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

Period ending 18 April 2020 :: Number 309

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, consortia 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 GE2P2 Global Foundation, which is solely responsible for its content. Comments and suggestions should be directed to:

David R. Curry
Editor, The Sentinel
President, GE2P2 Global Foundation
david.r.curry@ge2p2center.net

The Sentinel is also available as a pdf document
linked from this page:
http://ge2p2-center.net/

Support this knowledge-sharing service:
Your financial support helps us cover our costs and address a current shortfall in our annual operating budget. Click here to donate and thank you in advance for your contribution.

Contents [click on link below to move to associated content]
:: Week in Review
:: Key Agency/IGO/Governments Watch - Selected Updates from 30+ entities
:: INGO/Consortia/Joint Initiatives Watch - Media Releases, Major Initiatives, Research
:: Foundation/Major Donor Watch - Selected Updates
:: Journal Watch - Key articles and abstracts from 100+ peer-reviewed journals
:: Week in Review
A highly selective capture of strategic developments, research, commentary, analysis and announcements spanning Human Rights Action, Humanitarian Response, Health, Education, Holistic Development, Heritage Stewardship, Sustainable Resilience. Achieving a balance across these broad themes is a challenge and we appreciate your observations and ideas in this regard. This is not intended to be a "news and events" digest.

:::
:::
:::

Governance :: Security Council

Joint Letter to UN Security Council on Participation and Transparency
17 April 2020 - New York
To: The President of the Security Council, H.E. Mr. José Singer Weisinger Excellence,
We, the undersigned civil society organisations, write to you as human rights, humanitarian, development and peacebuilding organisations that actively and regularly contribute to the work of the UN Security Council. We write to you at this time to raise concerns around the transparency of the work of the Security Council and obstacles to the effective participation of civil society in its work due to recent changes to the working methods of the Council in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The agreement by Council members on procedures for its meetings and adoptions during China's presidency in March was a vital step forward to ensure the work of the Security Council continued in an unprecedented and challenging time. We welcome further efforts by the Dominican Republic, as President of the Council in April, to increase transparency including through the practice of publishing the Informal Plan of VTC of the Security Council, allowing a live webcast of the relevant briefers moderated by the President of the Council during "Open VTCs", and of striving to publish press elements following Council sessions.

However, there continue to be significant challenges to ensuring transparency and meaningful participation of civil society in the Council's work. We were disappointed, for example, that it took nearly a month following the WHO's declaration of a pandemic for the Security Council to invite the Secretary General to brief and that it was decided that the briefing would be held behind closed doors, despite requests from other Member States to keep it open. Civil society access to the Council has also considerably shrunk as a result of the new working methods.

As civil society organisations working on every area on the Security Council's agenda, we bring dedicated expertise and experience that we believe is vital to complement the work of States and UN agencies, and critical to ensuring a more effective and accountable Security Council. This is particularly crucial as the COVID-19 pandemic affects every person in the world in distinct ways.

As organisations working at global, national and local levels often in partnership with grassroots organisations and with communities affected by many of the situations and issues on the Council's agenda, it is critical that the voices of those we serve and whose rights we fight for, including women, girls and boys, persons with disabilities, the displaced, and those most marginalised, are elevated and heard at the global level, particularly during these trying times.
We thus urge the Council to implement, urgently and as a minimum standard, the following steps:
:: Find a solution to broadcast Open VTCs live as a matter of urgency.
:: As an interim measure, while a live broadcast is not possible for technical reasons, effectively publish online the statements of all Council members and briefers for all open meetings.
:: Ensure closed meetings are reserved for closed consultations or meetings that would have otherwise been held in private and not used arbitrarily to reduce the transparency or visibility of the Council's work.
:: Actively invite civil society organisations to brief during Open VTCs, fulfilling the Council's expressed commitment in line with numerous Resolutions like UNSCR 2242 (2015), and take all necessary steps to enable their safe and meaningful participation while temporary working methods are in place.
:: Actively and meaningfully consult with civil society on any further decisions regarding working methods of the Security Council.

We offer you our full support and cooperation in seeking to address these issues and efforts to increase transparency during your Presidency in the month of April.

Sincerely,
ACT Alliance
Action Against Hunger (ACF)
Amnesty International
CARE International
Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)
ChildFund
Concern Worldwide US
Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (GCR2P)
Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)
Human Rights Watch (HRW)
Humanity & Inclusion (HI)
International Rescue Committee (IRC)
International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)
Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights
Lutheran World Federation
Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers
NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security
Oxfam
PAX
Physicians for Human Rights (PHR)
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Save the Children
The Global Justice Center (GJC)
Unitarian Universalist Association
United Methodist Women
War Child
Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict
Women's Refugee Commission
No Time to Cut World Health Organization Funding, Secretary-General Stresses, as Member States Battle against Vast COVID-19 Impact

As I said on 8 April: “The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the most dangerous challenges this world has faced in our lifetime. It is above all a human crisis with severe health and socioeconomic consequences. The World Health Organization (WHO), with thousands of its staff, is on the front lines, supporting Member States and their societies, especially the most vulnerable among them, with guidance, training, equipment and concrete life-saving services as they fight the virus.

“It is my belief that the World Health Organization must be supported, as it is absolutely critical to the world’s efforts to win the war against COVID-19. This virus is unprecedented in our lifetime and requires an unprecedented response. Obviously, in such conditions, it is possible that the same facts have had different readings by different entities. Once we have finally turned the page on this epidemic, there must be a time to look back fully to understand how such a disease emerged and spread its devastation so quickly across the globe, and how all those involved reacted to the crisis. The lessons learned will be essential to effectively address similar challenges, as they may arise in the future. But, now is not that time.”

As it is not that time, it is also not the time to reduce the resources for the operations of the World Health Organization or any other humanitarian organization in the fight against the virus.

As I have said before, now is the time for unity and for the international community to work together in solidarity to stop this virus and its shattering consequences.

Financial Times, 16 April 2020
Opinion – Editorial Board
The WHO should be bolstered, not crippled
Suspending US funding to global health body is grossly irresponsible
A global pandemic demands a global response. The only international body that can provide that response is the World Health Organization. It is the WHO’s job to track the spread of coronavirus, to share information and advice about best practice, and to help co-ordinate the international response to a common threat to humanity. To cut the WHO off at the knees during the biggest global health emergency for a century is, therefore, grossly irresponsible. Yet that is precisely what Donald Trump’s administration has done, by suspending US funding for the WHO.

As it struggles with this pandemic, the WHO needs more money, not less. It is a sorry state of affairs that the Gates Foundation, a private organisation, is the second-largest donor to the WHO, after the
US, and that the Rotarians donate considerably more money to the organisation than the People’s Republic of China.

The fact that the Trump administration is behaving recklessly does not mean that the WHO’s behaviour over coronavirus has been beyond reproach. Far from it. On January 14, the WHO tweeted that there was no “clear evidence of human-to-human transmission” of the coronavirus — an incautious piece of reassurance that echoed the line being taken by the Chinese government. On January 30, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the WHO’s director-general, praised China for “setting a new standard for outbreak control” — despite the fact that China had intimidated and silenced doctors who had raised the alarm about the pandemic, and initially refused the WHO’s own requests to send observers to Hubei province, where the outbreak began.

Yet weaknesses in the WHO’s response pale in comparison with Mr Trump’s own complacency. As late as February 24, more than a month after the first Covid-19 case had emerged in America, Mr Trump was tweeting that the disease was “very much under control in the US” and urging people to buy into the stock market. The fact that the president is now rounding on the WHO looks like a transparent effort to deflect attention from his own weak response.

Like any UN agency, the WHO needs the support and co-operation of its members. Securing that co-operation is a particularly difficult task when the world’s two most powerful countries — the US and China — are both run by nationalistic presidents, hypersensitive to any slight to their dignity. Mr Tedros’s early praise for China now looks ill-advised. But it was an understandable error, given that the WHO badly needed China’s co-operation.

The real problem was the Chinese government, not the WHO. China’s initial failure to be open about events in Wuhan has been compounded by its obsession with preventing recognition of Taiwan. Yet, despite close links to the mainland, Taiwan has done an admirable job in containing the pandemic and was among the first to warn of human-to-human transmission.

However, if a secretive China exerts excessive influence over the WHO, the answer is not for the US to withdraw. The real solution is for western powers — above all the US and the EU — to work together to improve the organisation. Instead, the Trump administration has treated both the UN and the EU as deeply suspect, belittling and ignoring them. Washington’s neglect and western disunity have allowed the Chinese government greatly to expand its influence within UN agencies.

Restoring US and western influence in those agencies is a key task. But it must wait for calmer times. Right now, the WHO needs to be allowed to get on with its job. The US threat of crippling cuts in its funding must be withdrawn.

COVID-19 :: Middle East

ICRC: COVID-19: Middle East faces health crisis, socio-economic earthquake
16-04-2020 | Statement

"The Middle East is today facing the twin threats of potential mass virus outbreaks in conflict zones and looming socio-economic upheaval. Both crises could have severe humanitarian consequences."
The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to be a global socio-economic earthquake. It will be felt acutely in the region's conflict zones, where millions are already coping with little or no healthcare, food, water and electricity, lost livelihoods, rising prices and destroyed infrastructure.

Deep humanitarian needs will worsen and new ones will emerge if the international community doesn’t factor socio-economic aftershocks into our response. Authorities and local responders must be supported now to ensure people's lives, livelihoods and food security are protected later.

Much-needed public health measures like lockdowns and curfews already make it difficult or impossible for many people to provide for themselves and their families. Small shops are shuttered. Cafes sit empty. Street vendors have lost their passing trade. The switch to online working could see many left behind. Over time, levels of hunger, malnutrition and chronic illness and stress linked to economic problems could soar.

Across the Middle East, many people are already living a hand-to-mouth existence, struggling to survive and rebuild their lives against vast odds. In Syria, seeing children the same age as my own playing in camps is a humbling experience. They are some of the millions of people we help access clean water every day. In Iraq, mothers and widows told me what our support for their small businesses meant to their families. Such support will be more important than ever in the coming months as we face this pandemic together.

With our Red Cross Red Crescent partners, we are doing our best to help the region’s most vulnerable people and bolster efforts to prevent the spread of the virus. In Yemen, our life-saving support to hospitals, clinics and dialysis centers now includes help with their COVID-19 prevention preparations. In Syria and Iraq, we are helping prisons with their anti-infection measures. Water trucking support to camps, displacement shelters and places of detention ensures people have clean water to wash in. Hygiene kits for displaced people and detainees include soap and shampoo.

More broadly, our water and sanitation services, energy provision, food and household distributions and micro-economic initiatives need to continue and increase where possible, reinforcing support to fragile systems and serving basic needs that may be overshadowed in the pandemic. Right now in Yemen, we have teams out on field trips registering people who need aid. Across the region, we want to increase our support in coming months, especially to people who may be particularly affected like low-income workers, women heading households, farmers and people with disabilities.

We've changed the way we work to keep staff and the people we help safe, using physical distancing during distributions, wearing protective equipment and changing how certain aid and cash transfers are delivered, for example. We will continue to adapt and to innovate. We will increase our assistance to the people who need it most, working with our Red Cross Red Crescent partners and the tens of thousands of volunteers who go out every day to help their communities across the Middle East, through the pandemic and beyond it."

Examples of ICRC's COVID-19 response in the Middle East

Syria: Donating hygiene kits for detainees, as well as preventative equipment and materials like disinfectant, gloves, goggles and gowns to central prisons under the Ministry of Interior; preventative measures in the ICRC-Syrian Arab Red Crescent field hospital in Al Hol camp; hygiene kits to reach 750,000 internally displaced people over next three months.
**Iraq:** Donating protective equipment and materials like disinfectant, gloves, goggles, gowns to health facilities and places of detention across the country. To date, donated to 18 primary health care centres, two hospitals and 15 physical rehabilitation centres, as well as 27 places of detention housing more than 45,000 detainees.

**Yemen:** Training, preventive information and material distributed to supported hospitals, primary health care centres and dialysis centers, alongside ongoing support to these facilities; public information campaign including audio spots on COVID prevention measures.

**Gaza:** Donated 20,000 masks and other protective materials to Palestinian Red Crescent Society; supporting authorities’ quarantine efforts with donations of blankets, mattresses and hygiene kits. Supplying infrared thermometers to screen suspected cases and other medical equipment.

**Lebanon:** Supporting the main COVID-19 testing and treatment facility in country, Rafic Hariri University Hospital, to boost response and bed capacity; working with detaining authorities in Roumieh prison to upgrade facilities and set up isolation block for suspected and confirmed cases.

**Jordan:** Provided hygiene and protective equipment for places of detention and correctional facilities; cash transfer programmes for Syrian refugees continues with preventative measures.

**Iran:** The ICRC has donated CHF 500,000 to the Iranian Red Crescent Society, which is leading the response to and providing services in several areas including disinfection of prisons, screening and treatment of patients, public information campaigns and livelihood support to affected vulnerable people.

**Existing Humanitarian needs and ICRC response in Middle East**

:: Half of all medical facilities in Syria and Yemen are not functioning.
:: Three of ICRC’s five biggest humanitarian operations in 2019 were in Middle East – Syria, Yemen and Iraq
:: In these three countries alone, almost 40 million people need humanitarian aid
:: ICRC provides water and sanitation support to authorities across the region – Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Gaza and the West Bank and Lebanon
:: ICRC’s provided food assistance to two million people in the Middle East in 2019.

COVID-19 :: Equity, Human Rights

**Call for a Coordinated, Equitable, and Human Rights-based Global Response to COVID-19**

World Federation of Public Health Associations  
Friday, 17 April 2020

WFPHA has signed Call for Global Action Plan on COVID-19. The undersigned 99 organizations and 40 individuals call upon heads of state and government of G20 countries to ensure a robust, coordinated global response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic that is humane, equitable, based in the universality of human rights, and meets the needs of countries and people who are most vulnerable and have the fewest resources...
3. Maximize supply and share health resources globally, equitably and based on need
Higher-income countries have insufficient necessary medical supplies and equipment, yet shortfalls in lower-income countries are far greater still, with a lack of personal protective equipment putting large numbers of health workers at preventable risk, and causing countless avoidable COVID-19 patient deaths. We therefore call upon your governments to:

:: Use the full authorities under your law to demand the utmost efforts of manufacturers to maximize
:: Support WHO in developing a global pool of intellectual property rights for technologies for preventing, detecting, controlling, and treating the COVID-19 pandemic, to make the intellectual property needed to manufacture these technologies and secure their regulator approval freely accessible or available through licensing at reasonable and affordable terms, as proposed by the government of Costa Rica
:: Implement your 26 March 2020 commitment to ensure medical supplies are widely available at affordable prices, on an equitable basis, where most needed, and as quickly as possible, through all necessary actions, which may include:
:: Supporting WHO in developing guidelines to determine where supplies and equipment should be distributed based on these principles; supporting WHO in developing a platform to facilitate needs-based, equitable distribution; and adhering to WHO guidelines
:: Agreeing to donate a significant proportion of any procurements of these supplies and equipment available to WHO, for it to distribute equitably, based on need
   . Regularly, publicly report on how you are meeting your 26 March 2020 commitment
   . For countries past the peak of their epidemics, or with sufficient levels of supplies and equipment, share not presently needed supplies and equipment based on the same principles of need and equity
4. Distribute therapies and vaccines equitably, based on need
Once developed, COVID-19 therapies and vaccines for COVID-19 must also be distributed equitably, based on need, and not on where they are manufactured or what country can pay the most. We therefore call upon your governments to:

:: Work with WHO to develop a plan for manufacturing and distributing any COVID-19 vaccines globally, equitably, based on need, and free at the point of use; and commit to following this plan
:: Immediately provide the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations the $2 billion it requires to support developing a vaccine
:: Require any vaccines developed with public funding to be available to governments and international organizations at affordable prices...

Signatories at title link above

COVID-19 :: United Nations Response

No Time to Cut World Health Organization Funding, Secretary-General Stresses, as Member States Battle against Vast COVID-19 Impact
14 April 2020 SG/SM/20045
As I said on 8 April: "The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the most dangerous challenges this world has faced in our lifetime. It is above all a human crisis with severe health and socioeconomic consequences. The World Health Organization (WHO), with thousands of its staff, is on the front lines,
supporting Member States and their societies, especially the most vulnerable among them, with
guidance, training, equipment and concrete life-saving services as they fight the virus.

“It is my belief that the World Health Organization must be supported, as it is absolutely critical to the
world’s efforts to win the war against COVID-19. This virus is unprecedented in our lifetime and
requires an unprecedented response. Obviously, in such conditions, it is possible that the same facts
have had different readings by different entities. Once we have finally turned the page on this
epidemic, there must be a time to look back fully to understand how such a disease emerged and
spread its devastation so quickly across the globe, and how all those involved reacted to the crisis. The
lessons learned will be essential to effectively address similar challenges, as they may arise in the
future. But, now is not that time.”

As it is not that time, it is also not the time to reduce the resources for the operations of the World
Health Organization or any other humanitarian organization in the fight against the virus.

As I have said before, now is the time for unity and for the international community to work together in
solidarity to stop this virus and its shattering consequences.

::::::

Financial Times, 16 April 2020
Opinion – Editorial Board

The WHO should be bolstered, not crippled

Suspending US funding to global health body is grossly irresponsible

A global pandemic demands a global response. The only international body that can provide that
response is the World Health Organization. It is the WHO’s job to track the spread of coronavirus, to
share information and advice about best practice, and to help co-ordinate the international response to
a common threat to humanity. To cut the WHO off at the knees during the biggest global health
emergency for a century is, therefore, grossly irresponsible. Yet that is precisely what Donald Trump’s
administration has done, by suspending US funding for the WHO.

As it struggles with this pandemic, the WHO needs more money, not less. It is a sorry state of affairs
that the Gates Foundation, a private organisation, is the second-largest donor to the WHO, after the
US, and that the Rotarians donate considerably more money to the organisation than the People’s
Republic of China.

The fact that the Trump administration is behaving recklessly does not mean that the WHO’s behaviour
over coronavirus has been beyond reproach. Far from it. On January 14, the WHO tweeted that there
was no “clear evidence of human-to-human transmission” of the coronavirus — an incautious piece of
reassurance that echoed the line being taken by the Chinese government. On January 30, Tedros
Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the WHO’s director-general, praised China for “setting a new standard for
outbreak control” — despite the fact that China had intimidated and silenced doctors who had raised
the alarm about the pandemic, and initially refused the WHO’s own requests to send observers to
Hubei province, where the outbreak began.

Yet weaknesses in the WHO’s response pale in comparison with Mr Trump’s own complacency. As late
as February 24, more than a month after the first Covid-19 case had emerged in America, Mr Trump
was tweeting that the disease was “very much under control in the US” and urging people to buy into
the stock market. The fact that the president is now rounding on the WHO looks like a transparent effort to deflect attention from his own weak response.

Like any UN agency, the WHO needs the support and co-operation of its members. Securing that co-operation is a particularly difficult task when the world’s two most powerful countries — the US and China — are both run by nationalistic presidents, hypersensitive to any slight to their dignity. Mr Tedros’s early praise for China now looks ill-advised. But it was an understandable error, given that the WHO badly needed China’s co-operation.

The real problem was the Chinese government, not the WHO. China’s initial failure to be open about events in Wuhan has been compounded by its obsession with preventing recognition of Taiwan. Yet, despite close links to the mainland, Taiwan has done an admirable job in containing the pandemic and was among the first to warn of human-to-human transmission. However, if a secretive China exerts excessive influence over the WHO, the answer is not for the US to withdraw. The real solution is for western powers — above all the US and the EU — to work together to improve the organisation. Instead, the Trump administration has treated both the UN and the EU as deeply suspect, belittling and ignoring them. Washington’s neglect and western disunity have allowed the Chinese government greatly to expand its influence within UN agencies.

Restoring US and western influence in those agencies is a key task. But it must wait for calmer times. Right now, the WHO needs to be allowed to get on with its job. The US threat of crippling cuts in its funding must be withdrawn.

COVID-19 :: Freedoms, Force

COVID-19 security measures no excuse for excessive use of force, say UN Special Rapporteurs

GENEVA (17 April 2020) – UN Human rights experts* have expressed grave concern at the multiplication of accounts of police killings and other acts of violence within the context of COVID-19 emergency measures.

"We are alarmed at the rise of reports of killings and other instances of excessive use of force targeting in particular people living in vulnerable situations," said the Special Rapporteurs.

"Persons in vulnerable situations such as people living in poverty and those living in slums, homeless persons, minorities, individuals in detention, women and children victims of domestic violence, migrants and refugees, trans women and all those who defend their rights, are already affected disproportionately by the virus. No-visitor policies in nursing homes and home care exacerbate the risk of violence, maltreatment, abuse and neglect of older persons and others living in institutions."

"All these people who are often disproportionately affected by the virus, because of their precarious conditions of existence, should not be victimized further because of state of emergency measures."

The experts reminded governments and law enforcement agencies that the prohibition against arbitrary deprivation of life, torture and other ill-treatment, is absolute and non-derogable at all times.
"Even during states of emergency, the use of force remains guided by the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality and precaution. They demand that the use of force and of firearms must be avoided, and that all possible non-violent means must be exhausted before resorting to violent ones."

Law enforcement agencies, the experts recalled, should only use force when strictly necessary. Lethal force should only be used to protect against an imminent risk to life and even then, reasonable precautions must always be taken to prevent loss of life.

"Breaking a curfew, or any restriction on freedom of movement, cannot justify resorting to excessive use of force by the police; under no circumstances should it lead to the use of lethal force."

The experts insist that further precautions to protect the right to life and dignity should be taken in view of the fact that so many people have no home in which to remain confined, or live in dense and promiscuous conditions, and do not have the means by which to sustain their families under isolation.

"You can't stay home if you don't have one. You can't remain confined if you don't have what you need to feed your family," the human rights experts noted. "How do you 'physically distance' in an urban slum? How do you eat or drink when you are a daily-wage labourer and need to go out every day to earn the money to do so?"

"In addition, given the high number of reported COVID-19 infections among police officers, police interactions may represent an additional source of risk of infection for populations already in vulnerable situations that must not be disregarded in the deployment and use of police authority."

The experts called on governments to devise specific measures to mitigate the disproportionate effects that emergency measures may have on groups in vulnerable situations, and to protect them.

"It is important that law enforcement agencies take into account the local context, the needs and vulnerabilities of particular groups of people, and exercise caution when resorting to the use of force to see to it that it is necessary and proportionate," they said. "For millions of people, emergency measures can be a more direct threat to their life, livelihood, and dignity than even the virus itself. There are other ways to police than force first."

"We recommend discussion, instruction, consultation and community engagement – as operating principles for the police, when implementing emergency measures. This is what international law demands because it is what protection of human rights in a time of contagion requires," the experts concluded.

:::::
:::::

**COVID-19:: World Bank Action**

**World Bank Group to Launch New Multi-donor Trust Fund to Help Countries Prepare for Disease Outbreaks**

WASHINGTON, April 17, 2020 ---- Given the urgency for stronger global health security and the need to help developing countries get better prepared for disease outbreaks, the World Bank Group is planning to establish a new Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Multi-Donor
Fund (HEPRF). This new fund will complement, and be in addition to, the up to $160 billion of financing the World Bank Group will provide over the next 15 months to support COVID-19 measures that will help countries respond to immediate health consequences of the pandemic and bolster economic recovery.

The HEPRF will provide incentives to low-income countries to increase investments in health preparedness and support the immediate COVID-19 response. In doing so, the HEPRF will help to guide critical health security investments now and in years to come. Specifically, the fund will:

:: Provide incentives to IDA-eligible countries to increase investments in preparedness, for example, by offering co-financing grants that encourage the use of their IDA allocations for better health emergency prevention, detection and response.

:: Enable low-income countries to quickly and effectively respond to major disease outbreaks at an early stage, complementary to IDA’s Crisis Response Window. It will also support other countries and territories that do not have access to financing such as IDA countries in arrears and non-creditworthy IBRD countries.

Japan has expressed its intention to become the founding donor of the new Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Multi-Donor Fund, which is now open for contributions from all donor countries. The World Bank and Japan are encouraging other donor countries to make contributions to this fund to help low income countries with the greatest needs prepare for and respond to major disease outbreaks.

“The new Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Multi-Donor Fund will be another tool in the World Bank’s COVID-19 response and longer-term health preparedness agenda to support low-income countries, as well as the most vulnerable communities, including refugees,” said Annette Dixon, Vice President for Human Development at the World Bank. “We are thankful to the Government of Japan for their leadership in health security and encourage other donors to join us.”

As part of the World Bank’s trust fund reform, the new Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Multi-Donor Fund will anchor the Umbrella Program for Health Security. The objective of this umbrella is to help countries develop strong public health capacity, including preparedness, disease surveillance, laboratory and diagnostic capacity, health human resources, as well as emergency response operations.

::::::

EMERGENCIES

Coronavirus [COVID-19]
Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)

Editor’s Note:
We certainly recognize the velocity of global developments in the COVID-19 pandemic. While we have concentrated the most current key reports just below, COVID-19 announcements, analysis and commentary will be found throughout this issue, in all sections.

Beyond the considerable continuing coverage in the global general media, the WHO’s authoritative guidance is available here:
:: Daily WHO situation reports here: https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports

::: Situation report - 88 [WHO]
Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)
17 April 2020
[Excerpts]

**SITUATION IN NUMBERS**

**Globally**
2 074 529 confirmed (82 967)
139 378 deaths (8493)

**European Region**
1 050 871 confirmed (37 778)
93 480 deaths (4163)

**Region of the Americas**
743 607 confirmed (36 486)
33 028 deaths (2783)

**Western Pacific Region**
127 595 confirmed (2024)
5558 deaths (1319)

**Eastern Mediterranean Region**
115 824 confirmed (4392)
5662 deaths (130)

**South-East Asia Region**
23 560 confirmed (1770)
1051 deaths (61)

**African Region**
12 360 confirmed (517)
586 deaths (36)

**WHO RISK ASSESSMENT**

Global Level – Very High

**HIGHLIGHTS**
:: No new country/territory/area reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.
:: Globally, the number of reported confirmed cases exceeded 2 million.
:: WHO has released public health guidance for social and religious practices and gatherings during Ramadan. The guidance also offers advice to strengthen mental and physical wellbeing as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. The guidance is available here.

:: WHO has released guidance on considerations in adjusting public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19. This document is intended for national authorities and decision makers in countries that have introduced large scale public health and social measures. It offers guidance for adjusting public health and social measures, while managing the risk of a resurgence of cases. The guidance is available here.

:: The Chinese authorities have informed WHO that as cases have declined in China and the strain on the healthcare system has eased, a multisectoral team was established in late March 2020 to perform a comprehensive review of COVID-19 data in Wuhan, Hubei Province. Information from a variety of sources was reviewed, leading to duplicate cases being removed and missed cases added. Following this review, the total number of cases in Wuhan increased by 325 and the total number of deaths increased by 1290.

:: As of 11 April 2020, 167 countries, territories and areas have implemented additional health measures that significantly interfere with international traffic.

---

**Emergencies**

**Ebola – DRC+**  
*Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)*

**Ebola Outbreak in DRC 88: 14 April 2020**  
*[Excerpts]*  
**Situation Update**

Two new confirmed cases of Ebola virus disease (EVD) were reported in Beni Health Zone on 10 and 12 April (Figure 1). Both cases passed away in the community after visiting several healthcare facilities. Prior to this, the last person who was confirmed to have EVD in the Democratic Republic of the Congo tested negative twice and was discharged from a treatment centre on 3 March 2020.

Specimens from the two cases were sent to the Institut de Recherche Biomedicale (INRB) in Katwa and Kinshasa for genetic sequencing in order to support surveillance teams in the investigation of the source of infection and to determine whether these two cases were linked to a known chain of transmission. A total of 213 contacts of these cases have been registered, 116 of whom were followed on 12 April 2020, and 90 were vaccinated. On 9 April, two new probable cases were validated.

Active outbreak response activities continue, including retrospective and prospective surveillance, pathogen detection, and clinical management activities in previously affected areas, in addition to alert validation, supporting appropriate care and rapid diagnosis of suspected cases, building partnerships with community members to strengthen investigation of EVD deaths in communities, and strategically transitioning activities.

**...Conclusion**
The newly confirmed cases in Beni Health Zone 40 days into the 42-day count down period to the end of the outbreak are unfortunate but not unexpected. The WHO criteria for end of the outbreak includes a 42-day period when we expect to identify cases within undetected chains of transmission. Thorough investigation of yet-to-be-identified cases and probable cases should be conducted in order to tackle this new chain of transmission. Outbreak response teams continue to face insecurity in affected areas, which makes the ongoing surveillance and response activities particularly challenging. This development reinforces the importance of continued vigilance and the maintenance of strengthened surveillance activities, rapid detection and response capacities in affected areas. It is also important that response activities for other local and global emergencies, including COVID-19 synergize and enhance, not detract from, EVD surveillance and response efforts.

Congo Records Five New Ebola Cases, Shelves Declaration of End to Epidemic

Five new Ebola infections have been recorded in eastern Congo since last week in a new flare-up just as the government was about to declare an end to the deadly epidemic, the World Health Organization said on Friday.

By Reuters
New York Times, Africa, Apr 17, 2020

Emergencies

POLIO
Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)

Polio this week as of 15 April 2020
:: The GPEI will continue to make available the plans and guidance documents regarding the impact of COVID-19 on polio eradication on this page.

Summary of new viruses this week (AFP cases and ES positives):
:: Afghanistan: eight cVDPV2 positive environmental samples
:: Pakistan: three WPV1 cases and five WPV1 positive environmental samples
:: Niger: one cVDPV2 case
:: Ghana: four cVDPV2 positive environmental samples
:: Malaysia: one cVDPV1 positive environmental sample
:: Côte d’Ivoire: one cVDPV2 positive environmental sample

WHO Grade 3 Emergencies [to 18 Apr 2020]

Democratic Republic of the Congo
:: Ebola Outbreak in DRC 88: 14 April 2020
[See Ebola above for detail]
**Mozambique**
:: World Health Organization: 28 cases of COVID-19 confirmed in Mozambique  14 April 2020

Nigeria - No new digest announcements identified  
Somalia - No new digest announcements identified  
South Sudan - No new digest announcements identified  
Syrian Arab Republic - No new digest announcements identified  
Yemen - No new digest announcements identified

------

**WHO Grade 2 Emergencies** [to 18 Apr 2020]

**Angola**
:: COVID-19 accelerated response caravan begins countrywide operation  17 April 2020

Afghanistan - No new digest announcements identified  
Burkina Faso [in French] - No new digest announcements identified  
Burundi - No new digest announcements identified  
Cameroon - No new digest announcements identified  
Central African Republic - No new digest announcements identified  
Ethiopia - No new digest announcements identified  
HIV in Pakistan - No new digest announcements identified  
Iran - No new digest announcements identified  
Iraq - No new digest announcements identified  
Libya - No new digest announcements identified  
Malawi - No new digest announcements identified  
Measles in Europe - No new digest announcements identified  
MERS-CoV - No new digest announcements identified  
Myanmar - No new digest announcements identified  
Niger - No new digest announcements identified  
occupied Palestinian territory - No new digest announcements identified  
Sudan - No new digest announcements identified  
Ukraine - No new digest announcements identified  
Zimbabwe - No new digest announcements identified

------

**WHO Grade 1 Emergencies** [to 18 Apr 2020]

Chad - No new digest announcements identified  
Djibouti - No new digest announcements identified  
Kenya - No new digest announcements identified  
Mali - No new digest announcements identified  
Namibia - viral hepatitis - No new digest announcements identified  
Tanzania - No new digest announcements identified
**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**

:: Recent Developments in Northwest Syria - Situation Report No. 12 - As of 17 April 2020

  Immense humanitarian needs remain for people in northwest Syria despite a relatively calm security situation under the current ceasefire. Further scale-up is needed as the COVID-19 pandemic intensifies people’s needs and hampers response efforts. Urgent emergency needs are increasingly being exacerbated by needs associated with those of people in longer-term displacement.

  To date, no cases of COVID-19 have been identified in northwest Syria. Humanitarian response efforts continue to focus on preparedness and response planning to minimise potential impact of COVID-19 on communities and on humanitarian partners.

:: Syrian Arab Republic: COVID-19 Update No. 06 - 17 April 2020

  Number of people confirmed by the Ministry of Health (MoH) to have COVID-19: 38 (including two fatalities, five recovered)

**Yemen** - No new digest announcements identified

::::::

**UN OCHA – Corporate Emergencies**

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

**CYCLONE IDAI and Kenneth** - No new digest announcements identified

**EBOLA OUTBREAK IN THE DRC** - No new digest announcements identified

* * * * *

:: **Agency/Government/IGO Watch**

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

**United Nations – Secretary General, Security Council, General Assembly**

[to 18 Apr 2020]


Selected Meetings/Press Releases/Announcements

17 April 2020

SG/SM/20049

Secretary-General Says Tackling ‘Crushing Debt’ Central to COVID-19 Responses, at Joint Meeting of Global Financial Bodies
Deputy Secretary-General Calls for Stronger Food Systems amid Risks Posed by COVID-19 Pandemic

Briefing Security Council on Yemen, Special Envoy Calls upon Parties to End War, Tackle COVID-19 Threat
As military escalations and the onset of COVID-19 threaten to wipe out hard-won gains in Yemen, an opportunity has emerged to bring peace, Special Envoy Martin Griffiths told the Security Council in a 16 April videoconference* meeting, stressing that there could be no better moment for parties to silence the guns.

Secretary-General Calls on Countries to Prioritize Children’s Safety, Education amid COVID-19 Pandemic

Public Statement by Chair of Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict
The Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, in connection with the examination of the fourth report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Central African Republic (document S/2019/852), agreed to convey the following messages through a public statement by the Chair of the Working Group:

No Time to Cut World Health Organization Funding, Secretary-General Stresses, as Member States Battle against Vast COVID-19 Impact

UN OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [to 18 Apr 2020]

Press briefing note on Myanmar/Bangladesh - Rohingya

Press briefing note on Libya

Press briefing note on DRC

Iran urged to immediately release prisoners of conscience and dual and foreign nationals at risk of COVID-19

COVID-19: Targeted actions needed to protect LGBTI people amid pandemic – Bachelet
United Nations Human Rights Council [to 18 Apr 2020]
Council News
No new digest content identified.

Committee on the Rights of the Child [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/CRCIndex.aspx
Latest News
No new digest content identified.

Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Children/Pages/ChildrenIndex.aspx
Latest News
COVID-19 security measures no excuse for excessive use of force, say UN Special Rapporteurs
17 April 2020

SRSG/CAAC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict [to 18 Apr 2020]
Press Releases
Ceasefires Present Opportunities to Better Protect Children in Armed Conflict
Monday, 13 April 2020

SRSG/SVC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict [to 18 Apr 2020]
Latest News
No new digest content identified.

Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights [to 18 Apr 2020]
Latest News
COVID-19 security measures no excuse for excessive use of force, say UN Special Rapporteurs
17 April 2020

US COVID-19 strategy failing the poor, says UN expert
16 April 2020

Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health [to 18 Apr 2020]
Iran urged to immediately release prisoners of conscience and dual and foreign nationals at risk of COVID-19
17 April 2020

COVID-19 security measures no excuse for excessive use of force, say UN Special Rapporteurs
17 April 2020

Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights [to 18 Apr 2020]

Poland urged not to criminalise sex education or tighten access to abortion
16 April 2020

Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples [to 18 Apr 2020]

No new digest content identified.

Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants

No new digest content identified.

UN OCHA [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.unocha.org/

UN supports Myanmar nationals returning from abroad
09 April 2020

FAQ On Data Responsibility In The COVID-19 Response
16 April 2020

UN provides vital supplies for Nigeria Government’s COVID-19 response

A Glossary Of Data Terms

Webinar: How can journalists join the efforts to stop the coronavirus pandemic in Eastern Africa?
15 April 2020
Protecting the Rights and Opportunities of Women and Girls [EN/MY]

13 April 2020

UN Emergency Funding released in response to Tropical Cyclone Harold

Centre for Humanitarian Data/HDX [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://centre.humdata.org/
No new digest content identified.

UNICEF [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.unicef.org/media/press-releases
Press release
Geneva Palais briefing note on the impact of COVID-19 on children
This is a summary of what was said by UNICEF Director of the Office of Global Insight and Policy Laurence Chandy – to whom quoted text may be attributed – at today’s press briefing at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.
17/04/2020

Statement
COVID-19: Global ceasefire would be a gamechanger for 250 million children living in conflict-affected areas
Statement by UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore
17/04/2020

Press release
UNICEF provides vital supplies for Nigeria’s COVID-19 response
16/04/2020

Statement
UN agencies welcome first relocation of unaccompanied children from Greece
Agencies urge other EU Member States to also follow through on relocation pledges
15/04/2020

Press release
Children at increased risk of harm online during global COVID-19 pandemic
Newly released technical note aims to help governments, ICT companies, educators and parents protect children in lockdown
14/04/2020

Press release
COVID-19: UNICEF Spain contributes 418,000 protective masks to combat pandemic
Masks part of overall support procured by UNICEF Spain for the national response, including 1,050,000 gloves, 100,000 virus detection kits, 1,000 units of personal protective equipment and 97,000 units of hand sanitiser.
14/04/2020
More than 117 million children at risk of missing out on measles vaccines, as COVID-19 surges

Statement by the Measles & Rubella Initiative: American Red Cross, U.S. CDC, UNICEF, UN Foundation and WHO
13/04/2020
[See COVID-19 above for detail]

Children in detention are at heightened risk of contracting COVID-19 and should be released

Statement by UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore
13/04/2020

The European Union and Belgium support UNICEF in shipping vital supplies to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
12/04/2020

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [to 18 Apr 2020]

Selected Announcements

Ongoing insecurity in eastern DRC could derail coronavirus containment
17 Apr 2020

West and Central Africa: UNHCR steps up efforts as combined challenges of conflict and coronavirus threaten millions of people
17 Apr 2020

Nearly 400 Rohingya refugees receiving assistance in medical facilities in Cox’s Bazar, following two months at sea
16 Apr 2020

UN agencies welcome first relocation of unaccompanied children from Greece
Agencies urge other EU Member States to also follow through on relocation pledges
15 Apr 2020

The Council of Europe and UNHCR support Member States in bringing refugee health workers into the COVID-19 response
14 Apr 2020

Coronavirus - Now is not the time to forget Afghanistan and its neighbours
14 April 2020

IOM / International Organization for Migration [to 18 Apr 2020]
Selected Announcements

**Migrants Missing in Libya a Matter of Gravest Concern**
2020-04-17 13:30
Geneva – The International Organization for Migration (IOM) expresses grave concerns for the fate of hundreds of migrants returned to Libya by the coast guard this year who are now unaccounted for.

**IOM Ramps Up Response to Covid-19 Pandemic for Refugees in Indonesia**
2020-04-17 13:00
Jakarta – As governments around the world scramble to procure scarce ventilators critical in the treatment of severe COVID-19 cases, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is joining efforts to meet the request of the Government of Indonesia for ventilators and other...

**Local Medics Team Up with Diaspora to Battle COVID-19 in Cyberspace**
2020-04-17 12:45
Yerevan – Doctors in Yerevan and New York have teamed up to share knowledge on how the COVID-19 pandemic is playing out Stateside. What is unusual about this exchange is that it took place online and involved representatives of the Armenian diaspora in the Big Apple.

**IOM Launches USD 499 Million Expanded COVID-19 Response Plan to Help Address Critical Socio-Economic Impacts of Pandemic**
2020-04-15 18:09
Geneva – As the number of new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases continues to rise, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has expanded the scope of its Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP) to include far-reaching interventions that aim to ...

**UN Agencies Welcome First Relocation of Unaccompanied Children from Greece**
2020-04-15 14:27
Geneva - IOM, the International Organization for Migration, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and UNICEF, the UN Children’s Fund today welcomed the relocation of 12 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children from Greece to Luxembourg.

**Coordinated Preparation in Full Swing to Combat COVID-19 in Cox’s Bazar Refugee Camps**
2020-04-14 14:00
Cox’s Bazar – Recognizing the risks that the COVID-19 outbreak could pose to one of the largest refugee camps in the world, the Government of Bangladesh and the humanitarian community including the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh are now...

**Over 1,500 Senegalese, Gambian Leaders in Border Communities Engaged in Fight Against COVID-19**
2020-04-14 13:40
Banjul – The COVID-19 pandemic has hit a total of 52 African countries, among them 23 in West and Central Africa. While the virus was slow to reach the continent—compared to Europe—infection has grown rapidly in recent weeks and continues to spread.

**IOM Regional Office Launches COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for East and Horn of Africa**
2020-04-14 11:50
UNAIDS [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.unaids.org/en
Selected Press Releases/Reports/Statements
17 April 2020
Community networks extend arms to connect people to medicine in Viet Nam

16 April 2020
Building peace through sustainable initiatives

15 April 2020
Keeping HIV treatment available in Pakistan during COVID-19

14 April 2020
Ratio of new HIV infections to number of people living with HIV improving

Unitaid [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://unitaid.org/#en
Unitaid is a global development agency, hosted by the World Health Organization and its major donors are France, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Norway, Chile, the Republic of Korea, Spain and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
14 April 2020
Unitaid greets World Chagas Disease Day with new analysis, new plans
   Geneva – Unitaid marked the first World Chagas Disease Day with the release of a comprehensive report on how to better confront the potentially deadly parasitic infection that strikes hardest among Latin America’s poor and marginalized.
   It was on this date in 1909 that a Brazilian doctor, Carlos Chagas, diagnosed the first case of what was to be called Chagas disease.
   Unitaid is also developing an initiative to help eliminate mother-to-child transmission of Chagas disease as part of its mandate to improve maternal, newborn and child health...
   ...Unitaid’s just-released report, Technology and Market Landscape for Chagas Disease, maps out the diagnostics and treatments that are in use now and identifies innovations that could improve upon them. The report also examines market barriers that could be removed to make way for better tests and treatments...

WHO & Regional Offices [to 18 Apr 2020]

WHO Regional Offices
Selected Press Releases, Announcements
WHO African Region AFRO
:: WHO, WFP and AU deliver critical supplies as COVID-19 accelerates in West and Centra...
16 April 2020
   Just over two months since COVID-19 was first detected in Africa, the disease has now spread to nearly every country, resulting in nearly 17 000 confirmed cases and around 900 deaths across the continent.
WHO Region of the Americas  PAHO
No new digest content identified.

WHO South-East Asia Region  SEARO
:: 15 April 2020  News release
WHO’s polio surveillance team, other field staff join COVID19 fight
  Tapping into the best practices and key resources that helped India win its war against polio, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and World Health Organization today initiat ...

WHO European Region  EURO
:: Transition to a ‘new normal’ during the COVID-19 pandemic must be guided by public health principles 16-04-2020
:: COVID-19: ensuring refugees and migrants are not left behind 16-04-2020
:: Alcohol does not protect against COVID-19; access should be restricted during lockdown 14-04-2020

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region  EMRO
:: UN flight carries COVID-19 medical supplies to all African nations  14 April 2020

WHO Western Pacific Region
:: 14 April 2020  Feature story
Staying safe during season of religious and cultural events, amid the COVID-19 outbreak

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)  [to 18 Apr 2020]
No new digest content identified.

UNFPA  United Nations Population Fund [to 18 Apr 2020]
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

UNDP  United Nations Development Programme [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter.html
Selected Press Releases/Announcements
United Nations Statement to the Development Committee
  The unprecedented crisis triggered by the spread of the COVID-19 virus, has focused the full attention of the United Nations’ System (UN) on a strategy of rapid response and recovery.
Posted on April 17, 2020

UN Division for Sustainable Development  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/
Latest News
No new digest content identified.
UN Statistical Commission :: UN Statistics Division  [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/default.htm
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/commission.htm
http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/
*No new digest content identified.*

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.unenvironment.org/
News
*No new digest content identified.*

UNDRR UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.undrr.org/
Updates
16 April 2020
**Extreme weather events in a time of COVID-19**
  GENEVA - Some of the world’s most disaster-prone nations are gearing up for their greatest challenge in the coming months when cyclones and floods can be expected to force the evacuation of millions of people while COVID-19 remains a widespread menace

UN DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs  [to 18 Apr 2020]
Latest News
**Digital technologies critical in facing COVID-19 pandemic**
15 April 2020, New York

UNESCO  [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://en.unesco.org/news
Latest News
**UNESCO’s plan of action to ensure continuous access to documentary heritage during pandemic**
17/04/2020

UNESCO provides Ethical Frameworks to COVID-19 Responses
15/04/2020

IESALC report analyses the impacts of COVID-19 and offers recommendations to governments and institutions of higher education
13 abril, 2020

International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.icomos.org/en/
Announcements

**Shared Cultures, Shared Heritage, Shared Responsibility**

18 April

Every year, on the occasion of the International Day for Monuments and Sites, ICOMOS proposes a theme for the celebrations and activities to be organised by our Committees, members and partners.

Now, more than ever, the theme of Shared Cultures, Shared Heritage, Shared Responsibility is important as an expression of our global unity in the face of the ongoing worldwide health crisis.

---

**UNODC** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  [to 18 Apr 2020]


15/04/2020 –

**Statement by the Secretary-General on the World Health Organization**

---

**The Secretary-General: Message on COVID-19 and Misinformation**

---

**LEADERS' STATEMENT on Violence Against Children: A hidden crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic**

---

**UN-HABITAT** United Nations Human Settlements Programme  [to 18 Apr 2020]

http://unhabitat.org/

News and Stories

**UN-Habitat’s handwashing facilities in Nairobi slums are widely used to combat COVID-19**

Friday 17 April, 2020

---

**Digital Technologies and the COVID-19 Pandemic #BeyondTheOutbreak**

Friday 17 April, 2020

---

**Two of Kenya’s informal settlements are prepared for COVID-19**

Tuesday 14 April, 2020

---

**Myanmar Climate Change Alliance Programme enters second phase**

Tuesday 14 April, 2020

---

**FAO** Food & Agriculture Organization  [to 18 Apr 2020]


No new digest content identified.

---

**ILO** International Labour Organization  [to 18 Apr 2020]


**COVID-19: Stimulating the economy and labour demand**

**COVID-19 responses must be built on human solidarity, ILO tells World Bank/IMF**

17 April 2020
In submissions to the Spring Meetings of the IMF and World Bank the ILO Director-General has laid out a four-pillar plan of policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis, that are human-centred and built on global solidarity.

**COVID-19 and labour statistics**

**Will COVID-19 impair the availability and quality of labour statistics?**

16 April 2020

During this COVID-19 pandemic it is more important than ever to collect up-to-date labour statistics so that we understand the fast-changing impact on labour markets. However, since most countries rely on face-to-face interviewing as their main way of collecting data, many of these interviews have been suspended. Find out how solutions are being found to keep the statistics flowing.

**COVID-19: Stimulating the economy and labour demand**

**Which policies can help small businesses withstand COVID-19?**

16 April 2020

The survival of many small and medium enterprises hangs in the balance as the devastating economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to spread. What kind of policies are needed to prevent these businesses from collapsing, and along with them millions of jobs?

**COVID-19: Protecting workers in the workplace**

**Young workers will be hit hard by COVID-19’s economic fallout**

15 April 2020

The COVID-19 emergency is affecting almost everyone in the world, regardless of age, income or country. However, young people are likely to be particularly hard hit by the economic fallout of the crisis. Find out five reasons why.

**ICAO** International Civil Aviation Organization  [to 18 Apr 2020]

http://www.icao.int/

*Latest News and Highlights*

**ICAO calls on countries to grant speedy authorization and access for repatriation flights**

15/4/20

**IMO** International Maritime Organization  [to 18 Apr 2020]

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

*Latest Press Briefings*

**Customs and ports urged to maintain flow of critical goods during pandemic**

17/04/2020

Heads of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) urge coordinated and proactive approach to maintaining the integrity of the global supply chain.

**WMO** World Meteorological Organization  [to 18 Apr 2020]

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

*No new digest content identified.*
UPU Universal Postal Union  [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://news.upu.int/no_cache/news/
News
UPU helping Posts get back on track
16.04.2020
In a world first, mail-only trains from China are helping to clear the huge backlog of mail destined for Europe and provide medical supplies.

In the time of COVID-19, posts display agility
14.04.2020
As COVID-19 spreads like wildfire around the world, postal operators are introducing new and creative ways to keep the post moving.

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization  [to 18 Apr 2020]
News
No new digest content identified.

International Organization for Standardization (ISO)  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.iso.org/news_archive/x/
News
By Clare Naden on 14 April 2020
A safer approach to water rescue with new ISO guidelines
Prevention is better than cure, especially when it comes to accidents at sea. Having survival craft available is a given for any law-abiding seafaring vessel, as is having survival craft that are maintained, repaired and tested by competent personnel. A new series of ISO specifications has just been ...

UNWTO World Tourism Organization  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.unwto.org/news
News
All Regions  COVID-19
“Words Alone Will Not Save Jobs”: UNWTO Leads Call For Firm Action By Governments to Support Tourism Recovery
17 Apr 2020

All Regions  COVID-19
COVID-19 Response: 96% Of Global Destinations Impose Travel Restrictions, UNWTO Reports
17 Apr 2020

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.wipo.int/pressroom/en/
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.
CBD  Convention on Biological Diversity [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.cbd.int/
18.04.2020  Up to € 800 for International Climate Initiative Medium Grants

USAIN  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.usaid.gov/news-information
Selected Press Releases, Statements, Announcements
USAIN  Launches First Strategy to Advance Development in a Digital Age
April 15, 2020
Today, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) released its first ever Digital Strategy, which charts an Agency-wide vision for development and humanitarian assistance through the responsible use of digital technology in the world's rapidly evolving digital landscape.

DFID  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development
Press Releases
UK calls for ‘long term’ approach to prepare for future pandemics at World Bank meeting
UK support to World Bank will help build more resilient economies in the developing world and support the global economic recovery
Updated: 17 April 2020

ECHO  [to 18 Apr 2020]
Latest News
Ukraine: €13 million in humanitarian aid for conflict-affected population
16/04/2020
As the conflict in eastern Ukraine enters its seventh year, the European Commission announces today €13 million to support the most vulnerable people affected by the ongoing hostilities. At the same time, EU-funded humanitarian projects will also...

African Union  [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.au.int/
[We generally limit coverage to regional and global level initiatives, recognizing that a number of Social Press releases
Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in the face of COVID-19
April 16, 2020

Statement of LMAC on the condition of African Migrant Workers during COVID-19
April 14, 2020
Africa CDC Partners with UNDP to Strengthen Africa’s Response to COVID-19
April 13, 2020

ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations  [to 18 Apr 2020]

ASEAN pledges to ensure food security during COVID-19 outbreak
JAKARTA, 17 April 2020 - Deeply concerned with the potential impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on ASEAN cooperation in food, agriculture and forestry and the disruption of the food supply chain in the region, the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) issued a Joint Statement on 15 April reaffirming commitment to ensure food security, food safety and nutrition in the [...]

European Commission  [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://europa.eu/rapid/search-result.htm?query=18&locale=en&page=1

Von der Leyen outlines a path to European recovery
Describing a 'new reality' for Europe, von der Leyen underlined that our recovery should be driven towards a more resilient, green and digital Europe.

The European Union remains world’s leading donor of Official Development Assistance with €75.2 billion in 2019

Coronavirus: Commission presents guidance on implementing EU rules on asylum and return procedures and on resettlement

Speech by President von der Leyen at the European Parliament Plenary on the EU coordinated action to combat the coronavirus pandemic and its consequences
President von der Leyen gave a speech at the European Parliament plenary session on the EU's coordinated action to combat the coronavirus pandemic and its consequences.

OECD  [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.oecd.org/

OECD and donor countries working to focus development efforts on Covid-19 crisis, building on a rise in official aid in 2019
The OECD and member countries that provide foreign aid are exploring how they can work to help the most vulnerable countries to weather the Covid-19 crisis, as new data showed a rise in Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 2019, particularly to the poorest countries.
16-April-2020
Tax and fiscal policy should continue to support households and businesses through containment, then shift to bolstering recovery

Tax and fiscal policy responses are playing a critical role in limiting the hardship caused by containment measures, and should continue to do so as governments seek to support households and businesses, protect employment and pursue economic recovery from the global pandemic, according to new OECD analysis.
15-April-2020

Organization of American States (OAS) [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.oas.org/en/
Press Releases
CICIES Begins Technical Assistance and Monitoring of Funds for COVID-19 Health Emergency
April 17, 2020

Countries of the Americas will be able to Jointly Negotiate Public Purchases of Materials to Combat COVID-19
April 9, 2020

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.oic-oci.org/
Selected Press Releases
Al-Othaimeen Calls for Resort to the Fiqh of Calamities and Life-preservation In Combatting COVID-19 Pandemic
Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Dr. Yousef A. Al-Othaimeen, stated that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic threatens all human beings regardless of their locations, colors, ethnicity, or beliefs, pointing out that the pandemic that has afflicted the global economy and various social spheres has also impacted the way we practice our acts of worship.... 16/04/2020

Group of 77 [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.g77.org/
Latest Statements and Speeches
Intervention on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by H.E. Ambassador Michael Rudolph Ten-Pow, Permanent Representative of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to the United Nations and Chair of the Group of 77, at the 103rd meeting of Ministers and Governors of the Group of 24 (Washington, DC, 14 April 2020)

UNCTAD [to 18 Apr 2020]
[We generally limit coverage to regional and global level initiatives]
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.
World Customs Organization – WCO [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.wcoomd.org/

Latest News
17 April 2020

Joint WCO-IMO statement on the integrity of the global supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic

16 April 2020

The Private Sector Consultative Group outlines solutions to humanitarian, government and business needs amidst the COVID-19 pandemic

WTO - World Trade Organisation [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news_e.htm

WTO News and Events
No new digest content identified.

IPU Inter-Parliamentary Union [to 18 Apr 2020]

Press releases
No new digest content identified.

International Court of Justice [to 18 Apr 2020]

Latest Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

International Criminal Court (ICC) [to 18 Apr 2020]

Trying individuals for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity
https://www.icc-cpi.int/

News
No new digest content identified.

World Bank [to 18 Apr 2020]

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

Decisive Action in an Unprecedented Crisis
The world is experiencing unprecedented challenges from COVID-19—the coronavirus pandemic—that could erase development gains for many countries. The pandemic has profoundly impacted human capital, including...

Date: April 17, 2020 Type: Feature Story

**World Bank Group to Launch New Multi-donor Trust Fund to Help Countries Prepare for Disease Outbreaks**

WASHINGTON, April 17, 2020 ---- Given the urgency for stronger global health security and the need to help developing countries get better prepared for disease outbreaks, the World Bank Group is planning...

Date: April 17, 2020 Type: Statement

[See Week in Review above for detail]

**World Bank Group and IMF mobilize partners in the fight against COVID-19 in Africa**

WASHINGTON, April 17, 2020—The World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund today convened African leaders, bilateral partners, and multilateral institutions to spur faster action on COVID-19 response...

Date: April 17, 2020 Type: Press Release

**World Bank Prices SEK 11.5 Billion Sustainable Development Bonds to Support Programs in Member Countries**

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 16, 2020 — The World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, IBRD, Aaa/AAA) priced a new SEK benchmark due December 23, 2022, raising SEK 11.5 billion (USD...

Date: April 16, 2020 Type: Press Release

**IMF** [to 18 Apr 2020]  
April 17, 2020  
**World Bank Group and IMF mobilize partners in the fight against COVID-19 in Africa**

April 15, 2020  
**IMF Executive Board Approves Immediate Debt Service Relief for 25 Eligible Low-Income Countries**

WASHINGTON, DC - The Executive Board today approved relief on debt service for 25 member countries that are eligible for support from the [Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT)](http://www.imf.org/en/News/Search?type=News+Article); a further 4 countries are expected to request such relief in the coming weeks. The approval enables the disbursement of grants from the CCRT for repayment of total debt service falling due to the IMF over the next six months, with potential extensions, up to a maximum of full two years from April 14, 2020, subject to availability of sufficient grant resources. The initial relief provided to these countries amounts to SDR 157.1 million (US$213.4 million). Relief on debt service will free up scarce financial resources that now can be directed toward vital emergency medical and other relief efforts while these members combat the impact of the pandemic.

April 15, 2020  
**IMF Adds Liquidity Line to Strengthen COVID-19 Response**
April 13, 2020

**The Great Lockdown: Worst Economic Downturn Since the Great Depression – IMF Blog**

**African Development Bank Group** [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.afdb.org/en
[We generally limit coverage to regional or Africa-wide initiatives, recognizing that a number of No new digest content identified.
No new digest content identified.

**Asian Development Bank** [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.adb.org/news/releases
[We generally limit coverage to regional or Asia-wide initiatives, recognizing that a number of country-

**ADB Triples COVID-19 Response Package to $20 Billion**
ADB today tripled the size of its response to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic to $20 billion and approved measures to streamline its operations for quicker and more flexible delivery of assistance

**Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** [to 18 Apr 2020]
[We generally limit coverage to regional or Asia-wide initiatives, recognizing that a number of country-

**AIIB Doubles COVID-19 Crisis Response to USD10 Billion**

**IFAD** International Fund for Agricultural Development [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.ifad.org/web/latest/news
News
No new digest content identified.

**Islamic Development Bank** [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.isdb.org/
News
Bangladesh
The construction of the Rapid Response Center Project in the Field Hospital of Cox’s Bazar
18 April 2020

**IsDB this week provides US$ 444.5 million to nine member countries to fight the coronavirus as part of its US$ 2.3 billion commitment**
17 April 2020
**IsDB-TWAS joint programme for the Sustainability Science, Technology & Innovation capacity building**
15 April 2020

**President of the Islamic Development Bank Group: COVID-19 propels the world into tomorrow**
14 April 2020

* * * * *

:: **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. **WE will not reference fundraising 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 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.actioncontrelafaim.org
*Communiqués de presse*
No new digest content identified.

**Alliance for International Medical Action (ALIMA)** [to 18 Apr 2020]
No new digest content identified.

**Amref Health Africa** [to 18 Apr 2020]
Selected Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

**Aravind Eye Care System** [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://aravind.org/
No new digest content identified.

**BRAC** [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.brac.net/#news
*Latest*
April 18, 2020
**Frontline lessons: From Ebola to COVID-19**
COVID-19: Update from Asif Saleh (17 April 2020)

Clubhouse International  [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.clubhouse-intl.org/news.html

Coronavirus -- Weekly Updates from the Clubhouse Community
In response to the continuing spread of the coronavirus, we have been carefully monitoring reports from both WHO) and the CDC. Please contact us directly if you have any specific questions relating to your Clubhouse.

Danish Refugee Council  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.drc.dk/news

The protection of refugees is necessary for an effective COVID-19 response in Greece
The Danish Refugee Council is highly concerned about the inadequate protection of asylum seekers and refugees following the lockdown of Koutochero site in central Greece.
14.04.20

ECPAT  [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.ecpat.net/news

No new digest content identified.

Fountain House  [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.fountainhouse.org/

No new digest content identified.

Humanity & Inclusion  [nee Handicap International]  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://hi.org/en/index

All news
No new digest content identified.

Heifer International  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.heifer.org/
Selected News Releases, Statements, Reports
#HeiferTogether Webinar Series
By Heifer International | April 16, 2020
Thought leaders will join President and CEO, Pierre Ferrari, for LIVE virtual chats, each 20 minutes in length, to discuss the future of our global...

HelpAge International  [to 18 Apr 2020]
Selected News Releases, Statements, Reports
No new digest content identified.

ICRC  [to 18 Apr 2020]
Selected News Releases, Statements, Reports
Ukraine: Civilians and health structures face rise in hostilities and threat of COVID-19 at same time
Geneva / Kiev (ICRC) – Even as preventive measures are being implemented to contain the spread of COVID-19, an increase in hostilities is making life more difficult for residents along the line of contact in Ukraine – and particularly so for the elde
17-04-2020 | News release

COVID-19: Middle East faces health crisis, socio-economic earthquake
“The Middle East is today facing the twin threats of potential mass virus outbreaks in conflict zones and looming socio-economic upheaval.
16-04-2020 | Statement
[See Week in Review above for detail]

East Africa: Farmers face new locust outbreak even as world battles COVID-19
As the world battles COVID-19, farmers in East Africa are facing another devastating locust outbreak as new swarms spark widespread crop loss and deepen already serious levels of food insecurity
14-04-2020 | News release

International Medical Corps (IMC)  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://internationalmedicalcorps.org/stories-and-news/
Story
The Women and Girls of Northeast Nigeria Shine on International Women’s Day
April 15, 2020
In northeast Nigeria, women and girls have borne the brunt of a 10-year conflict in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states, where millions have been forced from their homes and faced exploitation and abuse. In this environment, where women and adolescent girls have lost their livelihoods, families and support structures, International Medical Corps has established women-friendly...
Media highlights

Press Release
**COVID-19 cases surpass 1,000 in Cameroon, a country already facing multiple humanitarian emergencies; IRC calls for support to help mitigate spread of the disease**
April 17, 2020

Press Release
**IRC launches Coronavirus response serving asylum seekers and vulnerable families at Mexico border**
April 13, 2020

Press Release
**IRC launches online platform for refugees and immigrants in the United States seeking to obtain medical accreditation and join the fight against Coronavirus**
April 12, 2020

IRCT [to 18 Apr 2020]
[https://irct.org/](https://irct.org/)
**News** 14 Apr 2020
**The Inge Genefke and Bent Sørensen Anti-Torture Support Foundation generously donates 25000 Euro to the IRCT**

Islamic Relief Worldwide [to 18 Apr 2020]
[https://www.islamic-relief.org/](https://www.islamic-relief.org/)
**Latest News**
**Last year we shared Ramadan with 900,000 people**
Published: 14 April, 2020

**Your donations are in safe hands with Islamic Relief**
Published: 14 April, 2020

**Coronavirus: Lockdown is a prison for the abused**
Published: 14 April, 2020

Landsea [to 18 Apr 2020]
**No new digest content identified.**

Medecins du Monde [to 18 Apr 2020]
**No new digest content identified.**
News Alert: DRC Now Fighting Health Enemies on Two Fronts
With new Ebola cases emerging in the Democratic Republic of Congo just days before the largest ever epidemic in the...

EU states use COVID-19 to shirk search and rescue obligations as MSF ends Ocean Viking partnership
Press Release 17 Apr 2020

Coronavirus disease COVID-19
MSF supports COVID-19 response in Cameroon
Project Update 16 Apr 2020

Coronavirus disease COVID-19
MSF working with Mali health authorities in treating COVID-19 patient...
Press Release 16 Apr 2020

France
"Access to medical care must be maintained for the most vulnerable” during ...
Voices from the Field 14 Apr 2020

South Sudan
As conflict intensifies near Pibor, thousands flee into the bush
Project Update 14 Apr 2020

Northwest Syria will “struggle to cope in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic”
Voices from the Field 14 Apr 2020

Coronavirus disease COVID-19
MSF supports Iraqi hospitals responding to COVID-19
Project Update 14 Apr 2020

DRC Ebola outbreaks
Crisis update - April 2020
Crisis Update 14 Apr 2020
Operation Smile [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.operationsmile.org/press-office

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

Operation Smile Launches “Thank You” Campaign to Express Gratitude to its Medical Volunteers and all Medical Professionals on the Frontlines of the U.S. Coronavirus Fight
United States
Press Release  Posted 4/17/2020

Oxfam [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.oxfam.org/en/
Selected News/Announcements

World Bank remains outlier on debt relief: Oxfam
17 April 2020
Despite the clear message President Malpass sends on the critical importance of addressing debt, the Bank is the only one to fail to make any commitment on debt relief, said Oxfam today.

Coronavirus: Oxfam responds in India
17 April 2020
Oxfam together with our partners have scaled up our humanitarian programs to fight coronavirus in 14 states across India. We are providing food to 40,000 poor people, 40,000 cooked meals to migrant laborers, and distributing 2,660 safety kits to frontline workers. In addition, Oxfam has reached 4.5 million people through awareness initiatives.

SDRs must move from back-burner to the front of the discussion: Oxfam
16 April 2020
The IMF has already said that the coronavirus pandemic will trigger the worst economic fallout since the Great Depression—if ever there was a time to expand SDR allocations in a major way, it is now, said Oxfam today in response to the communiqué of the International Monetary and Financial Committee.

New OECD figures show international aid woefully inadequate to fight the coronavirus crisis
16 April 2020
Current levels of aid from rich countries are woefully inadequate to help developing countries face the coronavirus crisis, said Oxfam today in response to new OECD aid figures for 2019.

G20 debt moratorium is a first step, must go further and multilaterals and private creditors must follow suit
15 April 2020
Suspending debt owed to rich countries is only one piece of the puzzle. Rich private banks and investors should be pushed to cancel debts by enforcement and not left to voluntary action, said Oxfam today in response to the announcement that the G20 has agreed to suspend debt repayment of the poorest countries.
G7 backs debt moratorium for poor countries, if G20 and Paris Club agree: Oxfam reaction
14 April 2020
Without urgent action to relieve developing countries of all their external debt payments this year, and ensure they don't accrue into the future, the coronavirus could lead to millions of deaths and force half a billion more people around the world into poverty, said Oxfam today in response to the G7's joint statement on debt moratorium for poor countries.

IMF Chief Economist says pandemic will cause ‘worst recession since the Great Depression’: Oxfam reaction
14 April 2020
In response to IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath’s statement that the coronavirus pandemic will trigger the worst economic fallout since the Great Depression, Nadia Daar, Oxfam International’s Head of Washington DC Office said: "The IMF’s assessment is chilling. The human suffering behind those numbers is almost unimaginable. Oxfam’s research shows that coronavirus could push half a billion more people into poverty".

IMF’s gold holdings soar by nearly $20 billion since start of coronavirus pandemic
14 April 2020
The International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) gold holdings have increased in value by $19.3 billion since the start of the global coronavirus pandemic, said Oxfam today.

Norwegian Refugee Council  [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.nrc.no/
Latest news from NRC
Yemen | 15. Apr 2020
Yemeni groups and INGOs renew call for pause in USAID suspension to fight Covid-19 in Yemen
Over two weeks since USAID suspended aid in northern Yemen, aid groups are renewing their call for the major donor to reconsider its decision, especially in light of the now confirmed threat of Covid-19 in the country.

Palestine | 15. Apr 2020
Israel’s destruction of Palestinian property undermines efforts to curb Covid-19
Israel’s recent targeting of homes and even water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in the occupied West Bank violates international law and undermines efforts to curb the coronavirus pandemic.

Pact  [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.pactworld.org/
Latest News
April 15, 2020
As the world faces Covid-19 together, innovation is key
While none of us would ever wish for it, the Covid-19 pandemic presents an unprecedented opportunity for global innovation. Never in modern times has the...
From data to knowledge: How Pact is working with Mekong partners to solve water policy problems

The Mekong River turned blue in the December-January dry season of 2019 and 2020. This postcard-pretty hue was not good news, however. The color change, from...

Partners In Health  [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.pih.org/blog
News
Apr 17, 2020
Facing COVID-19, Preparedness is Key in Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone is still in the earlier stages of the global COVID-19 pandemic, though case numbers continue to rise. PIH and the government's goal has shifted from preventing the virus' introduction to preventing a serious outbreak, while providing care for all patients, coronavirus or otherwise. Read More

Apr 16, 2020
FAQs: Hiring, Process Behind PIH's Efforts in MA COVID Response

PIH teams respond to questions about job eligibility, the hiring process, contact tracing, and more, regarding the new Community Tracing Collaborative. Read More

Apr 14, 2020
Haitian Clinicians, Staff Resilient Through Unrest, COVID-19

Despite civil unrest, violent protests, and a global pandemic, all PIH-supported facilities in Haiti remain open and continue to provide care, including to some of the nation's first COVID-19 patients. Read More

Apr 13, 2020
Vital Maternal Care Continuing Amid COVID-19 Response

Maternal health care continues apace at PIH-supported facilities around the world as staff simultaneously prepare and respond to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Read More

Apr 13, 2020
Climate Change Advocacy is Global Health Advocacy

Earth Day and COVID-19 are powerful reminders that social justice issues are interdependent and require global collaboration. Read More

PATH  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.path.org/media-center/
Selected Announcements
No new digest content identified.

Plan International/BORNEfonden  [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://plan-international.org/about-plan/resources/media-centre
No new digest content identified.
Save The Children [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.savethechildren.net/news

17 April 2020 - New York
**Joint Letter to UN Security Council on Participation and Transparency**
[See Week in Review above for detail]

17 April 2020 - Global
**SAVE THE CHILDREN WELCOMES G20 DEBT RELIEF**

17 April 2020 - Global
**Save the Children: ‘Outbreak could cause millions of children to suffer for years to come’**

17 April 2020 - Global
**New child-friendly handwashing video launched for communities forgotten by COVID-19 crisis**

16 April 2020 - Bangladesh, Myanmar
**Rohingya families risk death or injury, all for a better life**

April 2020 - Bangladesh, Myanmar
**COVID-19: Access to full mobile data and telecommunications in Myanmar and Bangladesh is essential to save lives, say 26 major aid groups**

15 April 2020 - Uganda
**Food ration cuts by WFP in Uganda come at worst possible time**

14 April 2020 - Global
**Save the Children: Convert $60 billion of debt into fund to fight Covid-19 in world’s poorest countries**

SOS-Kinderdorf International [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/news

All News
Mental Health
**Q&A: Pandemic’s impact on vulnerable children**

April 17 2020 - "Being confined can be risky for vulnerable families," says Teresa Ngigi, an SOS mental health expert. "The risk of not having any external physical support could lead to child abuse cases since no one is witnessing this and reporting becomes difficult in that the abuser could constantly be present."

Somalia
**‘My country will be heavily challenged to fight COVID-19’**

April 15 2020 - Farhio Saney, a doctor at the SOS Mother and Child Hospital in Somalia, says staff have resorted to producing their own masks. But she knows it is inadequate protection against the virus.
Women for Women International [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.womenforwomen.org/
April 13, 2020
Voices from the Field: Rwanda Under Lockdown

World Vision [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://wvi.org/
Newsroom
World Vision responds to families affected by Cyclone Harold
April 16th 2020

Statement about Softbank
April 15th 2020

HSBC supports World Vision’s COVID-19 Response
April 13th 2020

EFF Seeks Public Comment About Expanding and Improving Santa Clara Principles
San Francisco—The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) announced today a call for feedback and recommendations from organizations and individuals around the world to update the landmark 2018 Santa Clara Principles on Transparency and Accountability, which established due process standards for moderating users’ online speech. Parties interested in strengthening and expanding the standards...

Freedom House [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://freedomhouse.org/
Latest Updates
Democratic Trends in Africa in Four Charts
Perspectives
April 17, 2020

Special Coronavirus Focus: Ethiopia, India, and China
Newsletter
April 14, 2020
Coronavirus Response Threatens Ethiopia’s Fragile Political Transition
Perspectives
April 13, 2020

Human Rights Watch [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.hrw.org/
Featured Commentary, Announcements, Statements
April 17, 2020
US Government Should Better Combat Anti-Asian Racism

In Brooklyn, New York, an Asian woman suffered an apparently race-based acid attack while taking out her garbage on April 5. A few weeks earlier in Texas, a man targeted and stabbed a Burmese-American man and his two children, ages 2 and 6, at a Sam’s Club. He said he had attempted to kill the family because he believed they were “Chinese and infecting people with the coronavirus.” One of the children had a laceration wound from his ear across his eye.

Africa
April 17, 2020 News Release
DR Congo: Prisons Face Covid-19 Catastrophe

Europe/Central Asia
April 14, 2020 News Release
Greece: Free Unaccompanied Migrant Children

April 16, 2020 Commentary
How Covid-19 Could Impact the Climate Crisis

Transparency International [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.transparency.org/news/pressreleases
Press Releases
14 Apr 2020
Police persecution of journalists and anti-corruption activists in Myanmar must stop
- Transparency International calls for the authorities in Myanmar to immediately cease their ongoing crackdown on anti-corruption activists and independent media outlets.

:::

ChildFund Alliance [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://childfundalliance.org/
News/ Statements
No new digest content identified.

CONCORD [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://concordeurope.org/
Latest News and Events
CONCORD’s analysis of Commission’s proposed global pandemic response
| Apr 17, 2020
The Communication on the Global EU response to Covid-19 sets out how the EU will address the negative impact of the coronavirus pandemic and the immediate health and socio-economic needs of the most vulnerable countries and people globally.

It’s not the end, it’s just the beginning: With COVID-19, now is the time to boost aid
| Apr 17, 2020
Early figures released yesterday by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) show an increase of 1.4% in global development aid spending in 2019.

The Elders  [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://theelders.org/news-media
Selected Press Releases and Major Announcements
News
We need a global solution for a global pandemic
17 Apr 2020
Ricardo Lagos illustrates why Gordon Brown’s initiative—which sees a number of public figures and leaders from around the world being invited to tackle the crisis unleashed by coronavirus—is worth highlighting.

Opinion
Migrants’ rights and health must be protected in the face of COVID-19
14 Apr 2020
The COVID-19 pandemic is a test of our common humanity. It has revealed our shared vulnerabilities, and only a coordinated response based on justice, solidarity and humanitarian principles can help us overcome it.

Evidence Aid  [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.evidenceaid.org/
Latest Content
No new digest content identified.

Gavi  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.gavi.org/
Top Stories
17 April 2020
Saudi Arabia pledges US$ 150 million to Gavi COVID response
:: New funding for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance to support lower-income countries’ response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including supporting health systems by protecting health workers, providing diagnostics and improving surveillance
:: Pledge follows G20 commitment to provide immediate resources to Gavi
:: Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala: “COVID-19 is a global problem which requires a global solution”

17 April 2020
Reed Hastings and Patty Quillin support Gavi with US$ 30 million donation

Reed Hastings and Patty Quillin donated US$ 30 million to support the Alliance’s response to COVID-19 and help protect the world against new outbreaks of other infectious diseases.

Cash donation is the first private sector contribution towards Gavi’s drive to raise at least US$ 7.4 billion to immunise 300 million children and save 8 million lives in the next five years.

Gavi is working to keep life-saving immunisation programmes running in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as investing hundreds of millions of dollars to help fragile health systems tackle the outbreak.

Getty Conservation Institute [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.getty.edu/research/
Latest News
No new digest content identified.

Global Fund [to 18 Apr 2020]
News & Stories
Funding Model
COVID-19 Response Mechanism Update for Implementing Countries
17 April 2020

Video
Community-based Monitoring
15 April 2020

Sourcing & Management of Health Products
COVID-19 Response: Impact on Health Product Supply
14 April 2020

Funding Model
14 April 2020

The Global Fund has published new guidance on country dialogue and on human rights for countries responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Country dialogue
The Global Fund is committed to ensuring that input from those closest to and living with HIV, tuberculosis and malaria are included in every funding request to the Global Fund. Their input is critical to ensuring that programs are effective and designed to help those most impacted.

Inclusive country dialogue and the engagement of civil society, communities, and key and vulnerable populations in the development of funding requests remains a requirement for receiving financing from the Global Fund.

To help ensure that these vital processes continue, the Global Fund has published new guidance on how to host a virtual dialogue that is inclusive and transparent:

Virtual Inclusive Dialogue download in English
Hilton Prize Coalition [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://prizecoalition.charity.org/
No new digest content identified.

ICVA - International Council of Voluntary Agencies [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://icvanetwork.org/
Latest resources, events, content
ICVA 2020 Annual Conference Report
Apr 2020

ICVA Bulletin - March 2020
Apr 2020

14 April 2020 - Notes on the meeting to exchange on the written submissions to the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement
Apr 2020

InterAction [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.interaction.org/
Global & Public Policy Positions
Statement on the Administration’s Announcement Regarding the World Health Organization
Apr 15, 2020

3ie International Initiative for Impact Evaluation [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.3ieimpact.org/
No new digest content identified.

CHS Alliance [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://chsalliance.org/
14 April 2020
COVID-19 and the Core Humanitarian Standard: How to meet our CHS commitments in the coronavirus pandemic

Development Initiatives [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://devinit.org/news/
News
No new digest content identified.
Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP)  [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.alnap.org/
No new digest content identified.

CERAH – Geneva Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://cerahgeneve.ch/events/news/
CERAH News
No new digest content identified.

Disasters Emergency Committee  [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.dec.org.uk/media-centre
LATEST PRESS RELEASES
No new digest content identified.

EHLRA/R2HC/HIF  [to 18 Apr 2020]
Tools & Research
Research to support COVID-19 response in humanitarian settings  [undated]
Elrha is launching an urgent funding call for research proposals to support the COVID-19 response in humanitarian settings.
The call aims to fund public health research that will produce robust findings that will contribute to the effectiveness of the current humanitarian response and increase the evidence base for future responses to similar infectious disease outbreaks
Apply:
https://www.commongrantapplication.com/register.php?refOrgId=24735&refProgId=775&refProgType=all

Groupe URD  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.urd.org/en/
No new digest content identified.

International Humanitarian Studies Association  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://ihsa.info/
No new digest content identified.

INEE – an international network for education in emergencies  [to 18 Apr 2020]
News
Global Partnership for Education announces US$250 million for developing countries battling COVID-19

Global Partnership for Education
14 April 2020

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) will provide US$250 million to help developing countries mitigate both the immediate and long-term disruptions to education being caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP) [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://phap.org/
Association news
No new digest content identified.

Sphere [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://spherestandards.org/news/
News
No new digest content identified.

Start Network [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://startnetwork.org/news-and-blogs
News and Blog
COVID-19: What can we learn from previous lessons in responding to disease outbreaks in low-income countries?
by Chaitali Chattopadhyay
16 Apr 20

Bringing about “bayanihan” to tackle COVID-19 in the Philippines
by Rya Ducusin
14 Apr 20

::::::

Brookings
http://www.brookings.edu/
Accessed 18 Apr 2020
Latest Research
Report
The constraints that bind (or don’t): Integrating gender into economic constraints analyses
Ana Revenga and Meagan Dooley
Thursday, April 16, 2020

Terrorism & Extremism
Education and Boko Haram in Nigeria
Madiha Afzal
April 2020

Health Care Policy
Prevalence and characteristics of surprise out-of-network bills from professionals in ambulatory surgery centers
Erin Duffy, Loren Adler, Paul B. Ginsburg, and Erin Trish
Thursday, April 16, 2020

Policy 2020
Why we need reparations for Black Americans
Rashawn Ray and Andre M. Perry
Wednesday, April 15, 2020

Report
Regulatory reform for non-fuel minerals: Improving the post-leasing clearance mechanism
Srestha Banerjee
Wednesday, April 15, 2020

Center for Global Development  [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.cgdev.org/page/press-center
Selected Publications, News and Events
April 17, 2020

Addressing Debt Vulnerabilities
Around the turn of the century, there was a broad recognition that the debt burden of many developing countries was impeding their growth. Much of the debt had accumulated in the context of the Cold War and had not resulted in productive investment.
Masood Ahmed and Mark Plant

April 17, 2020

No-Regret Policies for the COVID-19 Crisis in Developing Countries
Given the massive uncertainty surrounding how COVID-19 will play out in terms of health outcomes as well as economic and social outcomes, policymaking is as hard as it can possibly be. No-regret policies are those that are worth doing now regardless of which scenario actually plays out.
Stefan Dercon

April 16, 2020

How Might Think Tanks Make Real Things Happen? Lessons from the Creation of the DFC
A new US government agency began as scrawl on a napkin in a think tank seminar room just off Dupont Circle in Washington, DC. Fast forward nine years, in early 2020, the US International Development Finance Corporation was born.
Todd Moss

April 15, 2020

Can Tax Buoyancy in Sub-Saharan Africa Help Finance the Sustainable Development Goals?
In this paper, we estimate short- and long-term tax buoyancy for 44 sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries during 1980-2017 using time series and panel techniques.
Sanjeev Gupta and Jianhong Liu

April 14, 2020
**Headship and Poverty in Africa**
With a little more care to take context and the confounding attributes that make female-headed households (FHHs) particularly prone to poverty into account, this paper argues that headship can be useful for identifying poor households in Africa.
Caitlin Brown and Dominique van de Walle

April 14, 2020
**Eight Principles for the DFI Crisis Response**
DFIs are not central banks. They do not drive monetary policy stances and overall lending conditions in their countries of operations. Rather, during economic and other shocks, they must find ways to restart or boost financial intermediation for direct and systemic impact on target populations, sectors, and countries. But they must do so with an eye on their own balance sheets.
Nancy Lee

CSIS [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.csis.org/
Selected Reports
Report
**The Intelligence Edge: Opportunities and Challenges from Emerging Technologies for U.S. Intelligence**
April 17, 2020 | Brian Katz The United States must maintain a competitive advantage in strategic intelligence over its rivals to advance its national security interests. The CSIS Technology and Intelligence Task Force seeks to understand how emerging technologies can advance U.S. intelligence.

Report
**Illegal Mining in Venezuela: Death and Devastation in the Amazonas and Orinoco Regions**
April 16, 2020 | Moises Rendon, Linnea Sandin The CSIS Future of Venezuela Initiative explores the devastating effects of illegal mining in Southern Venezuela on human rights, the environment, and security.

Report
**South Africa’s Future at the Brink: Emergency in the World’s Largest HIV Epidemic**
April 15, 2020 | Sara M. Allinder South Africa has the world’s largest HIV epidemic. The CSIS Global Health Policy Center’s research over the last year, including a February 2019 visit, sought to understand why HIV has taken such a toll and what is needed to stop the tap of new infections.

Report
**Fighting Corruption for U.S. Economic and National Security Interests**
April 13, 2020 | Daniel F. Runde, Christopher Metzger Reducing corruption and promoting economic growth in developing countries supports the United States’ economic and national security interests. Anti-corruption legislation and transparent procurement processes help U.S. companies compete and win contracts abroad.
Collective approaches to communication and community engagement in the Central African Republic
Research reports and studies | April 2020 | Veronique Barbelet
   Exploring the design and implementation of collective approaches to communication and community engagement in the Central African Republic.

Financing the coronavirus response in sub-Saharan Africa
Working and discussion papers | April 2020 | Mark Miller, Francesca Bastagli, Tom Hart, Sherillyn Raga, Shakira Mustapha, Phyllis Papadavid, Annalisa Prizzon and Dirk Willem te Velde
  This paper discusses a number of fiscal measures that can be put in place to support sub-Saharan African countries through this pandemic.

Words into action: engaging children and youth in disaster risk reduction and resilience building
Toolkits | April 2020 | Tamara Plush ... Vidya Diwakar, Emma Lovell ... et al.
  A guide to supporting and engaging children and youth in disaster risk reduction and resilience-building.

No new digest content identified.

Perspective from Brokers: The Individual Market Stabilizes While Short-Term and Other Alternative Products Pose Risks
In this study, we update our 2018 analysis of trends in the individual insurance market by exploring what brokers say about new and emerging options in the individual market. We assess market trends in seven study states—Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Texas, and Utah—through a review of insurer participation, premiums, and enrollment data and through structured interviews with health insurance brokers.
Sabrina Corlette, Erik Wengle, Ian Hill, Olivia Hoppe
April 16, 2020
Brief

The Impact of the Coronavirus on Mortgage Refinancings
Before the COVID-19 crisis, Americans were sitting on $19.7 trillion in housing equity. Most of this home equity remains intact and could help millions of homeowners weather this unforeseen economic downturn. And it could allow millions of other borrowers to take advantage of lower rates, putting them
in a better position to weather a loss of income or rebuild their household balance sheet. Unfortunately, it’s hard for Laurie Goodman, Aaron Klein
April 15, 2020
Brief

**How Have States Improved Accountability to Victims through JRI?**
People who have experienced victimization have diverse and complex needs that require attention from federal, state, and local governments. This brief summarizes how states have engaged victims, victim advocates, and service providers throughout the JRI process; outlines some strategies states have used through JRI to improve accountability to victims and survivors of crime; and highlights creative, victim-centered policy and Andreea Matei, Colette Marcellin, Samantha Harvell
April 15, 2020
Brief

**Promising Practices for Addressing Harassment in the STEM Workplace**
Since the Me Too Movement sparked national awareness of sexual harassment in 2017, many industries are learning of harassment issues that had been ignored for a long time. Science, technology, engineering, and medicine (STEM) fields often share characteristics that create risk factors for harassment, which can lead to a loss of valuable talent and a persistent gender gap in fields that are increasingly important to our future. Jenny R. Yang, Batia Katz
April 15, 2020
Research Report

**ACA Medicaid Expansion and Insurance Coverage Among New Mothers Living in Poverty**
Background: Medicaid plays a critical role during the perinatal period, but pregnancy-related abstract Medicaid eligibility only extends for 60 days post partum. In 2014, the Affordable Care Act’s (ACA’s) Medicaid expansions increased adult Medicaid eligibility to 138% of the federal poverty level in participating states, allowing eligible new mothers to remain covered after pregnancy-related coverage expires. We investigate the Emily M. Johnston, Stacey McMorrow, Tyler Thomas, Genevieve M. Kenney
April 14, 2020
Journal Article

**Medicaid Prescriptions for Extended-Release Medications to Treat Opioid Use Disorder**
Extended-release prescription medications to treat opioid use disorder (MOUDs) offer long-acting, first-line treatment options for people with opioid use disorder (OUD). These long-acting medications could help retain more people in treatment and help people manage their day-to-day lives successfully—an even more urgent issue in light of the coronavirus pandemic. Three extended-release MOUDs—Vivitrol, Probuphine, and Sublocade—Lisa Clemans-Cope, Emma Winiski, Marni Epstein, Luis E. Basurto
April 14, 2020
Research Report

**Federal Rebate Calculation for Medications to Treat Opioid Use Disorder in State Medicaid Programs**
This brief describes our approach to estimating the basic and inflationary federal rebates for medications to treat opioid use disorder and overdose (MOUDs) administered through the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program in state Medicaid programs. We developed this methodology, which relies only on publicly available data, as part of a larger project, Tracking Medicaid-Covered Prescriptions to Treat Opioid Use Disorder. We find that the Lisa Clemans-Cope, Marni Epstein, Emma Winiski
April 14, 2020
Research Report

Avoiding a COVID-19 Disaster for Renters and the Housing Market
America’s 44 million renter households are, in general, more vulnerable than America’s 78 million homeowner households to the income disruption that stay-at-home policies and mass layoffs will impose during the COVID-19 crisis. Accordingly, policymakers need to act now to create a national rental assistance program that will provide direct rental payments to renters, either in rental voucher form that cannot be misused for less
Laurie Goodman, Dan Magder
April 13, 2020
Brief

The Wistar Institute  [to 18 Apr 2020]
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

World Economic Forum  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://agenda.weforum.org/news/
Media
No new digest content identified.

::*  *  *  *  *

:: 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 18 Apr 2020]
Press Release
No new digest content identified.

BMGF - Gates Foundation  [to 18 Apr 2020]
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Expands Commitment to Global COVID-19 Response, Calls for International Collaboration to Protect People Everywhere from the Virus

Additional funding brings foundation commitment to more than $250 million to support development of diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines; help strengthen African and South Asian health systems; and help mitigate the social and economic impacts of the virus.

Blue Meridian Partners [to 18 Apr 2020]
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.

EMCF's View | Blue Meridian Partners | April 10, 2020
Response to the COVID-19 Crisis

Blue Meridian Partners is deploying capital to organizations focused on vulnerable communities as an immediate response to the current crisis.

Annie E. Casey Foundation [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.aecf.org/newsroom/

Newsroom
No new digest content identified.

Clinton Foundation [to 18 Apr 2020]
Press Release
April 18, 2020
At 12th CGI University meeting, President Bill Clinton and Chelsea Clinton bring together students, government leaders, and public health experts to drive action on the COVID-19 pandemic

Co Impact [to 18 Apr 2020]
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.
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

Ford Foundation [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.fordfoundation.org/
News 17 April 2020
NYC COVID-19 Response & Impact Fund issues $44 Million in grants and loans to New York City-Based Social Services and Arts Nonprofits
The Fund Has Raised More Than $95 Million From 500 Donors, $44 Million Already Awarded to Support 276 Critical New York City Nonprofits During COVID-19 Pandemic

News 14 April 2020
Ford and leading philanthropies launch fund to support low-wage workers hardest hit by COVID-19
With an aim of raising $20 million, and initial commitment of over $7 million, new rapid response fund advances direct cash support and policy responses for and with working families affected by COVID-19

J. Paul Getty Trust  [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://news.getty.edu/
Latest News
No new digest content identified.

GHIT Fund  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.ghitfund.org/newsroom/press
No new digest content identified.

Grameen Foundation  [to 18 Apr 2020]
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation  [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://hewlett.org/latest-updates/
Latest Updates
Building bipartisan relationships in Congress
Madison Initiative
By Jean Parvin Bordewich
April 17, 2020

Zero-Emissions Road Freight Strategy
In 2017, the Hewlett Foundation’s board renewed its third five-year commitment to our Climate Initiative. The new climate strategy aims to achieve deep decarbonization by midcentury, focusing on the biggest emitting regions (the United States, China, India and Europe), six thematic areas (Transportation; Electricity; Industry; Finance; Strategic Communications and Carbon dioxide removal).
April 16, 2020

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation  [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.hiltonfoundation.org/news
Our News
No new digest content identified.
IKEA Foundation  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.ikeafoundation.org/
No new digest content identified.

HHMI - Howard Hughes Medical Institute  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.hhmi.org/news
Research  Apr 15 2020
A Gut-to-Brain Circuit Drives Sugar Preference and May Explain Sugar Cravings
The sensation of sweetness starts on the tongue, but sugar molecules also trip sensors in the gut that directly signal the brain. This could explain why artificial sweeteners fail to satisfy the insatiable craving for sugar.

Kaiser Family Foundation  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.kff.org/search/?post_type=press-release
April 15, 2020  News Release
KFF's Kaiser Health News (KHN) and Guardian US today launched Lost on the Frontline, a special project aiming to document the life of every health care worker in America who dies from COVID-19 during the pandemic. This includes medical professionals like doctors, nurses and paramedics, and others working at hospitals,...

Kellogg Foundation  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.wkkf.org/news-and-media
Selected Announcements
No new digest content identified.

Aga Khan Foundation  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.akdn.org/our-agencies/aga-khan-foundation
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

MacArthur Foundation  [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.macfound.org/
April 15, 2020  Perspectives
Philanthropy Fault Lines
Michelle Morales, President, Woods Fund Chicago
John Palfrey, President
Woods Fund Chicago President Michelle Morales and MacArthur President John Palfrey address some of the challenges they are facing as their foundations respond to COVID-19. In this conversation they discuss the racial and ethnic disparities that have been exacerbated by the pandemic, the trade-offs
foundations make when quickly getting money out the door, whether moments of crisis provide clarity about long-term grantmaking, and the promise of philanthropy in this moment.

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://mellon.org/
Mellon News, Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.moore.org/
News
No new digest content identified.

Open Society Foundations  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/newsroom
Press release
Foundations Invest in Puerto Rico’s Response to COVID-19
The Open Society Foundations announced a $500,000 investment in Puerto Rico to respond to short-term humanitarian needs on the island driven by the coronavirus.

Press release
Open Society Foundations Invest in the District of Columbia’s Emergency Response to COVID-19
The Open Society Foundations announced plans to spend more than $1 million to help the District of Columbia respond to short-term needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Press release
Open Society Foundations Commit Emergency Support to Address the Impact of COVID-19 in New York City
Open Society will provide $37 million in relief for those in New York City who are at greatest risk from the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Press release
Open Society Foundations Aid People Hardest Hit by COVID-19 Pandemic
In response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, Open Society is seeking to support low-wage and informal workers, as well as other vulnerable groups who are most at risk.

David and Lucile Packard Foundation  [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.packard.org/news/
News
No new digest content identified.

Pew Charitable Trusts  [to 18 Apr 2020]
Press Releases & Statements
April 16, 2020


Rockefeller Foundation  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/
The Latest No new digest content identified.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  [to 18 Apr 2020]
http://www.rwjf.org/en/about-rwjf/
Latest News and Highlights
No new digest content identified.

Science Philanthropy Alliance  [to 18 Apr 2020]
"...a group of organizations working together to increase philanthropic support for basic scientific research on a global basis...”
No new digest content identified.

SDG Philanthropy Platform
http://sdgfunders.org/
SDG Philanthropy Platform is a collaboration between philanthropy and the greater international development community led by Foundation Center, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, and supported by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Ford Foundation and the MasterCard Foundation, the Brach Family Foundation, and other key organizations such as Asociación de Fundaciones Empresariales (AFE) in Colombia, Brach Family Charitable Foundation, CAF America, Council on Foundations, East Africa Association of Grantmakers (EAAG), European Foundation Centre, Filantropi Indonesia (FI), GlobalGiving, The Humanitarian Forum, World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists, and Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support (WINGS).
Selected Announcements
No new digest content identified.

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://sloan.org/about/press
Press Releases
No new digest content identified.

Wellcome Trust  [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://wellcome.ac.uk/news
Opinion | 16 April 2020
Greater investment is needed to help countries with the weakest health systems prepare for COVID-19

Christiane Hertz-Fowler and Georgia Walton, Infection and Immunobiology team Wellcome

We’ve awarded £12 million, in partnership with the UK Department for International Development, to speed up global COVID-19 research and development and help low- and middle-income countries prepare for the pandemic. But more investment is needed.

Candid [formerly Foundation Center and GuideStar] [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://candid.org/about/press-room?fcref=pg
No new digest content identified.

Council on Foundations [to 18 Apr 2020]
https://www.cof.org/newsroom
Newsroom
Philanthropy’s Response to Spring 2020 Severe Storms

Tuesday, April 14, 2020
Updated information about the impact of severe storms during Spring 2020 and resources for foundations.

* * * * *

:: 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 2020 Volume 48, Issue 4, p355-470
http://www.ajicjournal.org/current
[Reviewed earlier]

American Journal of Preventive Medicine
April 2020 Volume 58, Issue 4, p473-612
http://www.ajpmonline.org/current
[Reviewed earlier]
Tormented Alderney: archaeological investigations of the Nazi labour and concentration camp of Sylt
Caroline Sturdy Colls, Janos Kerti and Kevin Colls

Abstract
Following the 1940 evacuation of the British Channel Island of Alderney, a network of Nazi labour and concentration camps was built on the island to house foreign labourers. Despite investigations led by the British Government immediately after the conclusion of the Second World War, knowledge of the history and architecture of these camps remained limited. This article reports on archaeological investigations, which, for the first time, have mapped the Sylt labour and concentration camp using non-invasive methods and 3D-reconstruction techniques. The results provide the opportunity, alongside historical research, to examine the relationships between architecture, the landscape setting and the experiences of those housed at Sylt camp.
Development and pilot testing of a health education program to improve immigrants’ access to Canadian health services

In Canada’s increasing immigrant population, a phenomenon called the “healthy immigrant effect” has arisen in which health declines after four years of settling. Access to healthcare is an important consideration...

Authors: Setareh Ghahari, Shawna Burnett and Libby Alexander

Citation: BMC Health Services Research 2020 20:321

Content type: Research article
Published on: 17 April 2020

Cost-effectiveness of introducing national seasonal influenza vaccination for adults aged 60 years and above in mainland China: a modelling analysis

China has an aging population with an increasing number of adults aged ≥ 60 years. Influenza causes a heavy disease burden in older adults, but can be alleviated by vaccination. We assessed the cost-effectiveness...

Authors: Juan Yang, Katherine E. Atkins, Luzhao Feng, Marc Baguelin, Peng Wu, Han Yan, Eric H. Y. Lau, Joseph T. Wu, Yang Liu, Benjamin J. Cowling, Mark Jit and Hongjie Yu

Citation: BMC Medicine 2020 18:90
Content type: Research article
Published on: 14 April 2020
Human Development Index of the maternal country of origin and its relationship with maternal near miss: A systematic review of the literature

The reduction in maternal mortality worldwide has increased the interest in studying more frequent severe events such as maternal near miss. The Human Development Index is a sociodemographic country-specific v...

Authors: Santiago García-Tizón Larroca, Francisco Amor Valera, Esther Ayuso Herrera, Ignacio Cueto Hernandez, Yolanda Cuñarro Lopez and Juan De Leon-Luis

Citation: BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth 2020 20:224

Content type: Research article

Published on: 16 April 2020

BMC Public Health
http://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles
(Accessed 18 Apr 2020)
[No new digest content identified]

BMC Research Notes
http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcresearchnotes/content
(Accessed 18 Apr 2020)
[No new digest content identified]

BMJ Open
April 2020 - Volume 10 - 4
https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/10/4?current-issue=y
[Reviewed earlier]

Bulletin of the World Health Organization
Volume 98, Number 4, April 2020, 229-296
https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/98/4/en/
[Reviewed earlier]

Child Care, Health and Development
Volume 46, Issue 3 Pages: 249-396 May 2020
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/13652214/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Child Abuse and Neglect: The International Journal
Volume 102 April 2020
[Reviewed earlier]
**Clinical Therapeutics**
http://www.clinicaltherapeutics.com/current
[Reviewed earlier]

**Clinical Trials**
Volume 17 Issue 1, February 2020
https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/ctja/17/1
[Reviewed earlier]

**Conflict and Health**
http://www.conflictandhealth.com/
[Accessed 18 Apr 2020]
Health policy mapping and system gaps impeding the implementation of reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child, and adolescent health programs in South Sudan: a scoping review
Authors: Loubna Belaid, Pontius Bayo, Lynette Kamau, Eva Nakimuli, Elijo Omoro, Robert Lobor, Baba Samson and Alexander Dimiti
Content type: Research
14 April 2020

**Contemporary Clinical Trials**
Volume 90 March 2020
https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/contemporary-clinical-trials/vol/90/suppl/C
[Reviewed earlier]

**The CRISPR Journal**
Volume 3, Issue 1 / February 2020
https://www.liebertpub.com/toc/crispr/3/1
[Reviewed earlier]

**Current Genetic Medicine Reports**
Volume 8, Issue 1, March 2020
https://link.springer.com/journal/40142/8/1
[Reviewed earlier]

**Current Opinion in Infectious Diseases**
April 2020 - Volume 33 - Issue 2
https://journals.lww.com/co-infectiousdiseases/pages/currenttoc.aspx
[Reviewed earlier]
Article

A modified typology to classify secular NGOs and faith-based organisations in development contexts
John Frame
Pages: 143-153
Published online: 02 Dec 2019
ABSTRACT
Within some contexts, distinguishing between faith-based organisations (FBOs) and secular NGOs may be challenging. While typologies for FBOs, and how they contrast to secular NGOs, exist in the literature, similarities and some shortcomings exist across them. This article introduces a modified typology that allows for a more nuanced understanding of secular organisations – namely those that accommodate religion in their programming. Significantly, the typology considers that “secular” is not always absent of religion. This analytical instrument is a contribution to future studies in development contexts where culturally valued religious elements may be integrated into secular organisations.

Article

The nexus of a human rights-based approach and microfinance
Jae-Eun Noh
Pages: 182-193
Published online: 16 Aug 2019
ABSTRACT
This article explores the interaction between a human rights-based approach (HRBA) and pre-existing dominant development practices – microfinance in the context of Bangladesh. A case study of an NGO shows that its HRBA and microfinance challenged and influenced each other. The dialogue between the HRBA and microfinance was promoted by locally based practitioners who know both discourses and local contexts. The findings suggest that hybrid practices of a HRBA and microfinance were developed as a strategic choice to respond to local needs. Noted tensions between a purist approach and a strategic approach warrant further investigation.
Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness
Volume 14 - Issue 1 - February 2020
https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/disaster-medicine-and-public-health-preparedness/latest-issue
[Reviewed earlier]

Disasters
Volume 44, Issue 2 Pages: 233-432 April 2020
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14677717/current
[Reviewed earlier]

EMBO Reports
Volume 21 Issue 4 3 April 2020
https://www.embopress.org/toc/14693178/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Emergency Medicine Journal
https://bmcemergmed.biomedcentral.com/articles
[Accessed 18 Apr 2020]
[No new digest content identified]

Emerging Infectious Diseases
Volume 26, Number 4—April 2020
http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/
[Reviewed earlier]

Epidemics
Volume 30 March 2020
https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/epidemics/vol/30/suppl/C
[Reviewed earlier]

Epidemiology and Infection
Volume 148 - 2020
https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/epidemiology-and-infection/latest-issue
[Reviewed earlier]
Forced Migration Review (FMR)
FMR 63  February 2020
https://www.fmreview.org/cities

Cities and towns
Cities and towns are on the frontline of receiving and welcoming people who have been displaced. In this issue of FMR, policymakers, practitioners, researchers, representatives of cities and international city-focused alliances, and displaced people themselves debate the challenges facing both the urban authorities and their partners, and the people who come to live there. The issue also includes two ‘general’ articles on other topics.

Forum for Development Studies
Volume 47, 2020 - Issue 1
http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/sfds20/current
[Reviewed earlier]
**Gates Open Research**
https://gatesopenresearch.org/browse/articles
[Accessed 18 Apr 2020]
[Reviewed earlier]

**Genome Medicine**
https://genomemedicine.biomedcentral.com/articles
[Accessed 18 Apr 2020]
[No new digest content identified]

**Geoheritage**
Volume 12, Issue 1, March 2020
https://link.springer.com/journal/12371/12/1
[Reviewed earlier]

**Global Health Action**
Volume 12, 2019 Issue 1
https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/zgha20/12/sup1?nav=tocList
[Reviewed earlier]

**Global Health: Science and Practice (GHSP)**
Vol. 8, No. 1 March 30, 2020
http://www.ghspjournal.org/content/current
[Reviewed earlier]

**Global Public Health**
Volume 15, 2020 Issue 5
http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rgph20/current

*Article*

**From advocacy to austerity: The new role of the U.S. public sector in HIV drug development and access**
Ryan Whitacre
Pages: 627-637
Published online: 19 Dec 2019

**Globalization and Health**
http://www.globalizationandhealth.com/
[Accessed 18 Apr 2020]

*Tracking Japan’s development assistance for health, 2012–2016*

Development assistance for health (DAH) is one of the most important means for Japan to promote diplomacy with developing countries and contribute to the international community. This study, for the first time...
Integrating Social Services & Health
[Reviewed earlier]

Health and Human Rights
Volume 21, Issue 2, December 2019
[Reviewed earlier]

Health Economics, Policy and Law
Volume 15 - Issue 2 - April 2020
https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/health-economics-policy-and-law/latest-issue
[Reviewed earlier]

Exploring health system readiness for adopting interventions to address intimate partner violence: a case study from the occupied Palestinian Territory
Manuela Colombini, Abdulsalam Alkaiyat, Amira Shaheen, Claudia Garcia Moreno, Gene Feder ...
Health Policy Plan, Volume 35, Issue 3, April 2020, Pages 245–256,
https://doi.org/10.1093/heapol/czz151

Measuring health system resilience in a highly fragile nation during protracted conflict: South Sudan 2011–15
Jackline Odhiambo, Caroline Jeffery, Richard Lako, Baburam Devkota, Joseph J Valadez
Health Policy Plan, Volume 35, Issue 3, April 2020, Pages 313–322,
https://doi.org/10.1093/heapol/czz160

[No new digest content identified]
Focus on Gene Therapy in Women’s Health
[Reviewed earlier]

Responding to Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo
by Humanitarian Practice Network
This edition of Humanitarian Exchange, co-edited with Anne Harmer, focuses on the response to the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Although at the time of publication the outbreak appeared to have ended, over its course it claimed 2,200 lives, with more than 3,300 infected, making this the world’s second largest outbreak ever.

In the lead article, Natalie Roberts reflects on the extent to which humanitarian actors have applied learning from the outbreak in West Africa in 2014–2016. Richard Kojan and colleagues report on the NGO ALIMA’s flexible, patient-centred approach to reducing mortality, Marcela Ascunlar reflects on lessons learned from community feedback and Bernard Balibuno, Emanuel Mbuna Badjonga and Howard Mollett highlight the crucial role faith-based organisations have played in the response. In their article, Theresa Jones, Noé Kasali and Olivia Tulloch outline the work of the Bethesda counselling centre in Beni, which provides support to grieving families. Reflecting on findings from a recent assessment by Translators without Borders, Ellie Kemp describes the challenges involved in providing clear and accessible information on Ebola and the response, and Sung Joon Park and colleagues explain how humane care and treatment can help increase trust and confidence in the response. Stephen Mugamba and his co-authors highlight the importance of community involvement in Ebola research, and Gillian McKay and her co-authors examine the impact of the Ebola outbreak and response on sexual and reproductive health services.

Stacey Mearns, Kiryn Lanning and Michelle Gayer present an Ebola Readiness Roadmap to support NGOs in preparing for an outbreak, while Edward Kumakech, Maurice Sadlier, Aidan Sinnott and Dan Irvine report on a Gap Analysis tool looking at the communication, community engagement and compliance tracking activities that need to be in place before an Ebola vaccine is deployed. Emanuele Bruni and colleagues describe the development of a new monitoring and evaluation framework for strategic response planning. The edition ends with an article by Adelicia Fairbanks, who argues for an acceptance strategy in the DRC to improve security and access for responding agencies.

Infectious Agents and Cancer
Infectious Diseases of Poverty
http://www.idpjourn.com/content
[Accessed 18 Apr 2020]

Innovations in maternal and child health: case studies from Uganda
Nearly 300 children and 20 mothers die from preventable causes daily, in Uganda. Communities often identify and introduce pragmatic and lasting solutions to such challenging health problems. However, little is...
Authors: Phyllis Awor, Maxencia Nabiryo and Lenore Manderson
Citation: Infectious Diseases of Poverty 2020 9:36
Content type: Case Study
Published on: 16 April 2020

International Health
Volume 12, Issue 2, March 2020
https://academic.oup.com/inthealth/issue/12/2
[Reviewed earlier]

International Human Rights Law Review
https://brill.com/view/journals/hrlr/8/2/hrlr.8.issue-2.xml
[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Community Medicine and Public Health
Vol 7, No 3 (2020) March 2020
https://www.ijcmph.com/index.php/ijcmph/issue/view/60
[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction
Volume 44 April 2020
[Reviewed earlier]

International Journal of Epidemiology
Volume 49, Issue 1, February 2020
https://academic.oup.com/ije/issue/49/1
[Reviewed earlier]
**International Journal of Heritage Studies**
Volume 26, Issue 5 2020
http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjhs20/current
[Reviewed earlier]

**International Journal of Human Rights in Healthcare**
Volume 12 Issue 5
https://www.emerald.com/insight/publication/issn/2056-4902/vol/12/iss/5
[Reviewed earlier]

**International Journal of Infectious Diseases**
March 2020 Volume 92, p1-272
https://www.ijidonline.com/issue/S1201-9712(20)X0002-6
[Reviewed earlier]

**International Migration Review**
Volume 54 Issue 1, March 2020
http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/mrx/current
[Reviewed earlier]

**Intervention – Journal of Mental Health and Psychological Support in Conflict Affected Areas**
July-December 2019 Volume 17 | Issue 2 Page Nos. 117-318
http://www.interventionjournal.org/currentissue.asp?sabs=n
*Special issue on the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of Rohingya refugees*
[Reviewed earlier]

**JAMA**
April 14, 2020, Vol 323, No. 14, Pages 1327-1420
http://jama.jamanetwork.com/issue.aspx
*Original Investigation*
**Effect of a Chikungunya Virus–Like Particle Vaccine on Safety and Tolerability Outcomes A Randomized Clinical Trial**
Grace L. Chen, MD, MPH; Emily E. Coates, PhD; Sarah H. Plummer, CRNP; et al.
has active quiz
This clinical trial tested whether the chikungunya virus–like particle vaccine was safe for participants living in chikungunya endemic areas.
*Editorial*
**A New Vaccine for Chikungunya Virus**
Kenneth A. Stapleford, PhD; Mark J. Mulligan, MD
*Research Letter*
**Presumed Asymptomatic Carrier Transmission of COVID-19**
This study describes possible transmission of novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) from an asymptomatic Wuhan resident to 5 family members in Anyang, a Chinese city in the neighboring province of Hubei.

Audio Interview: COVID-19 Update With NIAID's Anthony Fauci, MD; March 6, 2020
Clinical Review Audio: Update on Coronavirus: March 6, 2020, by NIAID’s Anthony Fauci, MD
Clinical Review Audio: COVID-19 in Seattle: Clinical Features and Managing the Outbreak
Audio Interview: Coronavirus Testing – March 16 Q&A with the CDC’s Jay Butler, MD

Editorial
Editorial Concern—Possible Reporting of the Same Patient s With COVID-19 in Different Reports
Howard Bauchner, MD; Robert M. Golub, MD; Jody Zylke, MD

Viewpoint
COVID-19—New Insights on a Rapidly Changing Epidemic
Carlos del Rio, MD; Preeti N. Malani, MD, MSJ

Response to COVID-19 in TaiwanBig Data Analytics, New Technology, and Proactive Testing
C. Jason Wang, MD, PhD; Chun Y. Ng, MBA, MPH; Robert H. Brook, MD, ScD

Priorities for the US Health Community Responding to COVID-19
Amesh A. Adalja, MD; Eric Toner, MD; Thomas V. Inglesby, MD

JAMA Pediatrics
April 2020, Vol 174, No. 4, Pages 313-393
http://archpedi.jamanetwork.com/issue.aspx
https://journals.lww.com/jbisrir/Pages/currenttoc.aspx
Abstract
Objective:
This review will identify and map existing evidence on current approaches to determining decision-making capacity in older adults. It will provide a summary of available evidence and policies and identify gaps in research.

Introduction:
Assessment of decision-making capacity is emerging as an important issue in society and healthcare. It is considered an ethically challenging area of clinical practice, and issues with implementation have been identified internationally. With the aging population increasing globally, approaches to assess and support decision-making are becoming more pertinent.

Inclusion criteria:
This scoping review will consider studies on assessment approaches and procedures that are used to evaluate the decision-making capacity of older adults, aged 60 years and over. It will include those with age-related cognitive impairment, dementia, and neurodegenerative conditions. Quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods studies along with gray literature, including expert opinions, policies reports, and practice guides, will be included.

Methods:
The JBI scoping review methodological framework will be used. The review will also be conducted in accordance with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses Extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR) checklist for scoping reviews. The following major healthcare databases will be searched: MEDLINE, PsycINFO, Embase, CINAHL, Cochrane Databases, Web of Science, and Scopus. The search will cover studies published in English from January 2000 to the present date. Titles and abstracts will be screened against inclusion criteria. Data will be extracted using a form developed for this review. A stakeholder consultation meeting will be held to provide feedback on the findings.
Exploiting artificial intelligence for digitally enriched museum visits

George Ioannakis, Loukas Bampis, Anestis Koutsoudis

Pages 171-180

Abstract

Machine learning is constantly proving its capabilities by achieving exceptional results in recognition and classification tasks. Image content recognition has been addressed by Bags of Visual Words coupled with a classification algorithm as well as convolutional neural networks. In this work, we question the applicability of these approaches individually, while proposing two novel hybrids that work in a cooperative and synergistic way in order to achieve better content recognition performances. We focus on a real-world scenario that involves the on-demand digital content enrichment of a museum-visit experience by exploiting mobile devices. The Folklore Museum of Xanthi (Greece) has been selected as our case study. A new benchmark image dataset has been created based on the museum exhibits and used to train our recognition approaches and to quantify their performance under independent, cooperative, and synergistic operational schemata. The experiments reveal that our hybrid approaches improve the recognition performance while composing a robust framework for applications related to cultural thesaurus interaction and more specifically to the on-demand digital content enrichment with minimum infrastructure requirements.
Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health
April 2020 - Volume 74 - 4
https://jech.bmj.com/content/74/4
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Evidence-Based Medicine
Volume 13, Issue 1  Pages: 1-88  February 2020
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/17565391/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Global Ethics
Volume 16, Issue 1, 2020
http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rgie20/current
[New issue; No digest content identified]

Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved (JHCPU)
Volume 31, Number 1, February 2020
https://muse.jhu.edu/journal/278
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Human Trafficking
Volume 6, Issue 2, 2020
http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/uhmt20/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Management
Volume 10 Issue 1  2020
https://www.emerald.com/insight/publication/issn/2042-6747/vol/10/iss/1
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health
Volume 22, Issue 2, April 2020
https://link.springer.com/journal/10903/22/2
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies
Volume 18, 2020  Issue 2
https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wimm20/current
Journal of Infectious Diseases
Volume 221, Issue 6, 15 March 2020
https://academic.oup.com/jid/issue/221/6
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of International Development
Volume 32, Issue 2  Pages: 129-261  March 2020
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/10991328/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Medical Ethics
April 2020 - Volume 46 - 4
http://jme.bmj.com/content/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Operations Management
Volume 66, Issue 3  Pages: 257-365  April 2020
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/18731317/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Patient-Centered Research and Reviews
Volume 7, Issue 1 (2020)
https://digitalrepository.aurorahealthcare.org/jpcrr/
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Pediatrics
April 2020  Volume 219, p1-288
http://www.jpeds.com/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice
https://joppp.biomedcentral.com/
[Accessed 18 Apr 2020]
[Reviewed earlier]

Journal of Public Health Management & Practice
March/April 2020 - Volume 26 - Issue 2
https://journals.lww.com/jphmp/pages/currenttoc.aspx
Fangcang shelter hospitals: a novel concept for responding to public health emergencies
Simiao Chen, Zongjiu Zhang, Juntao Yang, Jian Wang, Xiaohui Zhai, Till Bärnighausen, Chen Wang

Summary
Fangcang shelter hospitals are a novel public health concept. They were implemented for the first time in China in February, 2020, to tackle the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak. The Fangcang shelter hospitals in China were large-scale, temporary hospitals, rapidly built by converting existing
public venues, such as stadiums and exhibition centres, into health-care facilities. They served to isolate patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 from their families and communities, while providing medical care, disease monitoring, food, shelter, and social activities. We document the development of Fangcang shelter hospitals during the COVID-19 outbreak in China and explain their three key characteristics (rapid construction, massive scale, and low cost) and five essential functions (isolation, triage, basic medical care, frequent monitoring and rapid referral, and essential living and social engagement). Fangcang shelter hospitals could be powerful components of national responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as future epidemics and public health emergencies.

The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health
Apr 2020 Volume 4 Number 4 p251-340, e7-e9
https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/issue/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Digital Health
Apr 2020 Volume 2 Number 4 e149-e208
https://www.thelancet.com/journals/landig/issue/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Global Health
Apr 2020 Volume 8 Number 4 e451-e611
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/issue/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Infectious Diseases
Apr 2020 Volume 20 Number 4 p383-510, e50-e78
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/issue/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Public Health
Apr 2020 Volume 5 Number 4 e177-e234
https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/issue/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Lancet Respiratory Medicine
Apr 2020 Volume 8 Number 4 p321-422, e14-e26
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanres/issue/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Maternal and Child Health Journal
Volume 24, Issue 4, April 2020
Blocking information on COVID-19 can fuel the spread of misinformation
Governments need to think twice before they suppress messages related to COVID-19.
Heidi J. Larson

Two years ago, in a response to false information on social-media platforms, the United Nations special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression condemned governments that disallow free speech in the name of public order. The report of the special rapporteur gave as an example the Chinese Cybersecurity Law of 2016, which “reinforces vague prohibitions against the spread of ‘false’ information that disrupts ‘social or economic order’, national unity or national security.”

As the world faces the COVID-19 pandemic, we are seeing what problems this suppression can wreak. What if the information deemed by government authorities as disrupting social order is not ‘false’, but instead a life-saving clue? When governments or their leaders repress information in hope of calming anxious publics, or deliberately release supposedly reassuring misinformation, they risk undermining their own credibility and their abilities to help people to counter real health threats.

Examples of this span the world. US President Donald Trump claimed that there would be a diagnostic test for “anybody that needs a test”, and that the malaria drug chloroquine could successfully treat COVID-19, although trials for its efficacy against the virus were not yet complete. One individual has since died after dosing himself with a form of chloroquine sold to clean fish tanks.

Iran, once known for its strong health-care system, has been hit hard by COVID-19. Iranians were already angry and mistrustful following their government’s accidental shooting down of a passenger aircraft in January, amid other grievances. In this climate of distrust, new anger emerged as the public felt that the government was not doing enough to slow the outbreak.
The foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, tried to divert this anger by blaming the United States. Although US sanctions have taken a toll on daily life in Iran, and perhaps weakened their capacity in the COVID-19 response, the government also made conscious attempts to repress information about the state of the outbreak. Medical staff in Iran have been warned by authorities not to share any information about infected patients or limited resources, undermining the ability to respond.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reported on 18 March that physicians in Russia fear there could be “hundreds” of deaths, despite Russian President Vladimir Putin’s assurances that all is under control. Some physicians say they are holding back from reporting suspected cases to health authorities as they are concerned about the state of the quarantine facilities where their patients would be sent, and fear that their own practices would be shut down. And news agency Reuters reported that the White House had kept important COVID-19 meetings classified — even though that meant keeping information from experts who would normally be consulted — while the President trumpeted ‘all under control’, until reality forced a rapid about-face.

Where official information sources are perceived as untrustworthy, the climate is set for the viral spread of unfounded speculation. COVID-19 has triggered a fountain of rumours — an indistinguishable mix of unverified information, helpful information, misinformation and intentionally manipulated disinformation. Between 1 January and mid-March 2020, our social-media monitoring at The Vaccine Confidence Project had captured more than 240 million digital and social-media messages globally referring to the new virus, with an average of 3.08 million messages per day. On Twitter, there have been 113 million unique authors sharing everything from messages from news reports and commentary on COVID-19, to views on quarantining measures, speculation on the source of the virus and home-brewed cures. These ranged from the relatively harmless — eat garlic — to the downright dangerous — drink bleach. One message falsely claiming to be from Stanford University in California recommended sipping water to kill the virus, or holding your breath for ten seconds to determine whether you are infected. (Neither works.)

As scientists rushed to investigate the new virus, conspiracy theories started to circulate about whether it was a naturally evolved new pathogen, one that inadvertently slipped out of a high-security laboratory in Wuhan or one that was deliberately created for biowarfare — an idea deemed plausible by some in the current context of geopolitics and deepening tensions between the United States and China.

On 19 February, a group of scientists issued a statement in The Lancet to quell the tsunami of conspiracy theories. They confirmed that investigations “overwhelmingly conclude that this coronavirus originated in wildlife”. But between the identification of the new virus and the confirmation of its origin, there was no evidence available to counter the rumours that went viral, and — for those who want to put stock in them — they persist.

The challenge for policymakers and health authorities is that, although some information is clearly false, and even harmful, the validity of other posts is less clear-cut. Some are merely stirring up doubts, confusion and conspiracy, and undermining trust in health authorities, but are difficult to pin down and refute. Some emerging, albeit unverified, information might be valuable, and deleting it would cause harm.

The epidemic began with a poignant example of potential life-saving information suppressed as a rumour. On 30 December, Li Wenliang, a young ophthalmologist in Wuhan, China, posted a message
to colleagues that tried to call attention to a severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)-like illness that was brewing in his hospital. The Chinese government abruptly deleted the post, accusing Li of rumour-mongering. On 7 February, he died of COVID-19.

This is a complicated landscape that is not just a matter of debunking a piece of misinformation. This is about relationships between publics and politicians, a lack of trust in the motives of governing powers and fears among leaders that the truth would spark public disorder and dissent. Advice to “Keep calm and carry on” can have exactly the opposite effect in the context of a fatal, and evolving, new virus.

**Review Article | 15 April 2020**

**Multispecific drugs herald a new era of biopharmaceutical innovation**

The development and future prospects of prospectively designed multispecific drugs, which have the potential to transform the biopharmaceutical industry by enabling the targeting of currently inaccessible components of the proteome, are reviewed.

Raymond J. Deshaies

**Nature Biotechnology**

Volume 38 Issue 4, April 2020
https://www.nature.com/nbt/volumes/38/issues/4
[Reviewed earlier]

**Nature Genetics**

Volume 52 Issue 4, April 2020
https://www.nature.com/ng/volumes/52/issues/4
[Reviewed earlier]

**Nature Medicine**

Volume 26 Issue 4, April 2020
https://www.nature.com/nm/volumes/26/issues/4

**Editorial | 02 April 2020**

**Safeguard research in the time of COVID-19**

As the COVID-19 pandemic shuts down labs across the globe, funders and institutions must step up to support scientists and ensure the healthy future of research.

**News Feature | 11 March 2020**

**Nigeria responds to COVID-19; first case detected in sub-Saharan Africa**

A seasoned public-health institute puts Nigeria in a good position to respond to COVID-19, although there are area-specific challenges to be addressed. Nature Medicine reports from Nigeria.

Paul Adepoju

**Comment | 27 March 2020**

**On the responsible use of digital data to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic**

Large-scale collection of data could help curb the COVID-19 pandemic, but it should not neglect privacy and public trust. Best practices should be identified to maintain responsible data-collection and data-processing standards at a global scale.
Marcello Ienca & Effy Vayena

**Nature Reviews Genetics**  
Volume 21 Issue 4, April 2020  
https://www.nature.com/nrg/volumes/21/issues/4  
[Reviewed earlier]

**Nature Reviews Immunology**  
Volume 20 Issue 4, April 2020  
https://www.nature.com/nri/volumes/20/issues/4  
[Reviewed earlier]

**New England Journal of Medicine**  
April 16, 2020  Vol. 382 No. 16  
http://www.nejm.org/toc/nejm/medical-journal  
*Perspective*  
**A Strategy for Improving U.S. Health Care Delivery — Conducting More Randomized, Controlled Trials**  
A. Finkelstein

**Covid-19 and the Stiff Upper Lip — The Pandemic Response in the United Kingdom**  
D.J. Hunter

**Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly**  
Volume 49 Issue 2, April 2020  
http://nvs.sagepub.com/content/current  
[Reviewed earlier]

**Pediatrics**  
Vol. 145, Issue 4  1 Apr 2020  
https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/  
[Reviewed earlier]

**Pharmaceutics**  
Volume 12, Issue 3 (March 2020)  
https://www.mdpi.com/1999-4923/12/3  
[Reviewed earlier]

**PharmacoEconomics**  
Volume 38, Issue 4, April 2020  
https://link.springer.com/journal/40273/38/4  
[Reviewed earlier]
PLoS Genetics
https://journals.plos.org/plosgenetics/
(Accessed 18 Apr 2020)
[No new digest content identified]

PLoS Medicine
http://www.plosmedicine.org/
(Accessed 18 Apr 2020)
[No new digest content identified]

PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases
http://www.plosntds.org/
(Accessed 18 Apr 2020)
[No new digest content identified]

PLoS One
http://www.plosone.org/
(Accessed 18 Apr 2020)
Feasibility of establishing an HIV vaccine preparedness cohort in a population of the Uganda Police Force: Lessons learnt from a prospective study
Ubaldo Mushabe Bahemuka, Andrew Abaasa, Janet Seeley, Moses Byaruhanga, Anatoli Kamali, Philippe Mayaud, Monica Kuteesa
Research Article | published 17 Apr 2020 PLOS ONE
https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0231640

Expansion and scale-up of HIV care and treatment services in four countries over ten years
Research Article | published 16 Apr 2020 PLOS ONE
https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0231667

PNAS - Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America
http://www.pnas.org/content/early/
[Accessed 18 Apr 2020]
Asking young children to “do science” instead of “be scientists” increases science engagement in a randomized field experiment
Marjorie Rhodes, Amanda Cardarelli, and Sarah-Jane Leslie

Social, psychological, and demographic characteristics of dehumanization toward immigrants
Opinion: We need a global movement to transform ocean science for a better world
Front Matter
Linwood Pendleton, Karen Evans, and Martin Visbeck

Rising between-workplace inequalities in high-income countries
Donald Tomaskovic-Devey, Anthony Rainey, Dustin Avent-Holt, Nina Bandelj, István Boza, David Cort, Olivier Godechot, Gergely Hajdu, Martin Hällsten, Lasse Folke Henriksen, Are Skeie Hermansen, Feng Hou, Jiwook Jung, Aleksandra Kanjuo-Mrčela, Joe King, Naomi Kodama, Tali Kristal, Alena Křížková, Zoltán Lippényi, Silvia Maja Melzer, Eunmi Mun, Andrew Penner, Trond Petersen, Andreja Poje, Mirna Safi, Max Thaning, and Zaibu Tufail

Prehospital & Disaster Medicine
Volume 35 - Issue 2 - April 2020
https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/prehospital-and-disaster-medicine/latest-issue
[Reviewed earlier]

Preventive Medicine
Volume 133  April 2020
[Reviewed earlier]

Proceedings of the Royal Society B
08 April 2020  Volume 287  Issue 1924
https://royalsocietypublishing.org/toc/rspb/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Public Health
Volume 181  Pages 1-204 (April 2020)
[Reviewed earlier]

Public Health Ethics
Volume 12, Issue 3, November 2019
http://phe.oxfordjournals.org/content/current
[Reviewed earlier]
Qualitative Health Research
Volume 30 Issue 5, April 2020
http://qhr.sagepub.com/content/current
[New issue; No digest content identified]

Refugee Survey Quarterly
Volume 39, Issue 1, March 2020
http://rsq.oxfordjournals.org/content/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Research Ethics
Volume 15 Issue 3-4, July-October 2019
http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/reab/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Reproductive Health
http://www.reproductive-health-journal.com/content
[Accessed 18 Apr 2020]
[No new digest content identified]

Revista Panamericana de Salud Pública/Pan American Journal of Public Health (RPSP/PAJPH)
https://www.paho.org/journal/en
Latest articles
15 Apr 2020
Comparing South Korea and Italy’s healthcare systems and initiatives to combat COVID-19

Risk Analysis
Volume 40, Issue 3 Pages: 439-656 March 2020
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/15396924/current
[Reviewed earlier]

Risk Management and Healthcare Policy
[Accessed 18 Apr 2020]
[No new digest content identified]
**Special Issue: Drought**

**Introduction to special issue**

**Dry times**

By David Malakoff, Andrew Sugden

Drought "is the death of the earth," wrote the poet T. S. Eliot. A lack of water withers crops, kills trees, and dries up streams and lakes. Humans have long tried to cope by migrating to wetter regions or inventing new ways of moving water to where it is needed, including by pumping it out of the ground. But as human populations grow, climate change takes hold, and groundwater supplies shrink, droughts pose an increasingly complex challenge to people and the environment.

This special issue examines the science and social impacts of droughts—past, present, and future. Review articles assess our current knowledge of the causes of drought and consequences for forests and soils, how drought relates to political conditions, and options for improving drought resistance in crops. Additionally, three News Features highlight drought's influence on the rise and fall of an ancient South American empire, California's efforts to restore its depleted groundwater, and researchers' methods for predicting the famines that droughts sometimes bring.

Drought is defined by the absence of life-giving water. Some scholars believe that the forbidding presence of a drought that struck the United Kingdom in 1921 helped inspire Eliot's repeated allusions to water and drought in his poetry. That year, less than 260 millimeters of precipitation—one of the lowest levels ever recorded—fell in parts of England, prompting the writer to reflect on a natural force that has long shaped our planet.

**Policy Forum**

**Deep flaws in a mercury regulatory analysis**

By Joseph Aldy, Matthew Kotchen, Mary Evans, Meredith Fowlie, Arik Levinson, Karen Palmer

Science 17 Apr 2020 : 247-248 Restricted Access


**Reports**

**Meeting fisheries, ecosystem function, and biodiversity goals in a human-dominated world**


Science 17 Apr 2020 : 307-311 Restricted Access

Management can provide substantial conservation benefits to the majority of reefs for fisheries and ecological function.
Social Science & Medicine
Volume 251  April 2020
[Reviewed earlier]

Stability: International Journal of Security & Development
http://www.stabilityjournal.org/articles
[Accessed 18 Apr 2020]
[No new digest content identified]

Stanford Social Innovation Review
Spring 2020  Volume 18, Number 2
https://ssir.org/issue/spring_2020#
Explore the power of collaboration between social innovation leaders and the public sector, development impact bonds, the transformation of the global humanitarian relief system, the smart use of evidence in decision-making, and other topics in the Spring 2020 issue of Stanford Social Innovation Review.

Systematic Reviews
https://systematicreviewsjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles
[Accessed 18 Apr 2020]
[No new digest content identified]

Torture Journal
2019  Volume 29 - No.3
https://irct.org/publications/torture-journal/143
This issue of the Torture Journal takes its focus on measuring torture rehabilitation processes and results. Scientific contributions on this subject include a measurement of rehabilitation outcomes with an instrument designed at the Marjorie Kovler Center in Chicago; a validation study examining diagnoses of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Complex Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (CPTSD) in refugee and torture survivor populations; and a study of gender-based violence in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.
The issue also comprises an applied perspective on organizational development in torture rehabilitation programs and two letters to the editor addressing involvement of medical personnel in torture in Syria and a response to the concept of psychological torture.
Finally, Secretary-General of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims, Lisa Henry, and Chief Executive Officer of STARTTS Centre in Australia, Jorge Aroche, provide an open letter to the Torture Journal readers and a celebratory text of STARTTS' 30th anniversary respectively.

Trauma, Violence, & Abuse
UN Chronicle
Vol. LV Nos. 3 & 4 2018 December 2018
https://unchronicle.un.org/

**New Technologies: Where To?**
This issue focuses on new technologies and their potential benefits for humanity as well as their expanding use in advancing the 2030 Agenda. It explores the promise of our digital age, while posing important questions about where these technologies are leading us, and how their misuse could also lead to increased inequality and conflict.

[Reviewed earlier]

Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies
*An International Interdisciplinary Journal for Research, Policy and Care*
Volume 15, Issue 1, 2020
http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rvch20/current
[Reviewed earlier]

World Heritage Review
n°94 - January 2020
http://whc.unesco.org/en/review/94/

**Current Issue**

**New World Heritage sites 2019**
The 1972 World Heritage Convention is truly unique. It is the only legal instrument conceived to protect both cultural and natural heritage, based on the principle of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) – the value of a site that is irreplaceable and must be protected for the future.
The Sentinel is an open access publication, subject to the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/). Copyright is retained by the ge2p2 global foundation.