



# PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON GLOBAL HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS

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## 1.25 Million Traffic Deaths/ Year: WHO Calls for Road Safety

Halving the number of deaths and injuries from road traffic crashes by 2020 is among the U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goals. Countries must introduce tougher laws to prevent drivers from speeding or drinking and help reduce the toll of 1.25 million people killed each year in traffic accidents, the World Health Organization said. Car-makers can also play their part. Too often safety features are sacrificed in order to keep down car prices.

[Read More on reuters.com](#)



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## The Global South Will Make Its Contribution to Fighting Climate Change

Deforestation is one of the main sources of greenhouse gas emissions by the Global South. An increase in clean energies and a reduction in fossil fuel use are part of the commitments assumed by the countries of the Global South to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

[Read More on ipsnews.net](#)





## Ebola Vaccine Impact Depends on a Strong Health System

The clinical trial of a promising new Ebola vaccine has been underway in the three most affected countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The vaccine is offered to all contacts and contacts of contacts associated with confirmed cases. Interim results of the trial had already indicated the vaccine was 100% effective in preventing Ebola disease.

[Read More on Devex](#)

## Africa's Senior Citizens Cornered By Poverty

Despite the UN goal to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger globally, Africa's senior citizens are finding themselves cornered with destitution. Older persons in Africa also take care of orphans and vulnerable children, but they do so without the basic necessary resources, forcing them to sell their assets in order to buy food and pay school fees for orphans which have taken many of them into poverty as they are not able to recover lost assets.

[Read More on ipsnews.net](#)



## Food Insecurity Rising in Southern Africa

Southern Africa region is increasingly experiencing food insecurity “as a result of poor harvests” across the region. These areas also have to contend with global warming, changing weather patterns, and the El Niño weather phenomenon which could significantly impact Southern Africa following a poor agricultural season in 2014 - 2015. Moreover, the poor harvest experienced by farmers across the region will negatively impact the capacity of vulnerable farmers to purchase seeds, fertilizer and other necessities for the current planting season.

[Read More on beta.iol.co](#)





## Aid Agencies Issue El Nino Warning

El Nino conditions are expected to severely hit the Horn of Africa nation during this year's September to December rainy season. The effects of El Nino are likely to lead to a wetter than normal season with a very high risk of flooding in parts of Somalia. Thousands of people in Somalia are already feeling the effects of this super El Nino, seeing their crops fail, livestock stressed and the price of staple foods soar because of shortages.

[Read More on beta.iol.co](http://beta.iol.co)

[Read More on HuffPost](http://HuffPost)

[Read More on Bloomberg.com](http://Bloomberg.com)

## Dalai Lama Says Climate Change Destroying Tibet's "Roof of the World"

Tibet's exiled leaders, including the Dalai Lama, said that two-thirds of the glaciers in their mountain homeland may disappear by 2050 because of climate change. The Tibetan plateau, which has the largest store of ice outside the North and South Pole, has experienced rising temperatures of 1.3 celsius over the past five decades, three times the global average. Tibet, with an average altitude of over 4,000 metres (13,125 ft) is particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Warming is already melting glaciers that are the source of water in rivers that help support about 1.3 billion people.

[Read More on timesofindia.com](http://timesofindia.com)



## Fight Climate Change for Global Stability Says US Defense and Diplomacy Leaders

Nearly 50 leaders of America's defence and foreign policy establishment are calling on political and business leaders to "think past tomorrow" and lead the fight on climate change. The appeal is intended to apply pressure to Republicans in Congress who are trying to defeat Barack Obama's plan to cut carbon pollution at home and seeking to limit US involvement in negotiations to reach a global deal on fighting climate change.

[Read More on The Guardian](http://TheGuardian)



## Weak States Poor Countries

Europeans tend to feel more positively about their governments than do Americans, for whom the failures and unpopularity of their federal, state, and local politicians are a commonplace. Yet Americans' various governments collect taxes and, in return, provide services without which they could not easily live their lives. In much of Africa and Asia, states lack the capacity to raise taxes or deliver services. The contract between government and governed – imperfect in rich countries – is often altogether absent in poor countries.

[Read More on project-syndicate.org](http://project-syndicate.org)

## It's Gettin' Hot in Here...So Take Back All Your Carbon

Already battling against the impacts of climate change, temperatures in Africa will rise faster than any other continent. These rapidly rising temperatures foreshadow increased drought, famine and disease. The most vulnerable populations – of which millions are smallholder farmers – need solutions now. These rising temperatures brought on by climate change affect not only yields, but also food quality, safety and the reliability of its delivery to consumers. By 2050, child malnutrition could increase by as much as 20%.

[Read More on ipsnews.net](http://ipsnews.net)



## Understanding How Aboriginal Children Experience Pain

Dalhousie School of Nursing Professor Margot Latimer and her team have conducted community-based research demonstrating that Aboriginal children express pain differently from non-Aboriginal children, and therefore may not receive the same levels of health care when they seek help.

Dr. Latimer's research has uncovered historical and cultural components of pain, and how pain is expressed. Because of the history of the Canadian residential schools, Aboriginal children learned to suppress their feelings, a cultural adaptation which has become inter-generational.

[Read More on dal.ca](http://dal.ca)



## QUOTE OF THE WEEK



“We have been doing a fantastic job in identifying the problem of climate change. At the same time we have been somewhat slow in identifying the solutions aspects. I believe the next cycle of the IPCC should be more focused on opportunities and solutions.”

Hoesung Lee,  
The new head of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

[Read More on The Guardian](#)

## EVENTSTABLE

DATE	CONFERENCE	LOCATION	REGISTER
<b>Nov. 5-7</b>	Canadian Conference on Global Health	Montreal Canada	<a href="http://www.csih.org/en/events/">http://www.csih.org/en/events/</a>
<b>Nov. 16-18</b>	2015 Canadian Undergraduate Conference on Healthcare (CUCOH)	Kingston Canada	<a href="http://www.cucoh.com/about">http://www.cucoh.com/about</a>
<b>Nov. 18-20</b>	9th World Alliance For Risk Factor Surveillance (WARFS) & The Americas Network for Chronic Disease Surveillance (AMNET) Global Conference	St. John's Antigua	<a href="http://warfs15.squarespace.com">http://warfs15.squarespace.com</a>
<b>Nov. 25-27</b>	7th Canadian Science Policy Conference	Ottawa Canada	<a href="http://www.sciencepolicy.ca/">http://www.sciencepolicy.ca/</a>
<b>Apr 9-11</b>	7th Annual Consortium of Universities for Global Health Conference	San Francisco USA	<a href="http://cugh.org/">http://cugh.org/</a>



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## Third World Resurgence Latest Issue

Its contents focus is on the corporate influence on WHO.

1. **WHO shackled: Donor control of the World Health Organisation**
2. **WHO reform: opening the floodgates to the private sector?**
3. **Reform and WHO: The continuing saga of FENSA**
4. **No consensus at World Health Assembly on non-state actors engagement framework**
5. **CSOs voice concerns over corporate takeover of WHO**
6. **Reforming and restoring WHO to good health**

[Read More on TWN](#)



## Potential Health Effects of Toxic Chemicals in Feminine Care Products

Feminine care products are widely used by women in the United States and constitute a \$3 billion dollar industry. The most popular feminine care products are tampons and menstrual pads, used by 70-85 percent of women. Douches, sprays, washes, and wipes are used by a smaller percentage of women (approximately 10-40 percent), with rates considerably higher among African-American, Latina and low-income women. This report highlights the potential health concerns related to toxic and allergenic chemicals found in feminine care products and outlines the considerable data gaps in our knowledge about them. These products, and their ingredients, require both more research, and greater scrutiny to ensure the safety of their use.

[Read More on womensvoice.org](http://womensvoice.org)





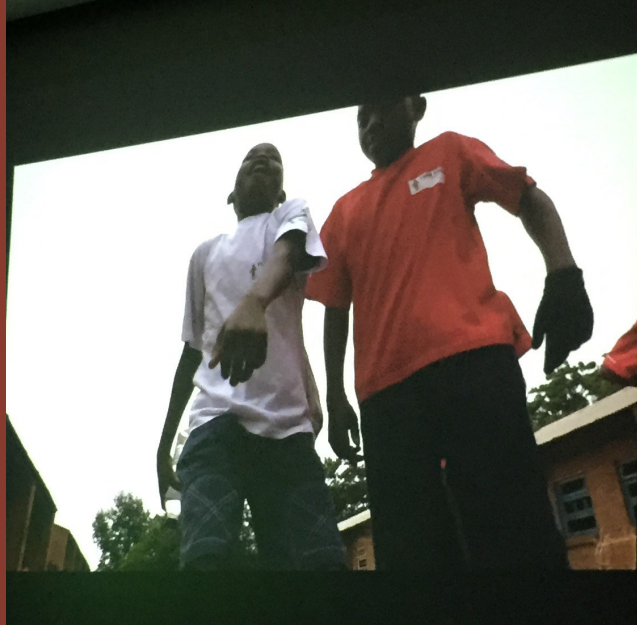
## Angus Deaton Wins the Nobel Prize for Bringing Economics Back to the Real World

Angus Deaton, an economist at Princeton University on America's east coast, picked up the phone to a Swedish voice. The voice was so concerned to persuade him that this wasn't a prank call that he started to worry it was precisely that. No need. The Nobel committee had awarded him the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences, "for his analysis of consumption, poverty, and welfare". The prize celebrated a whole career, in which he has used data to overturn sloppy assumptions, reimagined how we measure the world, and intertwined microeconomics and macroeconomics. He even has a paradox named after him.

The 69-year-old professor was working on issues of poverty and inequality long before the financial crisis made them vogue. As a designer of household surveys, he helped transform development economics from its sorry state in the 1980s, when it was stuck in a rut of murky data and unverifiable theories. He has explored how much more the poor eat when they get more income, how well insured they are when their earnings shrivel and, more broadly, the relationship between health and income growth. His thinking on the topic of inequality is typically textured. He frames it as a product of success—for there to be have-nots, there must be haves—but he is not a cheerleader for the elite. Rather, he thinks that digging into the data reveals how to help the millions of people who have been left behind to catch up.

[Read More on The Economist](#)





Above: Kevin Perkins, Executive Director FRI; Heather Gilberds, Program Manager FRI; Omar Dabaghi-Pacheco, CBC, Ottawa

A presentation of “*Mental Health on Air: Healthy minds, resilient communities*” at Friends' House, Toronto November 1, 2015; a new film about an outstanding community mental health innovation in Africa - by Farm Radio International (FRI) and film maker and journalist Omar Dabaghi-Pacheco along with Dalhousie University.



**On the right: Stan Kutcher, Professor of Psychiatry, Dalhousie University, Halifax**—focusing and energizing a new successful adolescent community mental health program in Malawi and Tanzania by Farm Radio International (Ottawa), funded by Grand Challenges Canada (GCC). He emphasized when youth and health workers are empowered with information and tools they act, they work in their communities to bring about positive change, and in this case in mental health, even in two of the poorest countries in the world.

**On the left: Ellen Morgan, Program Officer, GCC**



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