



# PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON GLOBAL HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS

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## A Global Perspective on Hypertension

Despite extensive knowledge about how to prevent and treat hypertension, it has been the number one killer in the world for more than ten years. Elevated blood pressure is the principal risk factor for cardiovascular diseases worldwide, affecting one billion individuals globally.

[Read More on The Lancet.](#)



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## July 2015 Was The Hottest Month on Modern Record

This last July was the planet's warmest month on record. And it's almost dead certain that this year will beat last year as the warmest year on record. July's average temperature was 16.6 Celsius (61.86 degrees Fahrenheit), beating the previous global mark set in 1998 and 2010 by 0.08 C. That's a large margin for weather records.

[Read More on CBC](#)  
[Read More on Newsweek](#)



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## Gender Disparities in Water, Sanitation and Global Health

While fetching water, women have increased risks of infection from physically transmitted diseases, such as diarrhoea. Chronic or persistent infection, in addition to the physical effort of carrying water, causes fatigue that is not only harmful to women's wellbeing, but also affects productivity and reduces energy and time for economic opportunities. Navigation of uneven terrain with substantial water loads can cause injury, especially if women are pregnant or have recently given birth.

[Read More on The Lancet](#)

## A Polio-Free World is in Sight: What's Needed to Wipe Out The Last 1%

The next three years are crucial in the global fight to eradicate the last 1% of polio cases and contain the virus across the world. But it will only become a reality with a combination of intensive vaccination campaigns and high-level surveillance to trace and monitor each polio case and circulating viruses.

[Read More on qz.com](#)

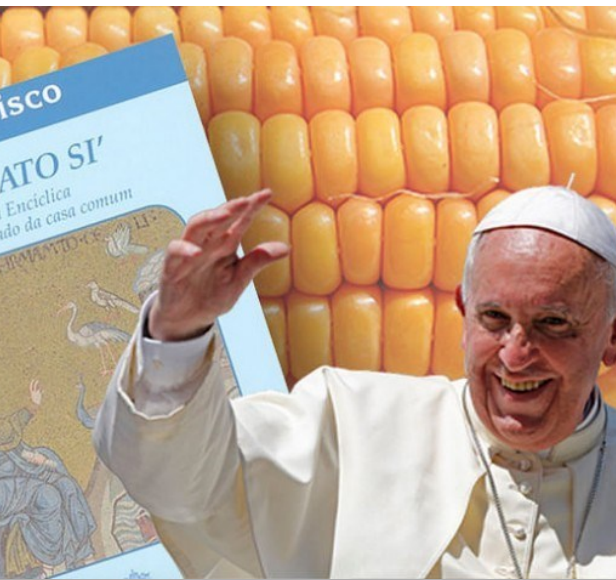


## Nearly One Million People Face Food Emergency in Drought-Hit Guatemala

Nearly one million people in Guatemala are struggling to feed themselves as continued poor rainfall has led to drought and shrunken harvests, worsening hunger among the poor, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said. Drought, a recurring problem in Central America's dry corridor, is exacerbated by extreme and erratic weather brought by climate change.

[Read More on trust.org](#)





## Pope Francis Cautions Against Transgenic Crops

No conclusive proof exists that genetically modified cereals may be harmful to human beings. But there remain a number of significant difficulties which should not be underestimated. Farmers are driven to become temporary labourers, many rural workers end up in urban slums, ecosystems are destroyed, and "oligopolies" expand in the production of cereals and inputs needed for their cultivation

[Read More on ipsnews](#)

## Economic Cost of The Health Impact of Air Pollution in Europe

Air pollution is the largest contributor to the burden of disease from the environment. Air pollution is a risk factor for several causes of death, but cardiovascular and cerebrovascular causes of death account for the greater share of attributable mortality: 80% in the case of ambient air pollution and 60% in the case of household air pollution.

[Read More on WHO](#)



World Health  
Organization



## Muslim Leaders Call for Action on Climate Change

Islamic leaders from 20 countries urged governments around the world to secure an international agreement on combating climate change. The document, called the Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change, provides a moral basis for the world's 1.6 billion Muslims to act on global warming much the same way Pope Francis is encouraging the world's Catholics and others to put pressure on governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

[Read More on Vice News](#)



## How Land Rights can Help End Child Marriage

Too often child marriage has been dismissed as intractable. Legal sanctions are not adequate to deal with what is essentially a socially endorsed act of discrimination against the girl child. Eradicating child marriage needs solutions that address the immediate needs and vulnerabilities of girls and also have the potential of influencing their lives in the long term.

[Read More on Devex](#)

## UN Health Agency Kicks-Off Campaign Honoring World's Health Workers

Attacks against health care workers and facilities are flagrant violations of international humanitarian law. Health workers have an obligation to treat the sick and injured without discrimination. All parties to conflict must respect that obligation. According to the WHO, in 2014 alone there were 372 attacks in 32 countries on health staff, resulting in 603 deaths and 958 injuries, while similar incidents have been recorded this year.

[Read More on UN](#)



## Truth, Reconciliation and Prisons

As is the case with adult Aboriginals, Aboriginal children and youth are over-represented in custody: girls make up 49% and boys 36% of admissions to youth custody. The TRC report puts it starkly at page 224: "Many of today's Aboriginal children and youth live with the legacy of residential schools every day, as they struggle to deal with high rates of addictions, fetal alcohol disorder, mental health issues, family violence, incarceration of parents and the intrusion of child- welfare authorities. All these factors place them at greater risk of involvement with crime."

[Read More on The Pearson Centre](#)



## QUOTE OF THE WEEK



"As science is telling us loud and clear, we have only a few short years in which to do what is needed to have a reasonable chance of staying within the internationally agreed temperature-rise threshold of 2 degrees Celsius ."

Ban Ki-moon  
U.N. Secretary-General

## EVENTSTABLE

DATE	CONFERENCE	LOCATION	REGISTER
<b>Aug. 28-Sept. 2</b>	The Society for the Advancement of Science in Africa (SASA) 3rd International Annual Conference	Toronto Canada	<a href="http://sasascience.org">http://sasascience.org</a>
<b>Sept. 16-18</b>	Community Health Centers: Agents for Care, Agents of Change	Ottawa Canada	<a href="http://www.cachc.ca/acac2015">http://www.cachc.ca/acac2015</a>
<b>Oct. 5-9</b>	Ryerson Social Justice Week	Toronto Canada	<a href="http://www.ryerson.ca/socialjustice/">http://www.ryerson.ca/socialjustice/</a>
<b>Nov. 5-7</b>	Canadian Conference on Global Health 2015	Montreal Canada	<a href="http://www.csih.org/en/events/ccgh2015">http://www.csih.org/en/events/ccgh2015</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 2015	St. John's Antigua	<a href="http://warfs15.squarespace.com">http://warfs15.squarespace.com</a>



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# FYI

## ULTIMATE CHECKLIST



### **The Ultimate Checklist for Video Conferences and Online Meetings**

Enjoy better meetings with colleagues, customers and business partners.  
Simply print out the checklist, keep it at your desk and pass it on to colleagues.

[Download the checklist from sdimg.com](http://sdimg.com)



Village in Northern Region, Ghana before public health musical event in December, 2014

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