



## WHEC UPDATE

**Briefings of worldwide activity of Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)**

January 2013; Vol. 8, No. 1

### *Practice & Policy*

Happy New Year from all of us @ Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)

Here is to Happy Beginnings! 2013 is the year of hope, heart and happiness.

Global health is far more multifaceted than is often perceived, and requires more than development aid to achieve. In a global world, we need an integrated approach which includes action on social determinants, social protection, the support for major health care programs at the local and country level, and the global agreements and commitments necessary to address the responsibilities and approaches of the many actors involved. One of the key challenges that global health faces at this point in time is the need to integrate the many laudable health initiatives which often run parallel to the health systems of the countries concerned. Too frequently, the global health debate is dominated by concentrating on the funding gap. For example, one calculation indicates that an extra \$ 250 billion would be needed to reach the health Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) over the next 5 to 10 years, of which \$ 70 billion would come from donors. It has been fundamental to refer major global health issues to the United Nations General Assembly in order to underline that: health must be considered an investment in both human and economic development; health is a central building block in fighting poverty and in ensuring sustainable development; and health security and protection is cornerstone of human security. With the establishment of the MDGs following the Millennium Summit in 2000 came the first breakthrough – the recognition of women's and children's health, as well as infectious diseases. Our global strategy – ***WomensHealthseciton.com*** – to improve maternal and child health worldwide was welcomed in 225 countries with service to 1 million visitors, every month in 2012 and growing fast.

Money is not enough. A much needed shift in perspective is required. Such as national development strategies that counteract fragmented, short-term, and unpredictable aid for health; better use of resources and different sectors of government to work together to promote health nationally and internationally. These remain difficult without the commitment and political will of the ruling elites. A case in point is the global non-communicable diseases challenge, which requires whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches. Mounting evidence highlights how millions of deaths can be averted and economic losses reduced by billions; but progress requires action in many policy arenas, such as social policy, urban development, taxation, and education.

More voices for health – more skills to negotiate. Global health deals with a wide range of concerns and tensions, not only between countries but between sectors, and between many different actors and interests. The growing complexity calls for better global health governance, including better coherence among multiple initiatives, clear distribution of responsibilities, and more transparency and accountability. The resulting debate revolves around key questions regarding where the leadership and authority on global health should lie, who should be involved, and what legitimate roles different actors should have, so that the potential of each of the diverse players can be utilized for the benefit of all.

Who better to take on this challenge than all of us?

Advancing Global Health Agenda

**Rita Luthra, MD**

## Your Questions, Our Reply

How can more stakeholders be involved in advancing global health? How can voices of civil society be heard?

**Joining Forces for Global Health:** In just over two decades, global health has gained a political visibility and status that some authors have called a political revolution. As health related issues have become a center piece of the global agenda, significant resources in development aid have been made available to address major health problems. At the national level, the diversity of global health issues has gradually brought ministries of health, foreign affairs, security, economics and development into a new dialogue. Global health today requires a skill mix of technical knowledge, negotiating expertise, as well as awareness about geopolitical constellations, overlapping alliances, and trade and economic implications, to mention just few. Some countries have begun to train negotiators in global health diplomacy and have introduced formal global health strategies to guide their actions in the global arena. This now includes not only World Health Organization (WHO), but other international venues, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Human Rights Council, and the Group of Twenty (G20) Finance Ministries and Central Bank of Governors. The proposal of a financial transaction tax, for example, has long been on the agenda of health advocates in order to secure sustainable financing for health programs.

Since 2008, the relationship between health and foreign policy is changing, as highlighted in the UN General Assembly resolution on Global Health and Foreign Policy. A group of foreign ministers have proposed that foreign policy apply a health lens, and that the protection of health interests should not necessarily be mutually exclusive with other core interests of countries. There are increasing opportunities where foreign policy interests can support health, and the initiatives by many emerging economies in South-South programs are a good example of this. Finding mutually beneficial synergies between countries is critical in order to move the global health agenda forward.

We support social agenda advocating health as a social value and human right, which includes action on the social determinants of health, access to medicines, and support for the MDGs relating to health, and the active engagement of philanthropies and civil society in a broad range of global health initiatives.

Create page/space in ***WomensHealthsection.com...*** and make a global impact.

## United Nations At A Glance

### UN Global Compact

What is UN Global Compact?

The Global Compact asks companies to embrace universal principles and to partner with the United Nations. It has grown to become a critical platform for the UN to engage effectively with enlightened global business.

The UN Global Compact is a strategic policy initiative for businesses that are committed to aligning their operations and strategies with [ten universally accepted principles](#) in the areas of [human rights](#), [labour, environment](#) and [anti-corruption](#). By doing so, business, as a primary driver of globalization, can help ensure that markets, commerce, technology and finance advance in ways that benefit economies and societies everywhere. As social, political and economic challenges (and opportunities) — whether occurring at home or in other regions — affect business more than ever before, many companies recognize the need to collaborate and partner with governments, civil society, labor and the United Nations.

This ever-increasing understanding is reflected in the Global Compact's rapid growth. With over 8700 corporate participants and other stakeholders from over 130 countries, it is the largest voluntary corporate responsibility initiative in the world. Endorsed by chief executives, the Global Compact is a practical framework for the development, implementation, and disclosure of sustainability policies and practices, offering participants a wide spectrum of work-streams, management tools and resources — all designed to help advance sustainable business models and markets. (See [How to Participate.](#))

Overall, the Global Compact pursues two complementary objectives:

1. Mainstream the ten principles in business activities around the world
2. Catalyze actions in support of broader UN goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

With these objectives in mind, the Global Compact has shaped an initiative that provides collaborative solutions to the most fundamental challenges facing both business and society. The initiative seeks to combine the best properties of the UN, such as moral authority and convening power, with the private sector's solution-finding strengths, and the expertise and capacities of a range of key stakeholders. The Global Compact is global and local; private and public; voluntary yet accountable.

The benefits of engagement include the following:

- Adopting an established and globally recognized policy framework for the development, implementation, and disclosure of environmental, social, and governance policies and practices.
- Sharing best and emerging practices to advance practical solutions and strategies to common challenges.
- Advancing sustainability solutions in partnership with a range of stakeholders, including UN agencies, governments, civil society, labor, and other non-business interests.
- Linking business units and subsidiaries across the value chain with the Global Compact's Local Networks around the world — many of these in developing and emerging markets.
- Accessing the United Nations' extensive knowledge of and experience with sustainability and development issues.
- Utilizing UN Global Compact management tools and resources, and the opportunity to engage in specialized work-streams in the environmental, social and governance realms.

## Collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO)

[Scaling-up services for cervical cancer prevention and control in low income countries is achievable](#)



23 August 2012 - A demonstration project led by WHO in six African countries in collaboration with the Ministries of Health and the International Agency for Research on Cancer showed the feasibility of integrating visual inspection with acetic acid followed by cryotherapy as a “see and treat” approach to prevent and control cervical cancer in primary health care and reproductive health services. As a result each country involved has presented and started to implement a budgeted plan to scale-up these services nationwide.

[A demonstration project in six African countries: Malawi, Madagascar, Nigeria, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia](#)

**Bulletin of the World Health Organization; Complete list of [contents](#) for Volume 91, Number 1, January 2013, 1-80**

**Collaboration with UN University (UNU)**

UNU-WIDER (World Institute for Development Economics Research) *Expert Series on Health Economics*:

Foreign Aid and Democratic Development in Africa

Over the past two decades, donors increasingly linked foreign aid to democracy objectives in sub-Saharan Africa. Yet systematic research on this topic typically focuses on how aid influences democratic transitions. This study investigates whether and how foreign aid affects the process of democratic consolidation in sub-Saharan Africa by examining two potential mechanisms: (1) the use of aid as leverage to buy political reform, and (2) investment in the opposition. We test these mechanisms using five dependent variables that capture different aspects of democratic consolidation. Using survival analysis for the period from 1991 to 2008, we find that democracy and governance aid has a consistently positive effect on democratic consolidation. Economic aid, on the other hand, has no effect on democratic consolidation.

Whether donors choose the recipient government as their primary implementing partner may also influence an aid-receiving country's prospects for democratic transitions and consolidation. For instance, aid delivered through governments may be more fungible than aid sent through third party actors, thus affecting the share of economic aid available for buying political reform. In our analysis, we have assumed that economic aid flows are fully accessible to recipient governments. Democracy and governance aid, too, can be delivered through both governments and non-state actors. Promoting democracy by directly funding civil society may have very different consequences on democratic consolidation than funding leaders who invest democracy aid in building state institutions. While the former directly strengthens the opposition, the latter may enable leaders to maintain a minimal level of democracy and maintain power, especially in countries with high levels of prior political institutionalization. Finally, does democracy and governance aid delivered to recipient governments primarily flow to those with greatest need for democracy? Or do donors favor non-state development actors in these situations? Answers to these important questions will improve our understanding of how foreign aid influences democratic consolidation.

Publisher: UNU-WIDER; Series: WIDER Working Paper;

Authors: Simone Dietrich and Joseph Wright; Sponsors: This working paper has been prepared within the UNU-WIDER project 'Foreign Aid: Research and Communication (ReCom)', directed by Tony Addison and Finn Tarp. UNU-WIDER gratefully acknowledges specific programme contributions from the governments of Denmark (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Danida) and Sweden (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency—Sida) for the Research and Communication (ReCom) programme. UNU-WIDER also acknowledges core financial support to UNU-WIDER's work programme from the governments of Finland (Ministry for Foreign Affairs), the United Kingdom (Department for International Development), and the governments of Denmark and Sweden.

*(Details of the paper can be accessed from the link of UNU-WIDER on CME Page <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/cme/>)*

## **United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI)**

*The Effort to Advance the Global Strategy*



### **Afghanistan:**

First-graders exhibit varying degrees of attention as a classmate does a math problem on the board at the front of the class at Speena Adi School in Kabul, Afghanistan, in May 2012. Some 3,800 students attend Grades 1 through 9 here.

Under Taliban rule, fewer than 50,000 girls attended school in Afghanistan. Today, 3.2 million attend.

Afghanistan has one of the highest proportions of school-age (7-12) children in the world: about 1 in 5 Afghans is a school-age child. Despite success in sending children to school, trends in gender disparity in education remain worrisome. The literacy rate for young women (aged 15-24) is 18 per cent, compared to 50 per cent for boys and the primary school completion rate for boys is 32 per cent, versus 13 per cent for girls. In terms of cohort tracking, only 30 per cent of girls (age 12 years) reach grade 5, compared to 56 per cent for boys.

According to the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission Report, 51.6 per cent of parents mention that the main factor preventing girls from attending primary school is accessibility and security. Other reported reasons why girls do not attend primary school are that the girls have to work (12.1 per cent), poverty (10.1 per cent) and child marriage (3.7 per cent).

Early marriages are very common; the mean age at first marriage is 17 years according to the 2003 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), the latest data source available on early marriages. The MICS also describes that child marriages account for 43 per cent of all marriages. This plays a part in the gender gap in education, with many associated health and social consequences such as the absence of female doctors/medical personnel, which makes access to medical services difficult for women.

### **Girls' Education Initiative**

UNGEI was launched in Afghanistan in March 2007 as the Afghanistan Girls' Education Initiative (AGEI).

#### **Partners**

At the national level, major partners in girls' education include: the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, Afghanistan Women's Educational Centre (AWEC), BRAC, Canadian Embassy, Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Women's Affairs, OXFAM, PACE-A (including CARE, IRC, CRS and AKF), Save the Children Alliance, Swedish Committee, Swedish Embassy, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIFEM, USAID, World Bank. Partnership has not been initiated at provincial and community levels.

### **Barriers to Girls' Education**

In addition to issues mentioned in the overview, the major barriers to girls' education include security issues, limited access to education due to lack of basic school infrastructure in the country and lack of female teachers.

#### **UNGEI in Action**

The key objectives for the Afghanistan Girls' Education Initiative are to:



- Strengthen national and international political commitment to improve the situation of girls' education in the country through lobbying.
- Function as an information and network hub for girls' education.
- Assist the Ministry of Education with strategies and implementation of activities to increase enrolment and retention of girls as outlined in the National Strategic Plan for Education (NSPE).

To address the barriers to girls' education, the following are key activities:

- Strengthening the protection mechanism at schools/communities for possible school incidents (school burning, threatening, explosion etc).
- School construction as well as provision of community-based schools as the outreach schools.
- Providing incentives for female teachers.

Progress

- The main activities carried out to date include:  
First Working Group Meeting, Afghanistan Girls' Education Meeting (26 Mar 2007).
- Selection Process of Young Champions.

*To be continued.....*

## Top Two-Articles Accessed in December 2012

1. Sexual Violence; <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/vaw/vaw013.php3>  
WHEC Publications. Special thanks to WHO, NIH, CDC and US Department of Health and Human Services for the contributions.
2. Stillbirth: Evaluation and Management;  
<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obs/obs032.php3>  
WHEC Publications. Gratitude is expressed to [Dr. Robert M. Silver](#), Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Chief, Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, University of Utah Health Sciences Center, Salt Lake City, UT (USA) for contributions and helpful suggestions in preparing the manuscript. Special thanks to the Board of Directors for providing the funding for research and development.

## From Editor's Desk

### 2013 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS GLOBAL REPORT - CALL FOR INFORMATION & PHOTOS



Dear friends and partners in the fight against modern slavery,

Through your work on the front lines of the fight against human trafficking, you gain critical information—both positive and negative—about the efforts of foreign governments and the U.S. government to address this issue. As always, your observations will be incredibly helpful to the Department of State as we draft the *2013 Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP Report)*. I urge you to help strengthen the *Report* by responding to this call for information. The relevant details, including the deadline, can be found below. However, if you wish to view the full solicitation, please see the [Federal Register Notice](#).

I also invite you to submit your organization's public awareness campaign materials, such as trafficking-related photos, billboards, posters, or murals that have been developed or disseminated over the last year. These may be featured (with credit) in the 2013 *TIP Report*. Please submit these in high resolution (1 MB or more) digital image files. We are particularly interested in stories about individuals who were misidentified or not initially identified as victims of trafficking and their ensuing experiences, including with the criminal justice, juvenile justice, family court, child welfare, and immigration systems; social and legal service providers; and medical and mental health providers.

Finally, we continue to build on the momentum sparked by President Obama's [speech](#) at the Clinton Global Initiative meeting on September 25, 2012, which was devoted exclusively to the issue of modern slavery. As President Obama said, "Our message today, to them, is -- to the millions around the world -- we see you. We hear you. We insist on your dignity. And we share your belief that if just given the chance, you will forge a life equal to your talents and worthy of your dreams." Thank you for making the faces of human trafficking seen and heard. I applaud your efforts not only to push for greater public awareness, but also to move people to act within their spheres of influence.

Ambassador Luis CdeBaca

**Background:** The TIP Report is the most comprehensive worldwide report on foreign governments' efforts to combat trafficking in persons. It represents an updated, global look at the nature and scope of trafficking in persons and the broad range of government actions to confront and eliminate it. The U.S. Government uses the TIP Report to engage in diplomacy to encourage partnership in creating and implementing laws and policies to combat trafficking and to target resources on prevention, protection, and prosecution programs. Worldwide, the report is used by international organizations, foreign governments, and nongovernmental organizations alike as a tool to examine where resources are most needed. Freeing victims, preventing trafficking, and bringing traffickers to justice are the ultimate goals of the report and of the U.S. Government's anti-human trafficking policy.

The Department prepares the TIP Report using information from across the U.S. government, U.S. embassies, foreign government officials, nongovernmental and international organizations, published reports, and research trips to every region. The TIP Report focuses on concrete actions that governments take to fight trafficking in persons, including prosecutions, convictions, and prison sentences for traffickers, as well as victim protection measures and prevention efforts. Each TIP Report narrative also includes a section on recommendations. These recommendations are then used to assist in measuring progress from one year to the next and in determining whether governments comply with the minimum standards to eliminate trafficking in persons or are making significant efforts to do so.

**Scope:** The Department of State requests information on the degree to which the United States' and foreign governments' complied in the year 2012 with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons ("minimum standards") that are prescribed by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, as amended ("TVPA"). This information will assist in the preparation of the *2013 Trafficking in Persons Report* that the Department will submit to appropriate committees in the U.S. Congress on countries' level of compliance with the minimum standards. Submissions should include, but need not be limited to, answering the questions in the *Information Sought* section below. Only those questions for which the submitter has direct professional experience should be answered and that experience should be noted. For any critique or deficiency described, please provide a recommendation to remedy it. Note the country or countries that are the focus of the submission.

Submissions may include written narratives that answer the questions presented below, research, studies, statistics, fieldwork, training materials, evaluations, assessments, and other relevant

evidence of local, state, and federal government efforts. To the extent possible, precise dates should be included. Respondents need not answer every question posed below; any responses that can be provided are greatly appreciated.

Where applicable, written narratives providing factual information should provide citations to sources and copies of the source material should be provided. If possible, send electronic copies of the entire submission, including source material. If primary sources are utilized, such as research studies, interviews, direct observations, or other sources of quantitative or qualitative data, details on the research or data-gathering methodology should be provided. The Department does not include in the report, and is therefore not seeking, information on prostitution, human smuggling, visa fraud, or child abuse, unless such conduct occurs in the context of human trafficking.

**Dates:** Submissions must be received by the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons by 5 p.m. on January 31, 2013. Written submissions and supporting documentation may be submitted by the following methods:

- *Email (preferred):* [tipreport@state.gov](mailto:tipreport@state.gov) for submissions related to foreign governments and [tipreportUS@state.gov](mailto:tipreportUS@state.gov) for submissions related to the United States.
- *Fax:* 202-312-9637
- *Mail, Express Delivery, Hand Delivery, and Messenger Service:* U.S. Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, 1800 G Street, NW, Suite 2148, Washington, DC 20520. Please note that materials submitted by mail may be delayed due to security screenings.

## Words of Wisdom

The journey of life

Life has been a mystifying journey  
With every up and down  
With tears and laughter  
With hate and love  
With stupidity and wisdom  
With enemies and friends  
But even in my journey of frustration  
I have found a means of celebration  
In my toilsome exploration to my fateful destination

– Sylvia Chidi (Germany)

\*\*\*\*\*

*Monthly newsletter of WHEC designed to keep you informed on  
the latest UN and NGO activities*

