



# PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON GLOBAL HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS

February 4, 2016

Volume 2, Issue 5

## Tackling Modern Slavery

Slavery has been a rampant problem for centuries and modern slavery — the recruitment, transportation, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force for the purpose of exploitation, usually involving money — continues largely unabated. This is despite efforts by several organizations and multilateral institutions to address the issue. Estimated global profits from slavery is around \$150 billion per year. This makes it the world's fastest-growing criminal enterprise and the second largest illicit industry behind drugs.

[Read More on Devex](#)



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## The Zika Virus Isn't Just an Epidemic, It's Here to Stay

With an estimated 3 to 4 million people having come down with Zika virus ailments since infected mosquitoes reached the Americas some nine months ago, 23 countries and territories have reported cases, and there are some 4,000 babies that have been born with the skull-misshaping microcephaly. Zika has already gone from being an epidemic to an endemic disease in Brazil and it will likely stay. The hunt for a vaccine better start now.

[Read More on ForeignPolicy](#)







## Panic as Lassa Fever Spreads in Nigeria

Nigerians are getting more apprehensive as Lassa Fever Virus (LAFV) spreads across the country. Indicative of its rapid spread, the cases have risen from 76 to over 200, from 33 deaths to over 76, and from five states to over 17 within two weeks. While Lassa fever is often mild; the disease could be severe with signs and symptoms similar to those of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). Infections in people mainly occur through exposure to infected rodents or their secretions, and less commonly, between people through direct contact with bodily fluids. The antiviral drug ribavirin may help patients if taken early in the course of the disease.

[Read More on The Guardian](#)

## Bed Net Plan for Underfed Kids Curbs Malaria Deaths

Distributing insecticide-treated bed nets and supplementary food to undernourished children aged from six months to five years could help prevent their deaths from malaria. This is because children with malnutrition are much more likely than healthy children to succumb to the disease. However, in settings where malaria transmission is very intense and bed net coverage is already high, additional targeted distribution of bed nets might have a very limited impact. Instead, supplementary food could offer larger mortality reductions.

[Read More on SciDevNet](#)



## When Disaster Strikes, It's Time to Fly in the 3D Printers

3D printing has been used to mend pipes after the Nepal earthquake, and NGOs believe the technology could radically change the speed and cost of humanitarian aid. If humanitarian organizations want to continue to be able to meet the needs of the most vulnerable communities that they are mandated to serve, they need to start to do things differently. They need to innovate. To speed up the process some organizations are working on a supplies catalogue for aid agencies and posting its designs online so that anyone with a 3D printer can download them.

[Read More on The Guardian](#)





## Miami is Flooding

The city of Miami Beach floods on such a predictable basis that, out of curiosity or sheer perversity, a person can plan a visit to coincide with an inundation. Much of the region may have less than half a century more to go. To cope with its recurrent flooding, Miami Beach has already spent something like a hundred million dollars. It is planning on spending several hundred million more.

Such efforts are so much money down the drain. Sooner or later the city will have too much water to deal with. The best that can be hoped for with the restoration project is that it will prolong the life of the wetland and, with that, of Miami's drinking-water system.

[Read More on The New Yorker](#)

## Human Impact has Pushed Earth Into the Anthropocene

Humans have introduced entirely novel changes, geologically speaking, such as the roughly 300m metric tonnes of plastic produced annually. Concrete has become so prevalent in construction that more than half of all the concrete ever used was produced in the past 20 years. Wildlife, meanwhile, is being pushed into an ever smaller area of the Earth, with just 25% of ice-free land considered wild now compared to 50% three centuries ago. As a result, rates of extinction of species are far above long-term averages.

[Read More on The Guardian](#)

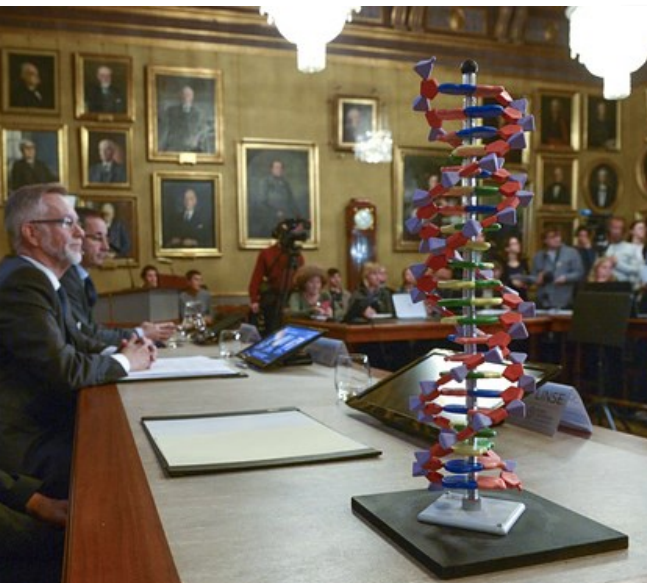


## What's Our #PlanetWorth? A Campaign Ends, a Conversation Continues

December 2015 has proven to be a pivotal month in finding global consensus to combat climate change and mitigate — and adapt to — its consequences. More than 190 nations came together in Paris for the United Nations Climate Change Conference, known as COP21, to establish a long-term global framework to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. The Planet Worth campaign ended, but the conversation around climate change is arguably louder and more urgent than ever as we transition from this breakthrough year in global development to a new post-2015 era.

[Read More on Devex](#)





## Turning Scientific Discoveries Into a Nobel Prize and Saved Lives

In China, the growing threat of malaria sends the country into an intensive search for a treatment, and a woman looks for the answer, not in state-of-the-art labs, but in thousands of records of ancient Chinese remedies. The fight against neglected tropical diseases is also benefiting from innovative partnership. The Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative, a not-for-profit partnership between the public sector, pharmaceutical companies and the international research community, has brought to market improved treatments for malaria, Chagas and visceral leishmaniasis. Each of these deadly diseases overwhelmingly affects the world's poorest people.

[Read More on Devex](#)

## Can Coding Become a Building Block of Global Education?

Students from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe participated in the third annual Hour of Code. The event's continued growth across the world demonstrates the increasingly global reach of digital literacy initiatives. But despite momentum from social enterprises, supportive policies from a growing number of governments, and events like Computer Science Education Week that unite these efforts, the global development community can do more to ensure that coding will become a part of a basic education.

[Read More on Devex](#)



## SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS HEALTH:

### Politics of Blood: An HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Canada

Kecia Larkin, a Canadian woman from the Kwa'kwa'wakw and Peigan First Nations in British Columbia, is a leading advocate for HIV awareness in Canadian aboriginal communities. She believes the Canadian federal government has been complicit in the deaths of indigenous people living with HIV and that major changes are needed to take place to fix a system that has been broken since the AIDS epidemic began.

[Read More on The Politic](#)



## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

**Even without an El Niño, the year 2015 would have been the warmest year on record and the long trend of rising global temperatures are expected to continue because its principal cause – fossil fuel burning – is also continuing.”**

Gavin Schmidt, Director, NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

**“It is clear that human influence is driving our climate into uncharted territory.”**

Professor Phil Jones, from the UK’s University of East Anglia’s Climatic Research Unit

[Read More on The Guardian](#)

## EVENTSTABLE

DATE	CONFERENCE	LOCATION	REGISTER
Feb. 22-24	27th Ethiopian Public Health Association Annual Conference	Addis Ababa Ethiopia	<a href="http://www.etpha.org/">http://www.etpha.org/</a>
Mar. 3-5	Conference on Global Status of Women and Girls	Virginia USA	<a href="http://globalstatusofwomen">http://globalstatusofwomen</a>
Mar. 12	Moving forward together: Advancing rehabilitation in a global context	Montreal Canada	<a href="https://www.mcgill.ca">https://www.mcgill.ca</a>
Apr. 9-11	7th Annual Consortium of Universities for Global Health Conference	San Francisco USA	<a href="http://cugh.org/">http://cugh.org/</a>
Apr. 16-17	Global Health and Innovation Conference	New Haven USA	<a href="https://maestro">https://maestro</a>
May. 13-15	Peace, Global Health and Sustainability (PEGASUS)	Toronto Canada	<a href="http://www.pegasusconference.ca/">http://www.pegasusconference.ca/</a>
May. 17-20	International Congress on Integrative Medicine and Health (ICIMH)	Las Vegas USA	<a href="https://www.cvent.com/">https://www.cvent.com/</a>
May. 26-27	Indigenous Health Conference	Toronto Canada	<a href="http://www.cpd.utoronto.ca/">http://www.cpd.utoronto.ca/</a>
Nov. 14-18	Fourth Global Symposium on Health Systems Research	Vancouver Canada	<a href="http://www.csih.org/en/events/">http://www.csih.org/en/events/</a>



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## **New Publications on the Global Diabetes Epidemic from the Annals of Global Health**

### **Diabetes Mellitus in Peru**

[http://www.annalsofglobalhealth.org/article/S2214-9996\(15\)01315-6/abstract](http://www.annalsofglobalhealth.org/article/S2214-9996(15)01315-6/abstract)

### **Epidemiology and Risk factors of Type 2 Diabetes in Egypt**

[http://www.annalsofglobalhealth.org/article/S2214-9996\(15\)01308-9/abstract](http://www.annalsofglobalhealth.org/article/S2214-9996(15)01308-9/abstract)

### **Diabetes Care in Nigeria**

[http://www.annalsofglobalhealth.org/article/S2214-9996\(15\)01309-0/abstract](http://www.annalsofglobalhealth.org/article/S2214-9996(15)01309-0/abstract)

### **State-of-the-Art Review on Diabetes Care in Italy**

[http://www.annalsofglobalhealth.org/article/S2214-9996\(15\)01310-7/abstract](http://www.annalsofglobalhealth.org/article/S2214-9996(15)01310-7/abstract)

### **Diabetes in Panama: Epidemiology, Risk Factors and Clinical Management**

[http://www.annalsofglobalhealth.org/article/S2214-9996\(15\)01311-9/abstract](http://www.annalsofglobalhealth.org/article/S2214-9996(15)01311-9/abstract)

### **Diabetes Care in India**

[http://www.annalsofglobalhealth.org/article/S2214-9996\(16\)00003-5/abstract](http://www.annalsofglobalhealth.org/article/S2214-9996(16)00003-5/abstract)

### **Diabetes in Vietnam**

[http://www.annalsofglobalhealth.org/article/S2214-9996\(16\)00004-7/abstract](http://www.annalsofglobalhealth.org/article/S2214-9996(16)00004-7/abstract)

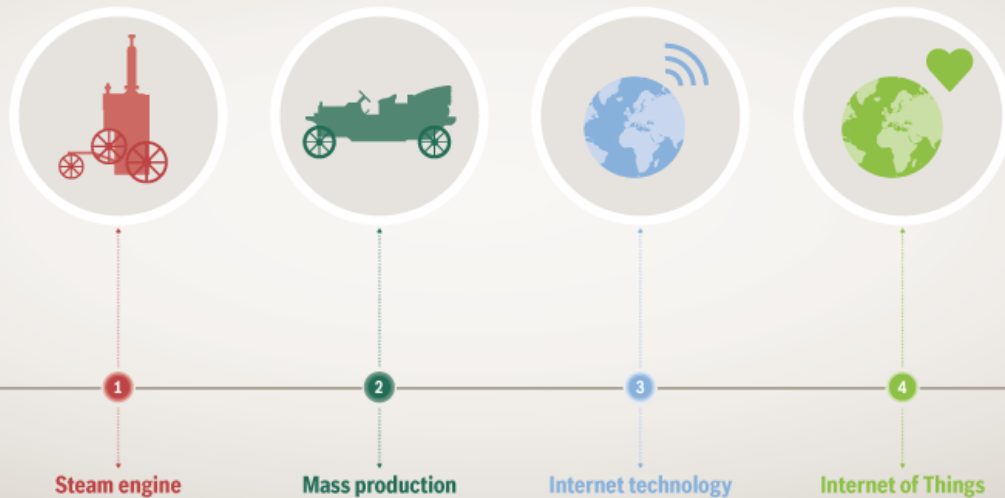
### **Diabetes Care in Brazil**

[http://www.annalsofglobalhealth.org/article/S2214-9996\(15\)01307-7/abstract](http://www.annalsofglobalhealth.org/article/S2214-9996(15)01307-7/abstract)

**[Visit Annals of Global Health Home Page for More Publications](#)**



## FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION



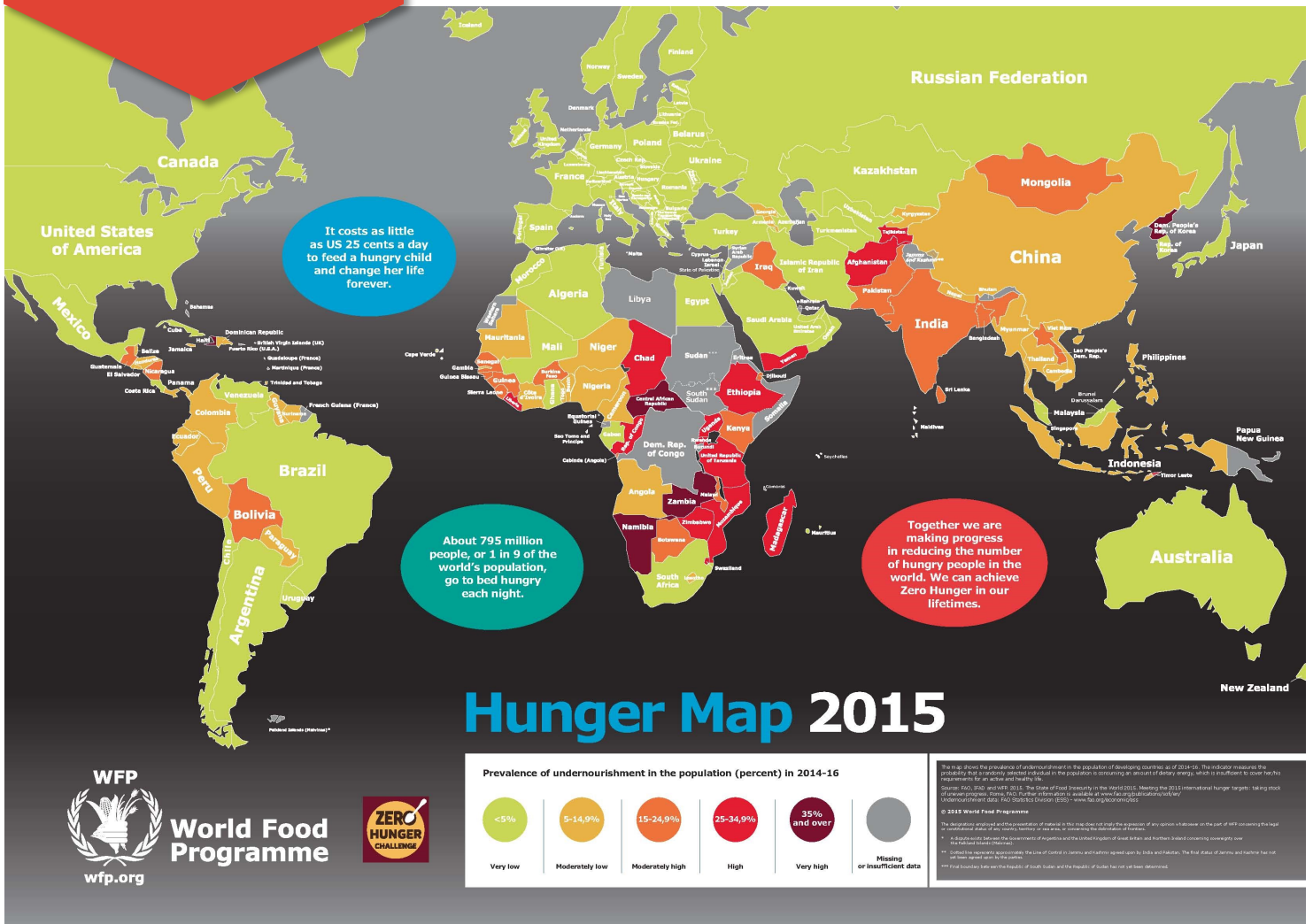
### Mastering a Fourth Industrial Revolution

At the recent World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, discussions centered around the theme, “Mastering the Fourth Industrial Revolution.” The WEF says that we are on the brink of this Industrial Revolution — one that is focused on the interaction of physical systems and cybertechnology, and that is “distinct in the speed, scale and force at which it transforms entire systems of production, distribution, consumption.” Therefore, as leaders gather with a mission to improve the world through innovation and the integration of technologies, they must look for opportunities to embrace the fourth Industrial Revolution and bring about fundamental changes in the way industries and governments operate.

One such opportunity is the Global Fund’s new e-marketplace. The Global Fund — the world’s largest public health financier — mobilizes and invests nearly \$4 billion a year to accelerate the end of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as epidemics, and to support the building of resilient and sustainable health systems across the globe. The organization’s new e-marketplace platform will have the potential to revolutionize the procurement of public health goods by providing a sustainable, market-based approach.

The Global Fund’s e-marketplace will aim to address important issues — beginning with lifesaving supplies for the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, but with the ultimate goal of making the process available for a broad range of commodities to benefit procurement and supply chain systems across public health.

[Read More on Devex](#)



In 2015, 795 million people across the world did not get enough food to lead a normal, active life. This translates to one in nine of the world's population going to bed hungry every night, despite it costing as little as approximately 30 cents to feed a hungry child.

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## Oceans Will Contain More Plastic Than Fish By 2050

Today only 14 percent of plastic packaging is collected for recycling, according to the World Economic Forum. In comparison, the global recycling rate for paper is 58 percent, while that of iron and steel is 70 percent to 90 percent.

At least eight million tonnes of plastics - equivalent to one garbage truck every minute - leak into the ocean each year. A new 36-page report from the World Economic Forum and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "The New Plastics Economy: Rethinking the future of plastics," offers hope to bleak reality.

By redesigning materials and developing new technologies, the research shows it is possible to eradicate plastic waste.

[Read More on Huffington Post](#)



# CLTS Knowledge Hub

Strengthening and broadening  
Community-led Total  
Sanitation at scale

## Community-Led Total Sanitation

Plan International supports Community-led Total Sanitation (CLTS) implementation in a number of districts in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR).

One learning brief shares key findings from a case study of community-led total sanitation (CLTS) implementation in Plan International Laos program areas, focusing on the roles and responsibilities of local actors. Several implications are relevant for Plan International Laos and other sanitation practitioners working on CLTS programs.

The brief is part of the CLTS Learning Series, a collection of case studies on CLTS implementation, prepared by The Water Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as part of the Plan International USA project, Testing CLTS Approaches for Scalability. Plan International Laos will utilize existing baseline data to compare villages and see where CLTS has had greater success. This could help district government improve how it targets communities for CLTS and optimize the use of resources. Meanwhile, expanding the cadre of master trainers would help to standardize and scale up CLTS. District government plays an important part in Plan International Laos' CLTS activities. Validating their role through a memorandum of understanding or official mandate from higher authorities could help Plan International Laos engage them effectively and promote accountability.

[Download the Learning Brief from communityledtotalsanitation.org](http://communityledtotalsanitation.org)





## The Numbers of Child Mortality

Every year, millions of kids and teenagers die around the world, often from preventable and treatable conditions. It is a troubling statistic. But if you look beneath the surface numbers, you'll find signs of hope, says Theo Vos, a professor of global health at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Although progress is slow in some countries, he says, the data show rapid improvements in many others. Every year since 1990, in an effort funded mostly by the Gates Foundation, researchers have compiled a massive amount of mortality data from around the globe. Using sophisticated statistical techniques, they can then assess trends across time and place. In one of the latest analyses of data on deaths and disability from more than 300 diseases in 188 countries in 2013, Vos and colleagues reported in [JAMA Pediatrics](#) that deaths among young people up to age 19 totaled 7.7 million. More than 80 percent of those were kids age five and younger. The report offers lots of details about what kills kids most and where.

[Read More on npr.org](#)



# 新年快乐

To all our readers celebrating the Lunar New Year in China, Cambodia, Vietnam, Canada and elsewhere, we wish you a wonderful holiday...HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**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

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Production: Anna Oda

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