



PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON GLOBAL HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS

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Factors Affecting End-Stage Kidney Disease Worldwide

More than 2 million people worldwide are being treated for end-stage kidney disease (ESKD). For most patients with ESKD worldwide who are treated with in-centre haemodialysis, overall survival is poor, but longer in some Asian countries than elsewhere in the world, and longer in Europe than in the USA, although this gap has reduced. Mortality is especially high soon after ESKD onset, and improved preparation for ESKD is needed including alignment of decision making with the wishes of patients.

[Read More on The Lancet](#)



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As Earth Swelters, Global Warming Target in Danger of Being Missed

The Earth is so hot this year that a limit for global warming agreed by world leaders at a climate summit in Paris just a few months ago is in danger of being breached. In December, almost 200 nations agreed a radical shift away from fossil fuels with a goal of limiting a rise in average global temperatures to well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial times while "pursuing efforts" for 1.5C (2.7F).

[Read More on Reuters](#)





Amid Worst Yellow Fever Outbreak in Decades, 1 Million Vaccines Go Missing

As a yellow fever outbreak in central Africa exploded, 1 million vaccines disappeared in Angola. Thousands more vaccinations were delayed when accompanying syringes got waylaid. Ice packs to keep the shots potent went missing. And while the epidemic of the hemorrhagic fever spilled across international borders, a senior outbreak expert at the World Health Organization acknowledged their response had "lagged" for months. Some health officials now estimate they will be short about 22 million vaccines amid the worst yellow fever outbreak in decades.

[Read More on Los Angeles Time](#)

[See Also on Salon](#)

Abortion Incidence Between 1990 and 2014: Subregional, Regional and Global Levels and Trends

Information about the incidence of induced abortion is needed to motivate and inform efforts to help women avoid unintended pregnancies and to monitor progress toward that end. It was estimated subregional, regional, and global levels and trends in abortion incidence for 1990 to 2014, and abortion rates in subgroups of women were estimated. 35 abortions occurred annually per 1000 women aged 15–44 years worldwide in 2010–14, which was 5 points less than 40 in 1990–94. In the developed world, the abortion rate declined 19 points, from 46 to 27.

[Read More on The Lancet](#)



Texas Baby Confirmed to Have Died of Zika-Lined Microcephaly

Officials in Texas say a baby whose mother traveled to El Salvador while pregnant has died shortly after birth, in a case attributed to the Zika virus. Dr. Umair Shah, executive director of Harris County Public Health, announced Tuesday that the infant, who died a few weeks ago, had microcephaly, a medical condition linked to the Zika infection. Texas health officials say there have been no reported cases of Zika transmitted by mosquitoes in Texas. This was the second Zika-related death in the United States. The first was an elderly man who died in Utah in June, while battling a Zika infection, as well as other health conditions. The man is believed to have been infected with the virus while traveling abroad.

[Read More on VOA News](#)



Warmer Oceans Driving Antarctic Peninsula Glacier Melt

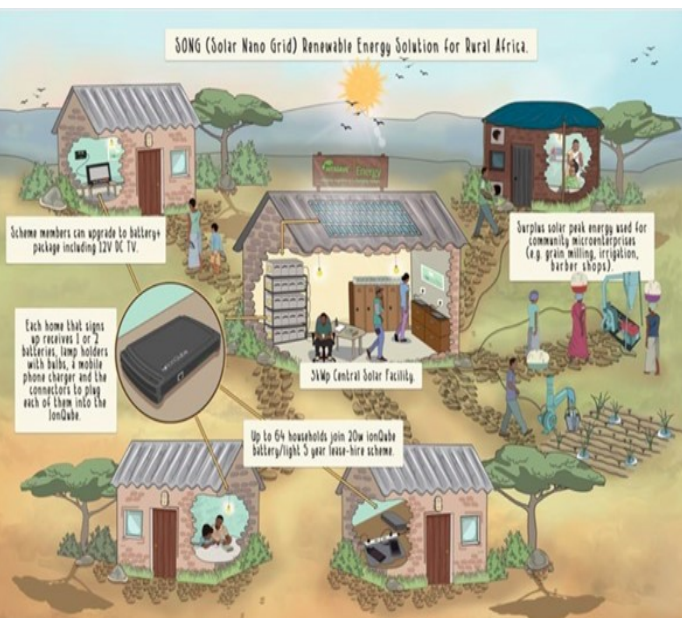
The Antarctic Peninsula is one of the fastest warming regions on Earth. Temperatures have risen by more than 3C over the past 50 years. The warming atmosphere has caused some remarkable changes to the eastern side of the Peninsula. The Larsen ice shelf, a floating sheet of ice formed from glaciers spilling out onto the cold ocean, has lost two of its four sections in recent decades. Over on the western side of the Peninsula, around 600 small glaciers of various shapes and sizes have also been melting. Not only are the waters on the Peninsula's western coast relatively warm to start with, but they're getting warmer, the study finds.

[Read More on The Carbon Brief](#)

South Asia's Monsoon: From No Water to Nothing But Water in 45 Days

By the end of July, an estimated 300 people have been killed by floods, around three million have been forced to flee their homes, over 100,000 animals have been drowned – including 21 rare and endangered one-horned rhinoceros – as a parched South Asia suddenly got too much of it since the start of the monsoon in mid-June. With floodwaters and landslides cutting off the highway from Phuentsholing on the India border, a landlocked Bhutan is already experiencing shortages of food and fuel. Power transmission lines have been brought down by landslides and many parts are without electricity.

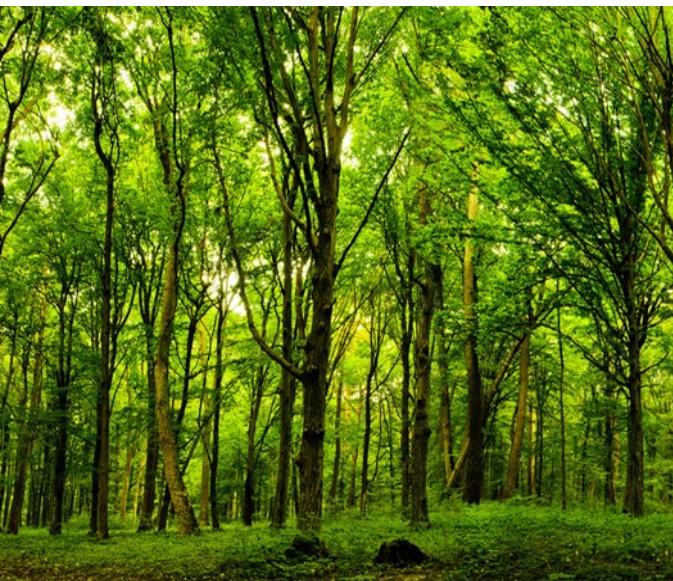
[Read More on Online Khabar](#)



Solar Nano-Grids Light Up Homes and Businesses in Kenya

Villagers in Lemolo B and Echareria in Nakuru County, Kenya, are waking up today to a new future as new solar nano-grids allows them to switch on lights and operate new agri-processing machinery. The Solar Nano-Grid (SONG) is a small network and solar-hub with a direct current (DC) inverter-less power output of 3-5kWp not connected with a utility grid. Each grid supports a small independent community of around 60 households, giving energy to around 300 people through household services and reaching many more by operating the centralized solar energy hub to provide power for micro-enterprises and community services with social, health and education impacts.

[Read More on Solar Daily](#)



Mexico City To Plant 18 Million Trees and Convert To Hybrid Cars To Reduce Air Pollution

Mexico City announced plans to plant 18 million trees around the city bounds and surrounding suburbs. Environment Minister Rafael Pacchiano described the project as a “historic reforestation” to reinforce the “green belt in the megalopolis.” The primary goal of this reforestation is to reduce air pollution in the region. This past spring, air quality had become so poor that authorities were forced to restrict the traffic of the usual 5.4 million vehicles in the city.

[Read More on One Green Planet](#)

Climate Change A Threat To Food Security in Caribbean

A new study by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) that promotes integrated expansion in the region, stated that the impact of climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean will be “considerable because of its economic dependence on agriculture, the low adaptive capacity of its population and the geographical location of some of its countries”. According to the three agencies, the agricultural sector is the most affected by climate change, which is essential when considering that it contributes five per cent of regional gross domestic product and 23 per cent of regional exports.

[Read More on Jamaica Observer](#)



SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS HEALTH: Addressing Global Health Disparities Among Indigenous People

In countries around the world, Indigenous peoples face great social disadvantages and poor health compared with the general population. Ian Anderson and colleagues have documented significant disparities among 28 Indigenous populations from 23 countries compared with benchmark populations for several variables, including life expectancy at birth, maternal and infant mortality, and frequency of low and high birthweight infants. Although their study did not include measures of mental health, burden of chronic disease, or disability, evidence shows there are major disparities in these areas as well.

[Read More on The Lancet](#)



Quote of The Week

One day, when picketing the White House in opposition to the Vietnam war, a journalist asked A.J. Muste:

"Why do you demonstrate in the rain?

Do you think you will change the country this way?"

"No," replied Muste, "I don't do this to change the country. I do this so the country doesn't change me."

EVENTSTABLE

DATE	CONFERENCE	LOCATION	REGISTER
Oct. 15-16	Climate Change Adaptation 2016 Fifth International Conference	Toronto, Canada	http://www.planetfriendly.net/calendar/
Oct. 16-17	6th Global Forum on Health Promotion	Charlottetown Canada	http://parc.ophea.net/event/
Oct. 17-20	Habitat III: The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development	Quito, Ecuador	https://www.habitat3.org
Oct. 18-19	Health Promotion Ontario Annual Conference	Ottawa Canada	http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ph-sp/docs/ charter-chartre/pdf/charter.pdf
Nov. 9-11	The Thirteenth AMNET International Conference on Chronic Diseases	New Mexico, USA	http://www.amnetbcom.org/
Nov. 14-18	4th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research	Vancouver Canada	http://www.csih.org/en/events/
Nov. 21-24	9th Global Conference on Health Promotion	Shanghai China	http://www.who.int/healthpromotion



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A SEQUEL TO THE PARIS CLIMATE ACCORD JUST TOOK PLACE IN VIENNA



When negotiators from nearly 200 countries gathered outside Paris in December for the United Nations summit meeting on climate change, they reached the first agreement to take action on curbing their planet-warming pollution.

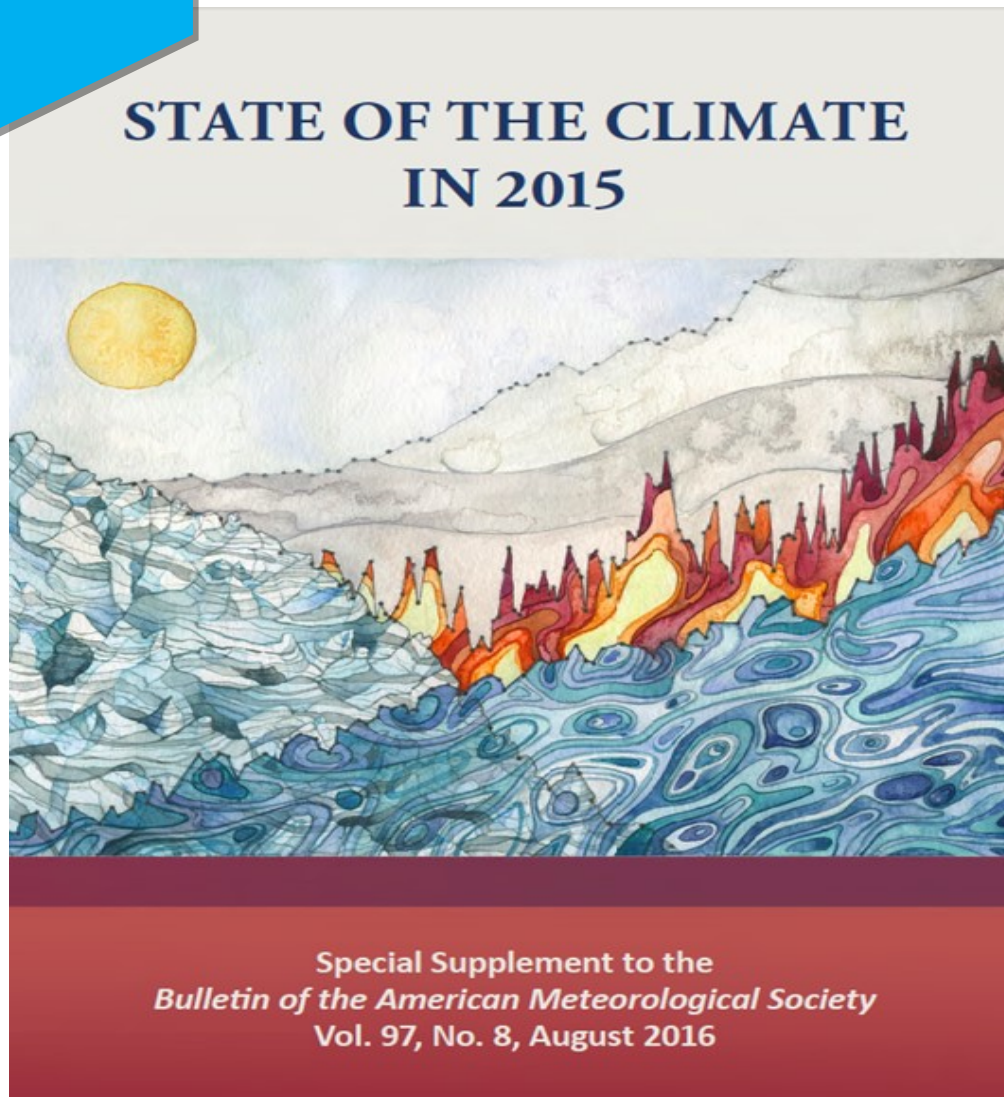
Recently in Vienna, with far less attention, negotiators from those same countries neared a deal that many environmentalists have called the most significant action this year to reduce global warming.

While the Paris agreement aims to reduce the use of coal and oil, which produce the carbon dioxide emissions that are the chief cause of global warming, negotiators in Vienna also pushed ahead on a deal to ban the use of hydrofluorocarbons, chemicals used in air-conditioners and refrigerators. Although they contribute only a small percentage of the world's greenhouse gases, these chemicals, known as HFCs, can trap heat in the atmosphere at levels a thousand times higher than carbon dioxide can, according to published scientific studies.

President Obama, who has sought to make climate change prevention a cornerstone of his legacy, has spoken at length with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India about reaching a deal, and Mr. Kerry flew to Vienna to personally engage in the negotiations. In his speech, he pledged that a final deal would include assistance from rich countries to help poorer ones deal with the cost of transitioning to the new chemicals, although he did not specify a dollar amount.

[Read More on New York Times](#)

US NOAA ANNUAL REPORT



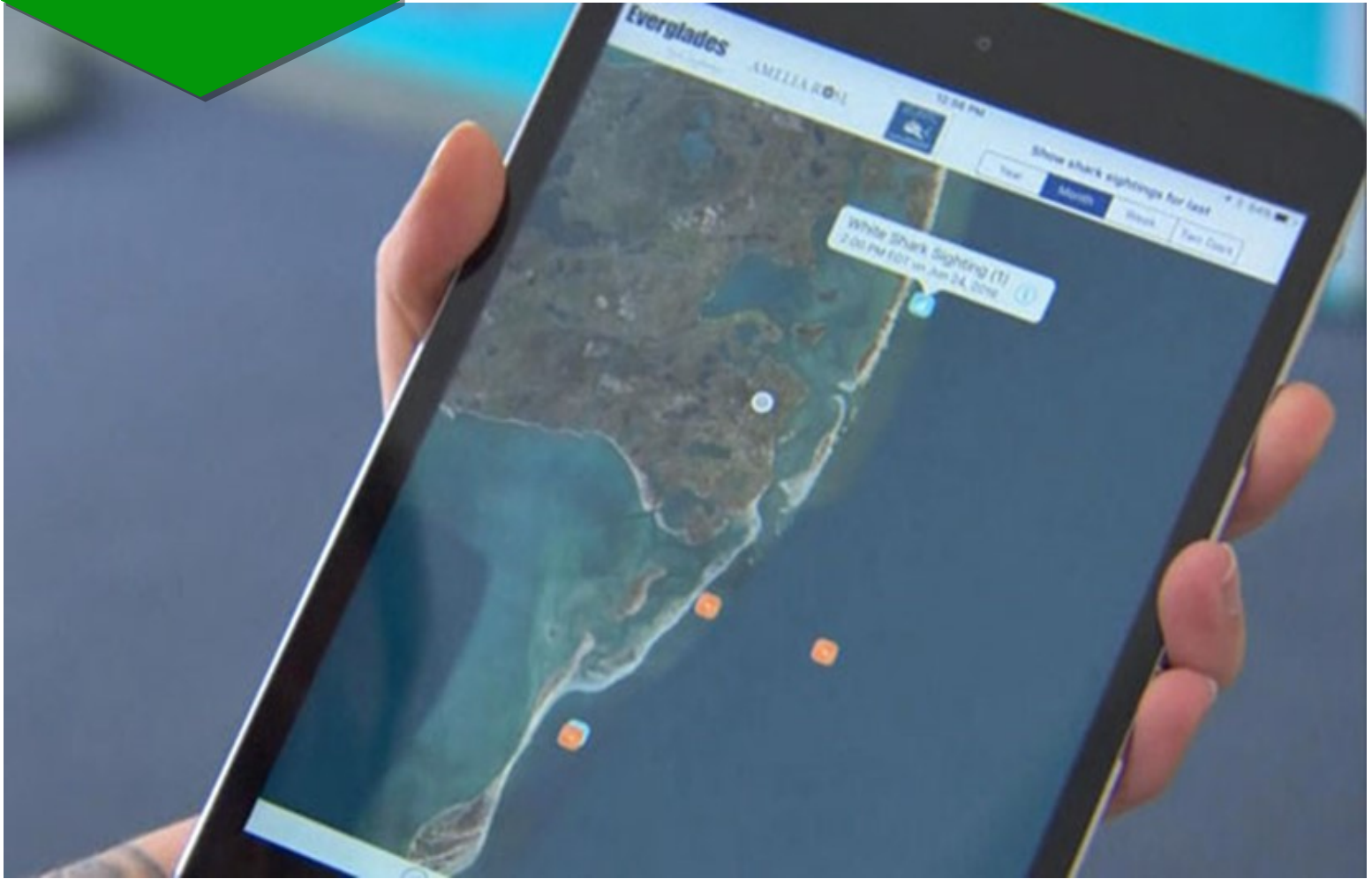
One constant amid the chaos is that the global climate continues to change as we pump huge quantities of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) provided its annual reminder when it published its latest State of the Climate report, now in its 26th year. It's a mammoth undertaking – 300 pages in length and compiled by more than 450 scientists from 62 countries – and it found that multiple climatic records were broken last year across land, sea and ice.

Delving into the report, Carbon Brief pulled out the various climate records that tumbled last year. As co-author Dr Kate Willett from the Met Office summarised: “Looking at a range of climate measurements...not only was 2015 the warmest year on record by a large margin, it was also another year when the levels of dominant greenhouse gases reached new peaks...and sea levels and ocean heat content were all at their highest levels.”

[Read More on Carbon Brief](#)

[See Also on AMS](#)

NEW APP LETS PUBLIC HELP MAP DISASTERS CONFLICT AND OUTBREAKS



Swiping right or tapping on a mobile phone are not typical ways of helping poor communities, but a new app launched by a medical charity aims to use technology to help aid workers map areas at risk of conflict, disasters and disease. Using the latest in mobile gaming technology, MapSwipe lets users map remote, rural regions vulnerable to humanitarian crises.

Hundreds of millions of people in crisis-prone communities are not mapped, Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said, and without these data, aid agencies are unable to effectively plan for emergencies. “If you can’t visualize where your patients are when they’re in the middle of a cholera outbreak you’re missing a huge trick, because you can’t predict the behavior of the disease,” said MSF’s Pete Masters, who helped create the app.

Users can swipe through a series of satellite images on their phone, and tap the screen when they see buildings, houses or other signs of human activity. In essence, the public can help filter out uninhabited areas, such as deserts or bushland, so aid workers can concentrate on mapping places where people actually live.

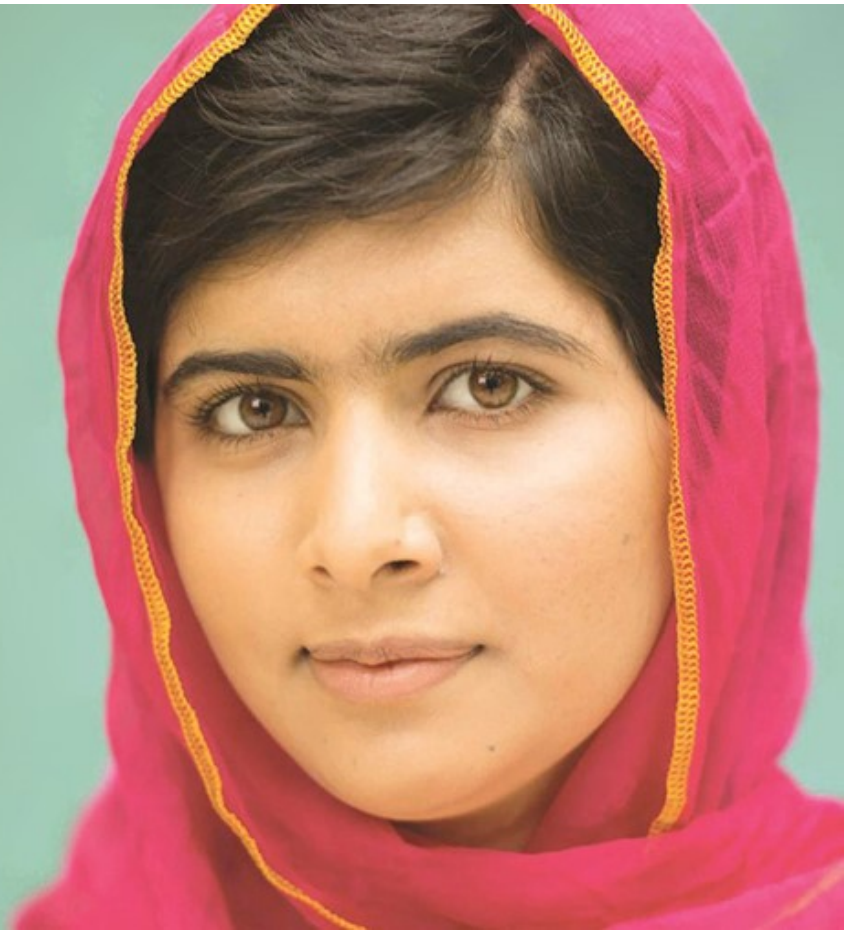
[Read More on Humanosphere](#)



‘ONE BOOK, ONE PEN’: GLOBAL CITIZENS SHARE HOW EDUCATION CHANGED THEIR LIVES

**ONE CHILD,
ONE TEACHER
ONE BOOK & ONE PEN
CAN CHANGE
THE WORLD.**

MALALA YOUSAFZAI



Education changes lives, but we don't have to tell you that because you said it best. We talked to Global Citizens about the teachers, books and moments in their educations that left the deepest impressions and moved them to take action. This is one of the stories!

I read “The Chosen” in high school, and it has had a profound impact on the lens through which I see the world.

The major plot line centers around Reb Saunders, an ultra orthodox rabbi, and his brilliant son Danny — a young man with a brilliant mind. Reb Saunders raises Danny up in silence — they do not speak, except for when they are studying religious texts together.

I have reflected on this book and this passage many times since high school, and am reminded that the world suffers from a glut of “intelligence” and a deficit of “wisdom.” And as Global Citizens, we should strive to be people of compassion, righteousness, mercy and strength.

[Read More on Global Citizen](#)



HOW FUNDERS ARE USING THE POWER OF THEIR INVESTMENTS TO IMPACT CLIMATE CHANGE



A big reason impact investing is especially relevant to climate change right now is the current focus on the necessary global investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy, prompted by commitments of the Paris Climate Agreement. It's clear that the world needs to shift trillions to sustainable development and renewable energy. Foundations are figuring out how to use their assets to attract larger private investments by scaling up markets and proving the value of certain investments.

India is a huge focus of investment in climate solutions. The biggest recent news on this front came with the announcement in June that four major funders—Packard, MacArthur, Hewlett, and Grantham foundations—offered \$30 million to be matched by the Indian government for climate finance efforts. The seed investment supports two projects meant to prime the pump for other investors, intended to leverage another \$1.4 billion, an example of using foundation and government assets to unlock larger sums.

In addition, in 2014 the Rockefeller's Brothers Fund foundation made headlines with the announcement that it would join the fossil fuel divestment campaign, a symbolic victory given its origins in wealth derived from Standard Oil. The funder is not only divesting, it's also using positive screening, or looking for stocks with positive impacts beyond returns. And it's pursuing investments that advance its mission. This year, RBF extended its impact investments target with 20 percent of its assets. That allocation has hit \$98 million as of June. The fund's latest move was a \$10 million investment in Mainstream Renewable Power to expand renewable energy in Africa.

[Read More on Inside Philanthropy](#)

THREE TIPS FOR SUPPORTING CANDIDATES ON THE ACADEMIC JOB MARKET



For those aspiring to an academic career, a PhD is the entry ticket to a world where reputation is all, says Robert MacIntosh. Here are some tips for early career researchers. First is to pick an area and stick to it. Modern academia is a terrain that is marked out in specialist territories where people will spend entire careers. These days, skimming the surface of many territories lowers the likelihood of your establishing a strong reputation in the medium term. Next is to identify the right space. Specialist areas, such as the one you've chosen, tend to have support structures that emerge over time.

Typically there will be a membership organisation, annual conferences and some house journals. Stump up the membership fees, find your way in to their conference and be sure that you read the house journal religiously. It is also good to choose a tribe. Academics spend a significant portion of their time marking.

This produces a tendency to enjoy offering, if not necessarily receiving, criticism. Hence, even our neatly delineated interest areas are factionalised. This may manifest itself as new ideas versus classical ones or revolve around some other perceived slight, injustice or other form of misapprehension. Your big decision is to choose the tribe that you will join.

[Read More on Academia Group](#)

Summer is so wonderful in Canada. Hopefully you've had some time, too, to relax and reflect.

(Lac Clair, Quebec – August 15, 2016)



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CONTACTUS



@PlanetaryWeekly



planetaryhealthweekly@gmail.com



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Publisher and Editor: **Dr. David Zakus**
dzakus@ryerson.ca

Production: **Abinethaa Paramasivam & Angeline Sahayanathan**

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350 Victoria St.
Toronto, ON
M5B 2K3