



PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON GLOBAL HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS

November 12, 2015

Volume 1, Issue 36

The World's 10 Hungriest Countries

There are over 870 million people in the world who are hungry right now. It has been estimated by the World Food Programme that 98% live in developing countries, countries that perversely produce most of the world's food stocks. So why is this the case? What are the top 10 worst affected countries and what obstacles are making them hungry and why? Poverty alone isn't the cause of hunger, but many external factors contribute to the hardship being endured.

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



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Medicinal Plants Unprotected in Mexico 2
Revolutionary Cure for Blindness
Agricultural Keys to Malaria Control in Africa

Toxins Remain in Your Clothes 3
Rubbish in Stomach of Dead Whale
Indonesia Tops Carbon Emission Charts

Prize to Cambodian Hero 4
Fundraiser to End Violence Against Women
A Real Nation Would NOT Let this Happen

Weekly Bulletin: QOTW & Events 5

FYI#1: World Undergoing Population Shift 6

FYI#2: How to Find a Scholarship 7
& How to Ace a Grad School Application

FYI#3: China to Fight Global Poverty 8

FYI#4: Waste Atlas 9

Climate Change is Having Devastating Effects on Global Health

Professor Peltier, director of U of T's Centre for Global Change Science (CGCS) explains why October 8, during a roundtable discussion at the Isabel Bader Theatre on climate change and health cosponsored by University of Toronto, the French embassy and the United Nations Association in Canada.

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





Medicinal Plants Popular and Unprotected in Mexico

Clemente Calixto, a certified traditional healer, discusses the healing properties of a plant during a workshop in Mexico City. In his community in the southern state of Oaxaca, he uses different medicinal plants to make soap and ointments, and to heal a variety of ailments. Calixto, one of the 30 registered traditional healers with credentials from the health authorities in his region, is one of thousands of herbalists who process, sell and prescribe medicinal plants in Mexico, where they enjoy only weak legal protection.

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

Documentary Reveals Revolutionary Cure For Blindness In Poor Communities

Manisara and her husband are unfortunately not anomalies in their village and in others like it around the world. Take a close look into their eyes, and you'll notice their colourful irises are dulled by a milky white coat. Their blindness results from cataracts a curable condition responsible for the loss of sight in poor communities worldwide. In fact, according to the documentary, directed by Oscar-nominated filmmaker Irene Taylor Brodsky, 90 percent of those who suffer from cataracts live in the world's poorest countries.

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



Agricultural Keys to Malaria Control in African Highlands

Almost half the world's population is deemed at risk of malaria, and an estimated 214 million people will contract it in 2015, with nearly half a million dying. Agencies are experimenting across East Africa with the so-called Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) of pest control. And yet malaria is demonstrably preventable and that is why it is explicitly named in Sustainable Development Goal No. 3 as something to be ended by 2030. The key is not to rely on one method or tool but to develop integrated efforts to subdue the disease.

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



Toxins Remain in Your Clothes

In a new study 60 garments from Swedish and international clothing chains were tested. An initial analysis found thousands of chemicals in the clothes and around a hundred chemicals were preliminary identified. Several of the substances were not on the producers' lists and are suspected to be by-products, residues or chemicals added during transport. Exposure to these chemicals increases the risk of allergic dermatitis, but more severe health effects for humans as well as the environment could possibly be related to these chemicals. Some of them are suspected or proved carcinogens and some have aquatic toxicity.

[Read More on ScienceDaily](#)

Marine Biologists Discover Rubbish in Stomach of Dead Whale in Taiwan

Taiwanese marine biologists have discovered a mass of plastic bags and fishing net in the stomach of a dead whale, underlining the dangers posed by floating ocean trash. The garbage was probably a major factor in its death. "We frequently heard of marine animals killed after swallowing lots of garbage, but this one was the biggest in size for many years," said He Chih-ying, spokeswoman for the conservation group.

[Read More on ABC](#)



Disaster Puts Indonesia at the Top of Carbon Emissions Charts - Above Even US

A conservation scientist has described an acrid haze choking parts of South-east Asia as one of the worst ever man-made environmental disasters, saying that it is affecting about 40 million people. Thousands of fires caused by slash-and-burn farming have blanketed parts of Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia for almost two months, forcing many schools to close and flights and international events to be cancelled.

[Read More on smh.com](#)



World Children's Prize Awarded to Cambodian Hero

Phymean Noun has dedicated her life to helping children who live in the slums and garbage dumps of Phnom Penh, Cambodia. In 2002, she used her own savings to start a school so that these children could get an education and break out of poverty, instead of risking their lives in the garbage dumps. She started out with just 25 students at her school next to the garbage dump. Today, the organization she founded, People Improvement Organization (PIO), has grown to include three schools and a shelter for orphaned children.

[Read More on Huffpost](#)

Against an Orange Stage, a Powerful Performance Raises Funds to End Violence Against Women

With melodies ranging from ominous to melancholic to upbeat, it was a show as grand as the concert hall it graced. Donating their artistry to end violence against women 90 principal musicians from 40 of the world's great orchestras, ensembles and academies performed at Carnegie Hall. Set against the backdrop of an ornate stage lit in an orange hue, they were decked in black with a bright orange scarf to symbolize the cause of this special benefit concert.

[Read More on unwomen.org](#)



A Real Nation Would not Let this Happen

We (Canadians) are not a people, not a nation, not really. If we were, we would not be able to ignore each other, ignore other Canadians, the way we ignore the Aboriginal community. We would not allow our politicians to reduce us to Pavlovian demographics, salivating at the sight of a specially crafted handout. We would be unleashing a full-throated cry of anger and dismay, that so many fellow Canadians are growing up alone and lost, that so many of us are living in abject poverty and then dying miserably.

[Read More on macleans.ca](#)



QUOTE OF THE WEEK



"The roots of conflict in Syria are complex. But climate change, drought and social unrest are all contributing factors." He adds that Canada is one of the most wasteful societies in the world.

Glen Murray,
Ontario Minister of Environment and Climate Change (October 8, 2015).

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

EVENTSTABLE

DATE	CONFERENCE	LOCATION	REGISTER
Nov. 16-18	2015 Canadian Undergraduate Conference on Healthcare (CUCOH)	Kingston Canada	http://www.cucoh.com/about
Nov. 18-20	9th World Alliance For Risk Factor Surveillance (WARFS) & The Americas Network for Chronic Disease Surveillance (AMNET) Global Conference	St. John's Antigua	http://warfs15.squarespace.com
Nov. 25-27	7th Canadian Science Policy Conference	Ottawa Canada	http://www.sciencepolicy.ca/
Dec. 1	Planetary Health Film Series Vol. 1 <i>"Fire in the Blood"</i>	Toronto Canada	https://www.eventbrite.ca/
Apr 9-11	7th Annual Consortium of Universities for Global Health Conference	San Francisco USA	http://cugh.org/
Apr 16-17	Global Health and Innovation Conference	New Haven USA	https://maestro.



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World Undergoing Major Population Shift with Far-reaching Implications for Migration, Poverty, Development: WB/IMF Report

As migrants and refugees from Africa and the Middle East continue to arrive in Europe in unprecedented numbers, a new World Bank/IMF report says that large-scale migration from poor countries to richer regions of the world will be a permanent feature of the global economy for decades to come as a result of major population shifts in countries.

According to the Global Monitoring Report 2015/2016: Development Goals in an Era of Demographic Change, released in Peru at the start of the Annual Meetings of the World Bank and the IMF, the world is undergoing a major population shift that will reshape economic development for decades and, while posing challenges, offers a path to ending extreme poverty and shared prosperity if the right evidence-based policies are put in place nationally and internationally.

[Read More on World Bank](#)



How to Find a Scholarship

Congratulations! You've been accepted at the university or college of your choice, pored over course calendars and maybe even already bought a school sweatshirt. You're about to embark on an exciting adventure with lots of new experiences to look forward to, from parties to lectures to all-nighters. Unfortunately, for more than half of graduating students, one of these new experiences is debt and that statistic is rising. Whether you're footing your tuition bill on your own or with help from your parents, chances are you could use some financial assistance. The good news is there are several ways to find money for school.

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

How to Ace a Grad School Application

If you're considering going back to school, chances are the application is one of the most daunting aspects of the process. You may know how to write your CV or answer standard interview questions to land a job, but if you haven't been in the world of academia for a while, knowing how to impress an admissions teams may be out of your comfort zone. What makes a stellar graduate school application?

[Read More on](#)



China's President Xi Jinping Pledges \$2 Billion to Fight Global Poverty

China's president Xi Jinping has pledged \$2 billion for a new development fund and increased investment in poor countries, vowing a greater role for Beijing in fighting global poverty.

Mr Xi's announcement, made in his first-ever address to the United Nations, follows long-standing criticism from the United States and other developed countries that China has not taken responsibilities in line with its aspirations for a greater global role.

Addressing a UN summit on development, Mr Xi said China would act "by putting justice before interests and joining other countries in a concerted effort to realise the post-2015 agenda".

Mr Xi said that China would launch a "South-South" assistance fund for developing countries with an initial investment of \$2 billion.

[Read More on ABC](#)



Waste Atlas

Most dumpsites are located in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and Northern Asian countries, namely in areas where more than two third of the Earth's population lives. According to World Health Organization (WHO), 24% of the global burden of disease could be attributed to the environment and for sure dumpsites have an important contribution. Given the lack of documentation on this topic, identification and data verification for dumpsites is a demanding task. The Waste Atlas Partnership presents the results of an ongoing work, sharing the profiles of the 50 biggest active dumpsites of the world. The Waste Atlas Partnership hopes that the release of this report will create more global awareness about dumpsites and it will help donors and policy makers to stimulate projects for those dumpsites. The publication of this report will attract new contributions that will expand the catalogue to 100 and then to 1,000 most risky dumpsites. Waste Atlas is here to receive and acquire them, upgrading the crowdsourcing contributions to scientific results.

[Read More on atlas.d-waste.com](http://atlas.d-waste.com)



Last week the Canadian Conference on Global Health <http://www.csih.org/en/events/ccgh2015/> was held in Montreal. It was a great success, providing access to much knowledge about many global health issues and included networking and mentoring sessions for young global health students and practitioners. Here Dr. Charles Larson, from McGill University, is giving his best advice during one such session, with Caity Jackson, Gen Bois and Dr. Peter Berti from Healthbridge, Ottawa.

This Newsletter is FREE.

Planetary Health Weekly is an e-newsletter published in collaboration with the Planetary Health Commission at Ryerson University in Toronto, ON, CANADA.

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CONTACTUS



@PlanetaryWeekly



planetaryhealthweekly@gmail.com



@PlanetaryHealthWeekly



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Discover: <http://planetaryhealth.ca/>

Editor: Dr. David Zakus
dzakus@ryerson.ca

Production: Anna Oda

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350 Victoria St.
Toronto, ON
M5B 2K3

