits is linked to warming](#)**

*Analysis of changes in plant species richness on mountain summits over the past 145 years suggests that increased climatic warming has led to an acceleration in species richness increase.*

Manuel J. Steinbauer, John-Arvid Grytnes[...] & Sonja Wipf

### **Nature Medicine**

April 2018, Volume 24 No 4 pp375-526

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

*Editorial*

#### **[A checkpoint for the flu vaccine](#)** - p375

doi:10.1038/nm.4535

*Influenza causes almost 650,000 deaths worldwide each year, yet a long-lasting, protective vaccine remains elusive. Global investment—both scientific and financial—in a universal flu vaccine is overdue.*

*Review*

#### **[Current understanding of the human microbiome](#)** - pp392 - 400

Jack A Gilbert, Martin J Blaser, J Gregory Caporaso, Janet K Jansson, Susan V Lynch & Rob Knight

doi:10.1038/nm.4517

*Abstract*

Our understanding of the link between the human microbiome and disease, including obesity, inflammatory bowel disease, arthritis and autism, is rapidly expanding. Improvements in the throughput and accuracy of DNA sequencing of the genomes of microbial communities that are associated with human samples, complemented by analysis of transcriptomes, proteomes,

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metabolomes and immunomes and by mechanistic experiments in model systems, have vastly improved our ability to understand the structure and function of the microbiome in both diseased and healthy states. However, many challenges remain. In this review, we focus on studies in humans to describe these challenges and propose strategies that leverage existing knowledge to move rapidly from correlation to causation and ultimately to translation into therapies.

### **New England Journal of Medicine**

April 12, 2018 Vol. 378 No. 15

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

*Perspective Free Preview*

#### **[The Blind Men and the Elephant — Aligning Efforts in Global Health](#)**

Ranu S. Dhillon, M.D., and Abraar Karan, M.D., M.P.H.

*Should we pursue global health initiatives to ensure health security, promote development, or achieve health equity as a human right? Perhaps we can delineate actionable issues incorporating key priorities from each perspective and integrate diverse activities.*

### **Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly**

Volume 47, Issue 2, April 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration**

VOL. 7, NO. 1 (AUGUST 2017)

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Pediatrics**

April 2018, VOLUME 141 / ISSUE 4

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/141/4?current-issue=y>

[Reviewed earlier]

### **PharmacoEconomics**

Volume 36, Issue 4, April 2018

<https://link.springer.com/journal/40273/36/4/page/1>

[Reviewed earlier]

### **PLOS Currents: Disasters**

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

[Accessed 14 April 2018]

[Reviewed earlier]

### **PLoS Currents: Outbreaks**

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

[Accessed 14 April 2018]

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[No new digest content identified]

## **PLoS Medicine**

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

(Accessed 14 April 2018)

[No new digest content identified]

## **PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases**

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

(Accessed 14 April 2018)

*Research Article*

### **[Dynamics of cholera epidemics from Benin to Mauritania](#)**

Sandra Moore, Anthony Zunuo Dongdem, David Opare, Paul Cottavoz, Maria Fookes, Adodo Yao Sadjji, Emmanuel Dzotsi, Michael Dogbe, Fakhri Jeddi, Bawimodom Bidjada, Martine Piarroux, Ouyi Tante Valentin, Clément Kakaï Glèlè, Stanislas Rebaudet, Amy Gassama Sow, Guillaume Constantin de Magny, Lamine Koivogui, Jessica Dunoyer, Francois Bellet, Eric Garnotel, Nicholas Thomson, Renaud Piarroux

Research Article | published 09 Apr 2018 PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0006379>

*Author summary*

We analyzed cholera epidemics from Benin to Mauritania, during 2009 to 2015, and performed a series of field visits as well as molecular epidemiology analyses of *V. cholerae* isolates from most recent epidemics throughout West Africa. We found that at least 54% of cases concerned populations living in the three urban areas of Accra, Freetown, and Conakry. Accra, Ghana represented the main cholera hotspot in the entire study region. Our findings indicate that the water network system in Accra may play a role in the rapid diffusion of cholera throughout the city. As observed in Accra, Conakry, and Freetown, once cholera cases arrive in overpopulated urban settings with poor sanitation, increased rainfall facilitated the contamination of unprotected water sources with human waste from cholera patients, thus promoting a rapid increase in cholera incidence. To more efficiently and effectively combat cholera in West Africa, these findings may serve as a guide to better target cholera prevention and control interventions.

## **PLoS One**

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

[Accessed 14 April 2018]

*Research Article*

### **[Women's preferences for alternative financial incentive schemes for breastfeeding: A discrete choice experiment](#)**

Frauke Becker, Nana Anokye, Esther W. de Bekker-Grob, Ailish Higgins, Clare Relton, Mark Strong, Julia Fox-Rushby

Research Article | published 12 Apr 2018 PLOS ONE

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0194231>

## **PNAS - Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America**

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/>

[Accessed 14 April 2018]

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[No new digest content identified]

### **Prehospital & Disaster Medicine**

Volume 33 - Issue 2 - April 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Preventive Medicine**

Volume 109 Pages 1-124 (April 2018)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/preventive-medicine/vol/109/suppl/C>

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Proceedings of the Royal Society B**

10 January 2018; volume 285, issue 1870

<http://rspb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/285/1870?current-issue=y>

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Public Health**

April 2018 Volume 157, p1-152

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Public Health Ethics**

Volume 11, Issue 1, 1 April 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Public Health Reports**

Volume 133, Issue 2, March/April 2018

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

[New issue; No digest content identified]

### **Qualitative Health Research**

Volume 28, Issue 5, April 2018

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

[New issue; No digest content identified]

### **Refugee Survey Quarterly**

Volume 37, Issue 1, 1 March 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

### **Research Ethics**

:

Volume 13, Issue 3-4, July-October 2017  
<http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/reab/current>  
[Reviewed earlier]

## **Reproductive Health**

<http://www.reproductive-health-journal.com/content>  
[Accessed 14 April 2018]

*Review*

| 12 April 2018

### **[Effectiveness of health education as an intervention designed to prevent female genital mutilation/cutting \(FGM/C\): a systematic review](#)**

*Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) is a harmful practice that violates the human rights of women and girls. Despite global efforts to restrict the practice, there have been few reports on major positive changes to the problem. Health education interventions have been successful in preventing various health conditions and promoting service use. They have also been regarded as promising interventions for preventing FGM/C. The objective of this systematic review is to synthesise findings of studies about effectiveness of health education as an intervention to prevent FGM/C.*

Authors: Susan Waigwa, Lucy Doos, Caroline Bradbury-Jones and Julie Taylor

## **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](http://www.paho.org/journal/index.php?option=com_content&view=featured&Itemid=101)  
[Reviewed earlier]

## **Risk Analysis**

Volume 38, Issue 4 Pages: 635-868 April 2018

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/15396924/current>

*Original Research Articles*

### **[When Does Poor Governance Presage Biosecurity Risk?](#)**

Stephen E. Lane, Anthony D. Arthur, Christina Aston, Sam Zhao, Andrew P. Robinson

Pages: 653-665

First Published: 11 August 2017

## **Risk Management and Healthcare Policy**

Volume 10, 2017

<https://www.dovepress.com/risk-management-and-healthcare-policy-archive56>

[Reviewed earlier]

## **Science**

13 April 2018 Vol 360, Issue 6385 13 April 2018

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

*EDITORIAL*

### **[Obfuscating with transparency](#)**

Jeremy Berg

*Summary*

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Transparency is critical when it comes to decision-making that broadly affects the public, particularly when it comes to policies purported to be grounded in scientific evidence. The scientific community has been increasingly focused on improving the transparency of research through initiatives that represent good-faith efforts to enhance the robustness of scientific findings and to increase access to and utility of data that underlie research. Yet, concerns about transparency associated with scientific results continue to emerge in political discussions. Most recently in the United States, a new proposal by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would eliminate the use of publications in its policy discussions for which all underlying data are not publicly available. Here, a push for transparency appears actually to be a mechanism for suppressing important scientific evidence in policy-making, thereby threatening the public's well-being.

*In Depth - Archaeology*

### **Ancient sites savaged in Yemen, Iraq**

Andrew Lawler

*Summary*

A new front has opened in the destruction of archaeological heritage in the Middle East. Across northern Iraq and Syria, the Islamic State (IS) group devastated antiquities during its reign of terror starting in 2014. The IS group has now been routed by Iraqi and Syrian forces, curbing the destruction but allowing archaeologists a firsthand look at an aftermath that is grimmer than many had expected. Meanwhile, the assault on antiquity has extended to Yemen, 2000 kilometers to the south, another archaeological treasure house riven by conflict. A Saudi-led bombing campaign combined with terrorist attacks has destroyed or severely damaged more than 60 sites, including what some archaeologists consider the world's oldest dam. Yemeni officials, backed by German researchers, say that the Saudi-inflicted damage appears to be a conscious effort to wipe out Yemen's rich heritage.

*Policy Forum*

### **Bystander risk, social value, and ethics of human research**

By S. K. Shah, J. Kimmelman, A. D. Lyerly, H. F. Lynch, F. G. Miller, R. Palacios, C. A. Pardo, C. Zorrilla

Science 13 Apr 2018 : 158-159 Restricted Access

*Contentious risks demand a new approach*

*Summary*

Two critical, recurring questions can arise in many areas of research with human subjects but are poorly addressed in much existing research regulation and ethics oversight: How should research risks to "bystanders" be addressed? And how should research be evaluated when risks are substantial but not offset by direct benefit to participants, and the benefit to society ("social value") is context-dependent? We encountered these issues while serving on a multidisciplinary, independent expert panel charged with addressing whether human challenge trials (HCTs) in which healthy volunteers would be deliberately infected with Zika virus could be ethically justified (1). Based on our experience on that panel, which concluded that there was insufficient value to justify a Zika HCT at the time of our report, we propose a new review mechanism to preemptively address issues of bystander risk and contingent social value.

## **Social Science & Medicine**

Volume 202 Pages 1-178 (April 2018)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/social-science-and-medicine/vol/202/suppl/C>

[Reviewed earlier]

## **Stability: International Journal of Security & Development**

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

[Accessed 14 April 2018]

[Reviewed earlier]

## **Stanford Social Innovation Review**

Winter 2018 Volume 16, Number 1

[https://ssir.org/issue/winter\\_2018](https://ssir.org/issue/winter_2018)

The only way that climate change will be reversed is by continuing to develop new technologies and turning them into products and services. Philanthropists play an important role in that process, particularly by investing in risky, early-stage, science-based startups that traditional investors shy away from. Read more about this in "[The Investment Gap That Threatens the Planet](#)," the cover story in the Winter 2018 issue.

*Health*

### **[Health Insurance for Migrants](#)**

By Kristine Wong

The M-FUND offers affordable health insurance to the vulnerable Burmese migrant population on Thailand's western border.

## **Sustainability**

Volume 10, Issue 3 (March 2018)

<http://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/10/3>

[Reviewed earlier]

## **Systematic Reviews**

<https://systematicreviewsjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles>

[Accessed 14 April 2018]

[No new digest content identified]

## **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>

[Reviewed earlier]

## **Travel Medicine and Infectious Diseases**

January-February, 2018 Volume 21

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

[Reviewed earlier]

## **Tropical Medicine & International Health**

:

Volume 23, Issue 3 Pages: i-iv, 251-340 March 2018

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/13653156/current>

*Original Research Papers*

**[Equity dimensions of the availability and quality of reproductive, maternal and neonatal health services in Zambia](#)**

Lily D. Yan, Jonas Mwale, Samantha Straitz, Godfrey Biemba, Zulfiqar Bhutta, Julia F. Ross, Lawrence Mwananyanda, Mary Nambao, Paul Ngwakum, Eleonora Genovese, Bowen Banda, Nadia Akseer, Kojo Yeboah-Antwi, Peter C. Rockers, Davidson H. Hamer

Pages: 433-445

First Published: 19 February 2018

*Original Research Papers*

**[Impact of rotavirus vaccination on rotavirus hospitalisation rates among a resource-limited rural population in Mbita, Western Kenya](#)**

Ernest Apondi Wandera, Shah Mohammad, Martin Bundi, James Nyangao, Amina Galata, Cyrus Kathiiko, Erick Odoyo, Sora Guyo, Gabriel Miring'u, Satoshi Komoto, Yoshio Ichinose

Pages: 425-432

First Published: 12 February 2018

**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 2, 2018

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

[Reviewed earlier]

**World Heritage Review**

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/review/84/>

n°86 - March 2018

**[World Heritage and Reconstruction](#)**

While conflicts continue to inflict damage – much of it intentional – on heritage sites, reconstruction becomes a critical topic for discussion. The recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction of damaged sites are complex. They involve questions that go beyond authenticity and integrity. As the architect Jad Tabet says in his introductory article to this issue of World Heritage, "No one could have imagined that the coming century would, in its early years, witness a new cycle of violence that would spread from Afghanistan and Iraq to Mali,

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Libya, Syria and Yemen and lead the world to this state of generalized latent warfare that we know today.

The formulation of sound guidance is urgently required on issues related to recovery, taking into account the need to support the affected local communities. To this end, expert meetings have been convened by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICCROM and ICOMOS, and seminars are being held at universities to develop plans for thoughtful and effective action. UNESCO is also currently preparing a 'White Paper' in partnership with the World Bank on the reconstruction of cities following a conflict or major natural disaster. Reconstruction projects at World Heritage sites also need to address the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of each site – the reason for which it was inscribed on the World Heritage List – but within the context of a larger vision for recovery that addresses socioeconomic questions as well as the needs of the local communities. Solutions must be sensitive to questions of reconciliation and cannot rewrite history.

In this issue, we look at the cases of intentional destruction of sites in Syria and of the Buddhas in the Bamiyan Valley of Afghanistan. We take into account the devastating impact on local communities and their identities, as well as the implications of different approaches to reconstruction. We look at the inspiring cases of Timbuktu (Mali), where the mausoleums were rebuilt after their destruction in 2012, and the Old Bridge Area of the Old City of Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina), where the rebuilt bridge has become a symbol of perseverance and unity among communities. We are also pleased to present an interview with heritage expert Christina Cameron, who explains the concept of reconstruction in the framework of the World Heritage Convention and considers the emotional and psychological consequences for the related communities.

As we move forward, the World Heritage Committee will continue to support the preparation and dissemination of guidance on reconstruction, which includes facing the multifaceted challenges it brings. The Committee will continue as well to offer other options – such as exhibits, or virtual projections – that can satisfy the needs of communities to preserve and express their identities without marring the authenticity of what remains. New questions must also be addressed in the future. They include commemoration of the loss, and remembrance of community members and site managers who have given their lives to defend our shared World Heritage.

I would like to take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank Francesco Bandarin, Assistant Director-General for Culture, who is leaving UNESCO after 15 years of service and who contributed greatly to safeguarding World Heritage around the world. I would also like to express my gratitude to Vesna Vujicic-Lugassy, our Managing Editor from the inception of this magazine in May 1996 to the present, for her personal engagement to make the Review globally known.

*Mechtild Rössler*

*Director, UNESCO World Heritage Centre*

## **World Journal of Emergency Medicine**

2018 - Vol. 9 - No 2 June 2018

<http://wjem.org/journal/current>

[Reviewed earlier]

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