



# PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON GLOBAL HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS

July 14, 2016

Volume 2, Issue 28

## The Critical Factors to Proper Lyme Disease Treatment

One of the critical factors that must be addressed to help patients finally reach optimal health is getting a more complete and accurate diagnosis. Traditional Lyme disease tests rely on the body's production of antibodies to yield a positive result. The compromised immune state in patients suffering with chronic disease interferes with the body's production of these antibodies.

[Read More on Envita](#)

### SIX CRITICAL FACTORS FOR LYME DISEASE TREATMENT

Lyme Disease  
Treatment



## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Oxygen Concentrators Saves Lives  
Short-Sighted Response to Migration Fears?  
More Bad News for Malaria Vaccine

2

Zimbabwe Puts Wildlife on the Block  
Sea Star Deaths Shake up Marine Food Chain  
Australia's Solar Gold Rush is Unstoppable

3

Rethinking Robin Hood  
Sydney Commits to Net Zero by 2050  
Midwives Bring Birth Back to Nunavik

4

Weekly Bulletin: QOTW & Events

5

FYI#1: Charts Explain Refugee Crisis

6

FYI#2: Refugees Need to Be Resettled

7

FYI#3: Learning from Namibia

8

FYI#4: Seizing Africa's Energy

9

FYI#5: Securitisation of Climate Change

10

FYI#6: Tips for Summer Job Search

11

## Alpine Soils Storing Up to a Third Less Carbon as Summers Warm

The top metre of the world's soils contains three times as much carbon as the entire atmosphere. This means that losing carbon from the soil can quicken the pace of human-caused climate warming. In the last three decades, soil carbon across the German Alps has decreased by an average of 14% – and by as much as 32% for certain types of soils.

[Read More on The Carbon Brief](#)







## How Solar-Powered Oxygen Concentrators Save Lives At Ugandan Hospitals

University of Alberta doctor Michael Hawkes devised a way to run oxygen concentrators, which are machines that separate oxygen from ambient air, by using solar power instead of the unreliable electric grid. He adapted the machines to run on solar panels and batteries charged by solar panels. At each location, 25 solar panels, each roughly one metre by half a metre in size, were installed on the hospital roofs. The panels are used to charge eight batteries that can keep a single machine running continuously overnight. Each machine is able to provide the oxygen needed to treat two children at a time.

[Read More on The Globe and Mail](#)

## Fences and Walls: A Short-Sighted Response to Migration Fears?

By comparison, about 4 million migrants have moved into OECD countries each year since 2007. And 60 percent of Europe's 3.4 million immigrants in 2013 came from other European Union member states or already held EU citizenship. Those from outside amounted to less than 0.3 percent of the EU's population. The urge for a better life is the main driving force for migration, both local and international. People are "pulled" by the belief that better prospects exist elsewhere. For those countries wishing to reduce cross-border migratory pressures, the best option is probably to address the root causes.

[Read More on Inter Press Service News Agency](#)



## More Bad News for Malaria Vaccine

The protection provided by the world's first malaria vaccine all but disappears after seven years, according to a new study. A phase-two clinical trial of Mosquirix (RTS,S) in Kenya showed just 4 percent effectiveness in children older than 7 years. With an already relatively low rate of malaria prevention, this is another setback for GlaxoSmithKline, the developer of the vaccine. "The reduced exposure to blood-stage parasites among persons who have received the RTS, S/AS01 vaccine may lead to a slower acquisition of immunity to blood-stage parasites, leading to an increase in episodes of clinical malaria in later life," according to the study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

[Read More on Humanosphere](#)





© David Cardinal / Cardinal Photo

## As Drought Parches Reserves, Zimbabwe Puts Wildlife on the Block

Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Authority has invited bids to purchase the animals in its reserves, hoping private game reserves with cash and spare water and fodder may be able to get them through the worst drought the country has seen in three decades. Oppah Muchinguri, Zimbabwe's minister for environment, water and climate, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation that the country aimed to use resources from the sales to support the other animals in its reserves through the drought. "We must mobilize resources for the upkeep of our wild animals, like elephants, by selling," he said.

[Read More on Reuters](#)

## Mass Sea Star Deaths Shake up Marine Food Chain

The mass death of sea stars on North America's west coast in 2013 was one of the largest events of wildlife mortality ever recorded. And with millions of sea stars dying between Alaska and Mexico's coasts, the status quo of marine food chains has been transformed, scientists have found. A wasting disease has been killing sea stars. It begins with lesions, followed by body fragmentation, then death. Since 2013, the seabed has been littered with their arms and discs. Researchers have linked some of the deaths to warming sea temperatures due to climate change and a transmissible virus.

[Read More on The Tyee](#)



## Follow The Money: Australia's Solar Gold Rush is Unstoppable

Today there are five million people living under a solar-powered roof in this country. Australia now has the highest levels of rooftop solar in the world. This transformation has happened in only six years. On average, Australian solar households saved \$653 in the last financial year on their electricity bills thanks to their investment that harvests the sun's natural and plentiful energy. In the 2014-15 financial year alone, Australians invested \$1.23 billion dollars in rooftop solar from their own pockets. These are just everyday Australians, most who live in low to middle income suburbs. By comparison, investment in all large scale solar energy projects in the calendar year 2014 was only around \$118 million.

[Read More on The Fifth Estate](#)





## Rethinking Robin Hood

International development aid is based on the Robin Hood principle: take from the rich and give to the poor. National development agencies, multilateral organizations, and NGOs currently transfer more than \$135 billion a year from rich countries to poor countries with this idea in mind. While impressive and wholly welcome, poverty reduction has not come without a cost. The globalization that has rescued so many in poor countries has harmed some people in rich countries, as factories and jobs migrated to where labor is cheaper. Several million Americans live in households with per capita income of less than \$2 a day, essentially the same standard that the World Bank uses to define destitution-level poverty in India or Africa.

[Read More on Project Syndicate](#)

## Sydney Commits to Net Zero by 2050

Australia's New South Wales Government may be holding out on the global move to net zero, but it isn't stopping the City of Sydney, which recently passed an environmental action plan committing the entire local government area to net zero emissions by 2050. The Environmental Action 2016-2021 Strategy and Action plan will also see 50 per cent of the council's electricity provided by renewables by 2021 – a large leap from the current three per cent – and 50 per cent of the LGA's electricity from renewables by 2030. To reach the lofty renewables targets, the city is expected to pursue aggregated power purchase agreements similar to that currently being explored by the City of Melbourne.

[Read More on The Fifth Estate](#)



## SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS HEALTH: Midwives Bring Birth Back to Nunavik

The Inuulitsivik Health Centre has been training midwives within the northern communities of Nunavik (northern Quebec) with the support of Ryerson University professors. Today, on average, 86 per cent of babies birthed by Inuit women are born in the region and attended to by indigenous midwives. "In Inuit culture, birth is a celebration for the whole community. It's something you do surrounded by family, having your partner or your mother there, and even your kids there if you want to," said Professor Van Wagner.

[Read More on Ryerson News](#)



**A tipping point, Africa will have to beat the odds of climate change to develop. Desmond Tutu summarizes what is at stake this way: “We can no longer tinker about the edges. We can no longer continue feeding our addiction to fossil fuels as if there were no tomorrow. For there will be no tomorrow. As a matter of urgency we must begin a global transition to a new safe energy economy. “This requires fundamentally rethinking our economic systems, to put them on a sustainable and more equitable footing,” the South African Nobel Laureate says in the APP 2015 report.**

[Read More on African Progress Panel](#)

## EVENTSTABLE

DATE	CONFERENCE	LOCATION	REGISTER
Jul. 26-30	Building Trust: A Global Challenge in Health System Reform The Network: Towards Unity For Health (TUFH) 2016 Conference	Shenyang China	<a href="http://www.cvent.com/events/">http://www.cvent.com/events/</a>
Aug. 9-14	World Social Forum	Montreal Canada	<a href="https://fsm2016.org/en/sinformer/">https://fsm2016.org/en/sinformer/</a>
Oct. 16-17	6th Global Forum on Health Promotion	Charlottetown Canada	<a href="http://parc.ophea.net/event/">http://parc.ophea.net/event/</a>
Oct. 18-19	Health Promotion Ontario Annual Conference	Ottawa Canada	<a href="http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ph-sp/docs/charter-chartre/pdf/charter.pdf">http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ph-sp/docs/charter-chartre/pdf/charter.pdf</a>
Nov. 14-18	4th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research	Vancouver Canada	<a href="http://www.csih.org/en/events/">http://www.csih.org/en/events/</a>
Nov. 21-24	9th Global Conference on Health Promotion	Shanghai China	<a href="http://www.who.int/healthpromotion">http://www.who.int/healthpromotion</a>



[@PlanetaryWeekly](#)

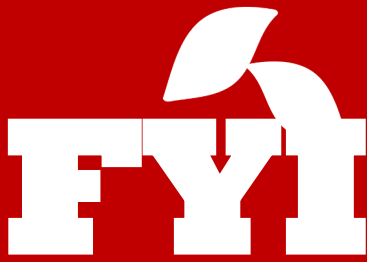


[@PlanetaryHealthWeekly](#)

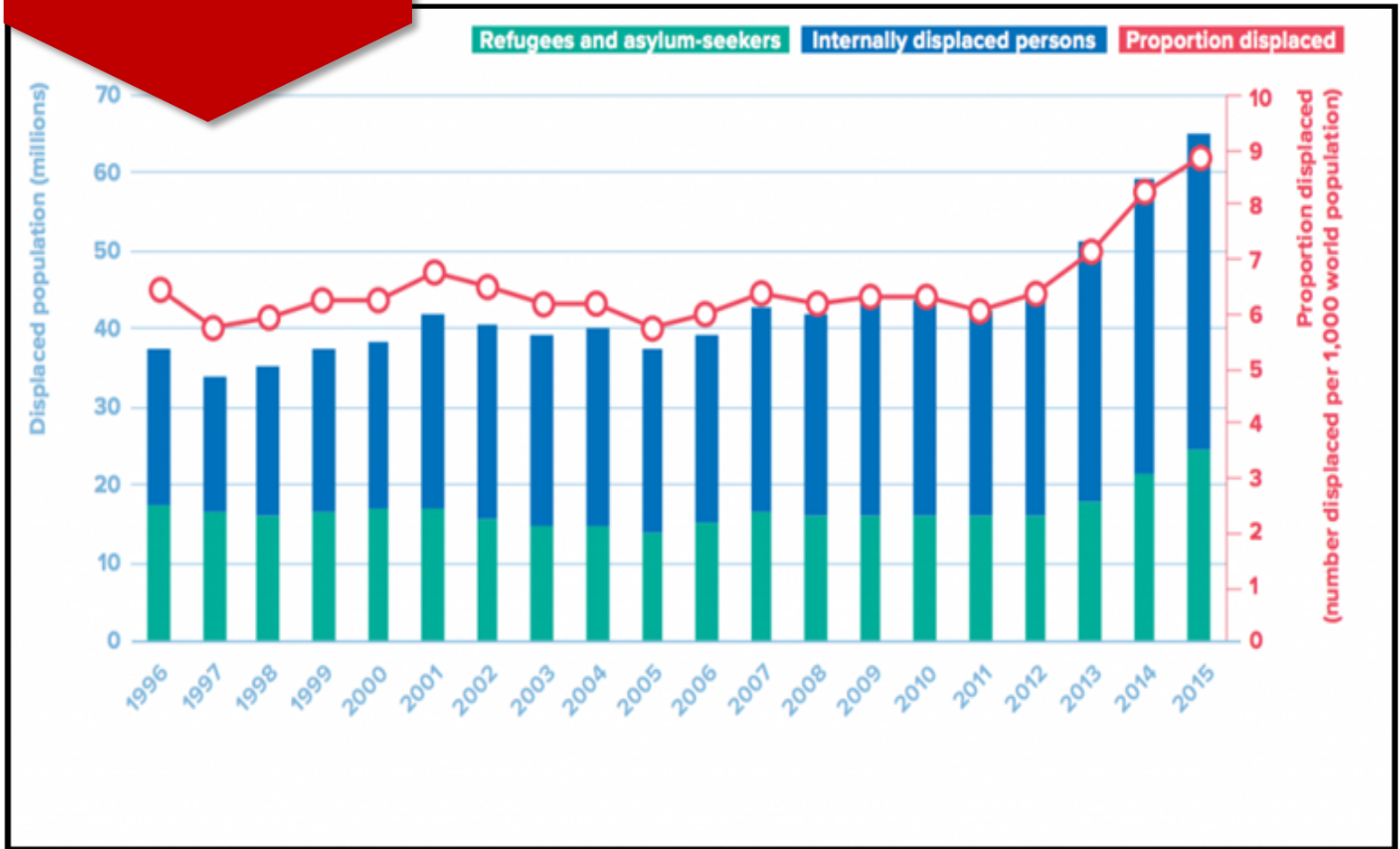


[Planetary Health Weekly](#)

**CONNECT WITH**  
**Planetary Health Weekly**



# THREE CHARTS HELP EXPLAIN OUR GLOBAL REFUGEE CRISIS



World Refugee Day on June 20 is an annual commemoration day for the global humanitarian community to shine a spotlight on the plight of refugees worldwide. To mark the day, the UN Refugee Agency released its annual Global Trends of Forced Displacement report which compiles statistics related to refugees and displacement worldwide. At 65 million, there are more refugees in the world today than at anytime since World War Two. And the pace of displacement is accelerating.

Since 2011, when UNHCR announced a new record of 42.5 million forcibly displaced people globally, these numbers have risen sharply each year, from 45.2 million in 2012 to 51.2 million in 2013 and 59.5 million in 2014. This is an increase of more than 50 per cent in five years. For comparison's sake, the report notes that the global population of displaced persons is more than the population of the United Kingdom.

[Read More on UN Dispatch](#)



# GLOBALLY A RECORD NUMBER OF REFUGEES NEED TO BE RESETTLED



The United Nations said it will try to resettle a record 170,000 refugees urgently in need of a new home next year as it grapples with an unprecedented displacement crisis. The projected resettlement figure from the UN refugee agency represents an increase of nearly 30,000 people compared with this year.

But it is still less than 15 per cent of the 1.19 million refugees worldwide who will be "in need of resettlement" in 2017, the UNHCR acknowledged in a report released today. That group mainly consists of refugees who the UN believes will not be able to return home or integrate in their current host country.

In 2015, UNHCR referred a record 134,000 people for resettlement and 104,000 in 2014. The projected figure for this year is 143,000. By nationality, Syrians led the list of resettlement cases last year at 20 per cent, followed by people from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq and Somalia. The European Union has agreed to a responsibility-sharing scheme, which foresees the relocation of 160,000 refugees who have crossed the Mediterranean Sea and landed in Italy or Greece. But only a few hundred have been resettled to date under the EU plan.

[Read More on Business Standard](#)



# LEARNING FROM NAMIBIA



A big reason for Namibia's success has been the government's focus on education. While people in advanced countries take for granted free primary and secondary education, in many poor countries, secondary education, and even primary schools, require tuition. Indeed, governments are often advised to impose tuition as a form of "cost recovery." In Namibia, however, public primary education is free; and, as of the current school year, so is public secondary education.

Namibia's government is also proactive in other important ways. Malaria eradication efforts have reduced annual cases by 97% in about a decade. Bucking the global trend of increasing inequality, Namibia's Gini coefficient (the standard measure of inequality in an income distribution) has fallen by some 15 points since 1993 (admittedly from one of the highest levels in the world). And the poverty rate has been more than halved, from 69% in 1993 to under 30%, with extreme poverty (the number of people living on less than \$1.90 a day) falling by a similar margin, from just under 53% to less than 23%.

Namibia shows that even countries that start with serious disadvantages – extremes of racism, colonialism, inequality, and underdevelopment – can chart a path toward shared prosperity. Its achievement deserves international recognition – and emulation.

[Read More on Project Syndicate](#)





# AFRICA PROGRESS REPORT: SEIZING AFRICA'S ENERGY AND CLIMATE OPPORTUNITIES



The Africa Progress Report (APR) is the annual flagship publication of the Africa Progress Panel. The APR draws on the best research and analysis available on Africa and compiles it in a refreshing and balanced manner. The Panel makes policy recommendations for African political leaders and civil society who collectively have the primary responsibility for spurring Africa's progress. In light of the continent's dynamic links with the rest of the world, the APR also highlights critical steps that must be taken by leaders in the international public and private sector.

[Read More on Africa Progress Panel](#)

# THE SECURITISATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE



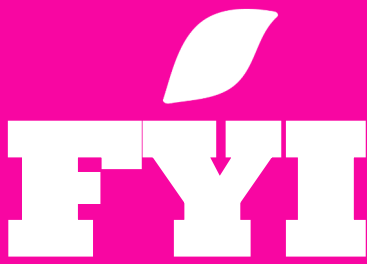
A new book analyzes the securitisation of climate change in four different countries: USA, Germany, Turkey, and Mexico. Its empirical analysis traces how specific climate-security discourses have become dominant, which actors have driven this process, what political consequences this has had and what role the broader context has played in enabling these specific securitisations.

In doing so, the book outlines a new and systematic theoretical framework that distinguishes between different referent objects of securitisation (territorial, individual and planetary) and between a security and risk dimension. It thereby clarifies the ever-increasing literature on different forms of securitisation and the relationship between security, risk and politics. Whereas securitisation studies have traditionally focused on either a single country case study or a global overview, consequently failing to reconstruct detailed securitisation dynamics, this is the first book to provide a systematic comparative analysis of climate security discourses in four countries and thus closes an empirical gap in the present literature.

In addition, this comparative framework allows the drawing of conclusions about the conditions for and consequences of successful securitisation based on empirical and comparative analysis rather than theoretical debate only.

[Read More on Devex](#)





# 8 TIPS FOR MANAGING A SUMMER JOB SEARCH



For those of us in the Northern Hemisphere, summer is well underway. In Washington, where I reside, this means days are so humid that going outside can feel like stepping into one big steam shower. It also means lighter traffic, empty restaurants and plentiful parking.

As the “out of office” email responses start flying in, it becomes increasingly obvious that the working world is on vacation. Especially in more vacation-leave generous places such as Europe, some offices virtually shut down during the months of July and August. But what if you are a job-seeker — should you put your job search on hold, too?

With hiring managers and recruiters away on leave and many duties passed on to summer interns, hiring can often be put on the back burner. Here are eight tips for managing your job search when it feels like everyone is away at the beach.

[Read More on Devex](#)



**Dr. Yusuf Hamied and David Zakus visiting in New York City (June 9, 2016). Dr. Hamied, as Chairman of Cipla pharmaceuticals in India, has fought tirelessly for decades to ensure access to life saving drugs for millions of poor people around the world.**



**This Newsletter is FREE.**

Planetary Health Weekly is an e-newsletter published in collaboration with the **Planetary Health Commission** at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada  
**To Subscribe/Unsubscribe:** [planetaryhealth.ca/weekly](http://planetaryhealth.ca/weekly)

## CONTACTUS



@PlanetaryWeekly



[planetaryhealthweekly@gmail.com](mailto:planetaryhealthweekly@gmail.com)



@PlanetaryHealthWeekly



Planetary Health Weekly

**Publisher and Editor: Dr. David Zakus**  
[dzakus@ryerson.ca](mailto:dzakus@ryerson.ca)

**Production: Abinethaa Paramasivam & Angeline Sahayanathan**



**planetary health commission**  
**Discover [planetaryhealth.ca](http://planetaryhealth.ca)**

**Ryerson  
University**

**Faculty of  
Community  
Services**

*Programs designed to transcend  
disciplinary boundaries to find lasting  
solutions to social issues.*

Child & Youth Care  
Disability Studies  
Early Childhood Studies  
Midwifery  
Nursing  
Nutrition  
Occupational & Public Health  
Social Work  
Urban & Regional Planning

350 Victoria St.  
Toronto, ON  
M5B 2K3