Anniversary Edition

On **12 April 2026**, the Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) celebrates its **25th Birthday.** Established in 2001, WHEC was created to undertake projects / programs in collaboration with the United Nations (UN), the World Health Organization (WHO), and UNESCO. **The International Health and Development Portal** is created, to disseminate reliable, evidence-based and trusted information on international health and development challenges, for the healthcare providers and the public. Securing equitable access to quality and relevant education and lifelong learning for all, is central to achieving progress across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Today, however, progress towards the education-related targets of the 2030 Agenda is significantly off track. With what the world is going through, profound and existential changes – education, as we know it – is not fit for purpose and aim.

The word "governance" seems to frighten many parties in the technical and business communities, who equate it with "government" or with the idea that "a single entity controls the Internet." The term – **Internet Governance** – is routinely used among scholars and practitioners in the fields of international relations, public administration and political science, who do not find it frightening at all. Governance in this context refers to the rules and procedures that states and other involved parties agree to use to order and regularize their treatment of a common issue. There are a variety of means by which governance can be secured, ranging from defining property rights and letting the forces of the market provide order, through action by national authorities, to responsibility for order being assigned to international public organizations. Which is most appropriate, as will be seen, depends on how the governance issues are defined.

Hope our efforts help us all to build a better world. Women's Health & Education Center (WHEC) is a proud sponsor of United Nations' efforts to attain: health-for all and education-for-all. Join the conversation
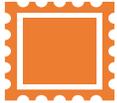
Principles of Effective Governance: The 11 principles of effective governance for sustainable development, aim to provide practical, expert guidance to interested countries on a broad range of governance challenges associated with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. First three principles focus on effectiveness: 1) Competence; 2) Sound Policy-making; 3) Collaboration. Three more principles address – Accountability. 4) Integrity; 5) Transparency; 6) Independent-oversight. It is essential to retain trust in government. Rest of the five principles focus on: Inclusiveness. 7) Leaving No One Behind; 8) Non-discrimination; 9) Participation; 10) Subsidiarity; and 11) Intergenerational equity.

The principes are designed to: help interested countries on a voluntary basis, build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels, with a view to achieving the shared vision for people and planet embodied in 2030 agenda. Support countries in operationalizing the institutional aspects of SDG 16 through concrete strategies, and promote mainstreaming of effective governance in SDG implantation and development plans and programmes at all levels.

At WHEC, we engage the relevant United nations Organizations, regional organizations and professional and academic communities, in an inclusive manner, together with all relevant stakeholders. Share your point of view on *WHEC Global Health Line* (WGHL)… Create an account.

A Story 25 Years In Making
Rita Luthra, MD

Your Questions, Our Reply

Can Global Health Initiatives catalyze change in countries? Internet Governance? What are we talking about? What is Governance?

Mapping International Internet Governance: Throughout the history of electronic communication networks, major technological innovations have led to the development of international governance arrangements with almost predictable regularity. The fact that these debates have taken place against the backdrop of a broader discussion about the effects of globalization, and the roles of the private sector and civil society in international decision making, have led some to see the Internet as the standard bearer for a much broader governance reform agenda, both positively and negatively. In the English language, "governance" is an old term which, like "civil society," fell into disuse, but which has been revived, given new meaning, and attained widespread currency. Like "government" and "governor," it is derived from the Latin word "governate" – the action of steering a ship. A popular definition reflects these ancient Roman roots by defining governance as "steering, not rowing." This definition captures an essential feature of the current concept of "governance."

In this concept, there is a distinction between people, structures, and processes that do the "rowing" in any human system – and the people, structures and processes that establish general goals for the system and guide the "rowers" toward these goals, setting the tempo and changing the course as necessary. Although Internet Governance in some senses is a "wedge issue," progress will depend on not overburdening an already difficult problem.

The Internet is a decentralized network of networks. The mission of WHEC Global Health Line Network is to help identify ways to harness the potential for economic and social development, by promoting partnerships of public, private, non-profit and civil society stakeholders to advance the global effort to bridge the digital divide. There are a number of different ways in which systems can be governed or steered. These can be conceived as ranging on a continuum from "hard" forms of governance such as laws and regulations to "softer" forms such as standards, policy coordination and voluntary cooperation. In any society, no matter how free, almost every activity is subjected to multiple sources of "hard" governance in the form of generally applicable laws and regulations, as well as to multiple sources of "soft" forms of social control that apply specifically to these activities and are tailored to their particular feature.

The global debate on Internet Governance is in a luminal state. The development of Internet-Governance-related policies and strategies at the national and international levels could help advance the global dialogue and engage in collective problem solving. However, Internet Governance, like any form of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) governance, is not an end in itself, but is undertaken to achieve more general economic and social goals.

The vision of constructing Internet Governance arrangements that are multilateral, transparent and democratic with the full involvement of all stakeholders is a noble challenge. I am optimistic; we can develop the infrastructure for: *Intelligent Internet*

We at Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) believe broad agenda for reforming a mixed health system can be phased in stages, with the first step being the creation of appropriate laws, policies and frameworks, the next step restructuring in pilot settings, before scaling up across the system.

59th Session of Commission on Population and Development
https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/events/CPD59

Priority Theme:
Population, technology and research in the context of sustainable development.

Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) @ CPD59

Written Statement (Accepted for Publication)
Achieving Quality Education and Universal Health Coverage for 2030 Agenda

Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) addresses this issue by reinforcing the coordination among key international organizations and national actors working on Sustainable Development policies and framework, by bringing more coordinated support to UN Member States. WHEC's publications are aimed at a broad range of audience, and it is hoped that everyone who reads this, will come away with a realization of the complexity of the issues at stake and an appreciation of the work that lay in front of us. We are committed to supporting gender-sensitive policies, planning and learning environments; mainstreaming gender issues in teacher training and curricula; and eliminating gender-based discrimination and violence in schools.

Virtual Side Event
Knowledge Generation and Dissemination
Achieving Quality Education and Developing Health Coverage
16 April 2026; 8:30am to 9:45am (EDT, New York time)

Announcement / Invitation / Flyer

http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/Flyer-59-CPD-16-April.pdf

Concept Note

http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/59th-Session-of-CPD-ConceptNote.pdf

Speakers' List / Agenda and Zoom link to participate coming soon and will be available @

http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whec/cpd.php3

Join us!

No Registration Fee; All are welcome!

United Nations at a Glance

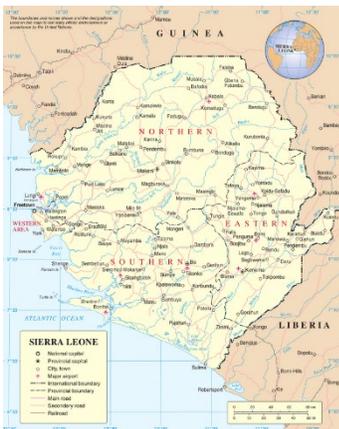**Sierra Leone** became UN Member State on 27 September 1961

Sierra Leone, officially the **Republic of Sierra Leone,** is a country on the southwest coast of West Africa. It is bordered to the southeast by Liberia and by Guinea to the north. Sierra Leone's land area is 73,252 km^2 (28,283 sq. mi). It has tropical climate and environments ranging from savannas to rainforests. Population (2023): 8.9 million; Capital: Freetown; Official language: English; Ethnic groups: Temne 36%, 33% Mende, 6.4% Limba, and 4.4% Kono. Government Untary presidential republic; Legislature: Parliament. Currency: Leone (SLE).

Sierra Leone is a presidential republic, with a unicameral parliament and a directly elected president. It constitution provides for the separation of state and religion and freedom of conscience (which encompasses both freedom of thought and religion). Muslims constitute three-quarters of the population, and there is significant Christian minority. Notably, religions tolerance is very high: it is both a social norm and part of the nation's cultural identity.

Sierra Leone's current territorial configuration was established in two phases: in 1808, the coastal Sierra Leone Colony was founded as a place to resettle returning Africans after the abolition of the slave trade; when in 1896, the inland Protectorate was created as a result of Berlin Conference of 1884 – 1885. This led to the formal recognition of the territory as the Sierra Leone Colony and Protectorate. Sierra Leone attained independence from the United Kingdom in 1961 under the leadership of Prime Minister Sir Milton Margai of Sierra Leone People's Party. In 1971, under Prime Minister Siaka Stevens of the All People's Congress, the country adopted a new constitution, transforming Sierra Leone into a presidential republic, with Stevens as the inaugural president.

Sierra Leone has good relations with the West, including the United States, and has maintained historical ties with the U.K. the U.K. has played a major role in providing aid to the former colonies through its membership of the Commonwealth of Nations. Sierra Leone is a member of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the African Union, the African Development Bank, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and Non-Aligned Movement. Sierra Leone is member of the International Criminal Court with a Bilateral Immunity Agreement of protection for the US military.

Sierra Leone is the 66th most peaceful country in the world, according to the 2024 Global Peace Index.

According to a 2015 US Department of State report, "the most significant human rights problems included a lack of universal access to justice; widespread official corruption in all branches of government; and trafficking in persons, including forced child labor." The Republic of Sierra Leone is composed on 5 regions: the Northern Province, North West Province, Southern Province, the Eastern Province, and the Western Area. Four provinces are further divided into 14 districts; the Western Area is divided into 2 districts.

The country is among the top 10 diamond producing countries. It is known for its blood diamonds. Education in Sierra Leone is legally required for all children for six years at primary level and three years in junior secondary education, but a shortage of schools and teachers has made implantation impossible.

Details: https://sdgs.un.org/statements/sierra-leone-15903

Collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO | Sierra Leone

Strengthening the health system to achieve universal health coverage

With WHO support, access to quality essential health services improved significantly. National health sector policies and strategic technical documentation were developed, including the National Health Sanitation Policy, the National Health Sector Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025, the National Quality of Care (QoC) Policy; the Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) Strategic Roadmap, among others. Implementation of these documents is being supported to improve health outcomes in Sierra Leone.

In addition to supporting routine vaccination services, WHO also supported the delivery and implementation of emergency vaccinations including COVID-19. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and infection prevention and control (IPC) are among the key priorities for improving the quality of health care services. WHO provided technical support in the development and validation of a comprehensive five-year AMR surveillance strategic plan which included a two-year costed implementation plan..

Strengthening country preparedness and response to public health emergencies

WHO leverages its comparative advantage as the leading technical organization in the health sector to strengthen the country[s capacity to prevent, detect and respond to emergencies. Guidelines, protocols, and standard operating procedures were developed and followed during the COVID-19 case identification and investigation, contact tracing and capacity building of the health workforce.

National capacity for rapid detection and response to public health emergencies was strengthened through investment and improvements in the national Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) system. This is seen in the consistently high completeness and timeliness of public health surveillance reporting. On average,, over 95% of health facilities submitted their weekly reports and the quality of the weekly epidemiological data reported and relayed via the electronic IDSR platform improved from 67% to 89%.

Health System in Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone's health system is served by a network of over 1,300 public and private health facilities, including 51 secondary and tertiary hospitals. The health system is organized into three tiers of care: Peripheral health units (PHU) with the extended community health workforce (CHW) programme; district hospitals; and referral hospitals. Geographically access to health services has improved in the past 10 years, as the country has been investing in infrastructure development and re-activation of the National CHW Programme to bring these services closer to communities. ***Financing for the health*** sector is dominated by out of pocket spending by households, which contributes to over 50% of the health sector expenditure, followed by external donors and the Government of Sierra Leone.

Details: https://www.who.int/countries/sle/

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Collaboration with UNESCO

Sierra Leone became UNESCO Member State in 1962

Sierra Leone implementing its first National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy

The National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy is one outcome of a UNESCO project funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) that has been strengthening Science, Technology and Innovation Systems for Sustainable Development in Africa since 2020.

The project aligns with both the UNESCO Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers (2017) and the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science (2021). Consequently,, it includes specific objectives related to open science, gender equality, respect for scientific freedom and scientific responsibility, among other thematic areas. Despite gaining independence over 60 years ago, Sierra Leone remains a low-income country with a GDP of just US$4.20 billion in 2021. The chronic lack of investment in science and the absence of ties between science and society and the economy have relegated the country to the sidelines of today's rapid scientific and technological progress.

Sierra Leone and partners launch a digitalized policy tracker to support education transformation in country and globally.

The Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education School Education (MBSSE) has launched an online library for policies and other relevant documents for use by all stakeholders. The online policy library aims to raise awareness of education goals, ease access to key information, and inform the programs and policies of decision-makers in both the state and non-state actors.

Education policies are the bedrock for increasing access to education, ensuring equity across the education system, and enhancing the quality of education delivery. For the last five years these goals have guided the work of the Government of Sierra Leone, collaborating with development parties and stakeholders in society to transform the country's education system through a set of robust policies and programmes.

With financial support from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the World's Bank's Free Education Project, as well as technical support from the Education Partnerships Group (EPG), the OPP pillar instituted a fit-for-purpose structure for the development policy, drafting of templates, system-wide consultative processes, and robust quality assurance methods. Recent policy and legislative outputs include the National Policy on Radical Inclusion in Schools, the Comprehensive School Safety Policy, the School Infrastructure and Catchment Area Planning, Non-Formal Education Policy and the 2023 Basic Education Act. Several guidelines have also been published, which provide practical direction for areas of work, such as school approval and use of school subsidies guidelines.

Details: https://www.unesco.org/en/countries/sl

Education-for-All and Health-for-All

Bulletin Board

Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015
….. *Sustainable Development Goals Continued*

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.

14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.

14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels.

14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.

14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.

14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation.

14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits of Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.

14.a Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and Least Developed Countries.

14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.

14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want.

To be continued…….

Unravelling Aid Funding
Linking funding allocation patterns and localization in Sierra Leone

Development assistance funding by international donors is rarely channeled to / through local actors. While there are strong normative and practical arguments for localizing funding, progress has been piecemeal as donors are largely left to their own devices how, when, and how much to localize.

This paper explores the antecedents to donor aid allocation and poses the question: 'How and why do donors vary in their extent of localization (as defined by the use of local channels to disburse aid funding)/' Contemporary aid projects are rarely conceived, implemented, or managed by those they are intended to help. In 2021, only 1.2% of total international humanitarian funding went directly to local and national actors. When it comes to development aid, the biggest bilateral donors give almost no aid directly to recipient governments or local organizations.

Foreign aid funding failing to reach local actors directly is problematic for four main reasons. First, people whose lives are most affected by the development challenges best understand how to solve them. Thus, local organizations and government bodies that are typically embedded in the host societies have vital expertise and the contextual know-how to respond to issues. Second, while the development sector typically follows 3 or 5-year project cycles, social transformation takes longer. To ensure sustainability, the buy-in and long-term commitment of local actors is imperative. Third, amidst the growing movement to decolonize aid, it is widely acknowledged that existing funding pathways with several international intermediaries perpetuate power imbalances. In this direction, funding locally is seen as a means to challenge existing power relations. Finally, on a practical basis, funding locally makes aid programming cost-effective for the donor.

Using the case of aid-dependent Sierra Leone and applying a mixed methods design combining primary interviews with analysis of the Development Assistance Database, author finds the projects funded by multilateral donors are more likely to be localized than those of bilateral donors, who prioritize funneling aid through actors from their home countries.

Author also finds that the nature of aid assistance (i.e. whether funding is provided through loans or grants) is significantly determines the extent to which local channels are used. Lastly, author shows that these trends manifest at the sectoral level, where sectors dominated by bilateral donors often use parallel implementation structures, while sectors dominated by multilateral donors see greater usage of local channels and capacities.

Additionally, while projects by multilateral donors may appear more localized, author finds no evidence that such projects are more impactful or participatory than projects funded by other donor types.

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

Two Articles of Highest Impact, March 2026

Editors' Choice – Journal Club Discussions
Fully open-access with no article-processing charges
Our friendship has no boundaries. We welcome your contributions.

1. **Autism Spectrum Disorder: Part 1;**
   http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obsnc/AutismSpectrumDisorder-Part-1.pdf
   WHEC Publications. Funding: WHEC Global Initiatives are funded by a grant from an anonymous donor. Join us at WHEC Global Health Line for discussion and contributions.

2. **Pelvic Fistulae in Women: Diagnostic Tests and Management;**
   http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/urogvvf/urogvvf013.php3
   WHEC Publications. Funding: WHEC Global Initiatives are funded by a grant from an anonymous donor. Join us at WHEC Global Health Line for discussion and contributions.

Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (World Health Organization) PMNCH Member

Worldwide service is provided by the WHEC Global Health Line

World Health Day 2026

7 April 2026

Together for Health. Stand with Science.

World Health Day is observed on 7 April, every year. It calls on people, this year everywhere, to stand with Science. Under the theme "Together for health. Stand with science," this year's observance launches a year-long campaign celebrating the power of scientific achievements and the multilateral cooperation needed to turn evidence into action – through a strong focus on the One Health approach.

Anchoring the 2026 are two major global moments: the International One Health Summit (7April), hosted by WHO and the Government of France under the French G7 Presidency, and the inaugural Global Forum of WHO Collaborating Centers (7-9 April), gathering nearly 800 scientific institutions from over 80 countries. Together, these events form the largest scientific network ever convened around a United Nations agency, underscoring how science-driven partnerships can build a healthier, safer future for all. The campaign invites people everywhere to participate – by scientific achievements, engaging with evidence, sharing personal stories of how science improves lives, and joining the global conservation through #StandWithScience.

Campaign Goals:
- Stand with science by engaging with evidence, facts, and science-based guidance to protect health;
- Rebuild trust in science and public health; and
- Support science-led solutions for a healthier future.

One Health
One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems. It recognizes that the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and interdependent. The approach can be applied a the community, subnational, national, regional and global levels, and relies on shared and effective governance, communication, collaboration and coordination.

https://www.who.int/about/collaboration/collaborating-centres

Working with International Platforms – An Memorable Experience

Some journeys change mankind forever.

So far, it has been a fascinating intellectual journey. We have met some incredibly interesting people on this road from all over the world. We just hope that we manage to convey some of their excitement to you to develop projects/programs in women's health and health development. More than ever, the world needs new and meaningful initiatives in health and education. Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) continues to open its doors to new partners, and we are especially excited about how the scholarship and engagement of the academic communities can benefit our work for human well-being. I look forward to the contributions our scholarly partnership can make in our efforts to improve maternal and child health, and build a more peaceful and just world for all.

Through global education, we must prepare world citizens who understand the interconnected nature of our planet and who are willing to act on behalf of people everywhere. We each must spend more time learning about other cultures and other lands. A global education considers the world as a whole, with a rich interplay of nations, cultures, and societies. Having a global education and being a world citizen is the key element for peace, health, education and all other elements of progress. Education must catch up to globalization.

Once again we ended another year of cooperation with the community of NGOs, healthcare providers from all over the world and as is customary it is our pleasure to send you the annual report. This year's anniversary edition includes work of the past year, and to look at plans for the future. Our initiative was included in the Directory of Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD), Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), United Nations (UN). All of us at Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) thank you for helping us in making this the most read journal in reproductive health and health development worldwide.

This unique service is becoming a part of many countries continuing medical education systems including US educational. We keep the promise and will continue to provide excellence in women's health and research. Special thanks to our writers, reviewers and editors – without their diligent and tireless work this initiative would not have succeeded. Women's Health Section (WomensHealthSection.com) does not come online when you click on it – it is always online – 24/7, all year around in 227 countries/territories, day and night.

Our ability to navigate a steady course relies upon our consistent achievement of strong reader's base. With a solid foundation, we are then able to successfully build upon our strengths and grow in a careful manner while never losing our focus on our primary purpose that is, providing evidence-based medicine to healthcare professionals worldwide – we serve.

Let us get conversation started! *Looking beyond the numbers*

Eliminating inequities in maternal health requires exploring the social, cultural and contextual reasons for the inequalities. The most recent edition of "Entre Nous," the European magazine on sexual and reproductive health, explores how various countries throughout the Region are using the "Beyond the Numbers" tool developed by the WHO Making Pregnancy Safer program. Beyond the Numbers provides approaches for examining the background of maternal deaths and major

complications and defining requirements for further improving the quality of care. These stories – reported through verbal autopsies, confidential inquiries, near-miss case reviews and case audits – provide social and cultural insights that number counting cannot.

The term globalization applies to a set of social processes that appear to transform our present social condition of weakening nationality into one of global citizenship. The concept of globalization reflects the sense of an immense enlargement of world communication, as well as the horizon of a world market, both of which seem far more tangible and immediate than in earlier stages of modernity. As a concept it refers both to the compression of the world and the intensification of consciousness of the world as a whole. In a nutshell, globalization compresses the time and space aspects of social relations. It refers to the expansion and intensification of social relations and consciousness across world-time and world-space.

Globalization is a long-term process that, over many centuries, has crossed distinct qualitative thresholds. We must link the future course of globalization to a profoundly reformist agenda. The building of a truly democratic and egalitarian global order that protects universal human rights without destroying the cultural diversity is the lifeblood of human evolution, and that is a noble mission.

_____

Magna Carta – *The Unknown Charter of Liberties*

Many contemporary writers believed that monarchs should rule in accordance with the custom and law, with the counsel of the leading members of the realm, but there was no model for what would happen if a king refused to do so.

Created in 1215; 811 years ago; authors: John, King of England, His barons, Stephen Langton. And Archbishop of Canterbury. Purpose: Peace treaty. – to make peace between the unpopular king and a group of rebel barons who demanded that the King confirm the **Charter of Liberties.** It promised the protection of church rights, protectional for the barons from illegal imprisonment, access to swift and impartial justice, and limitations on feudal payments to the Crown. It was implemented through a council of 25 barons.

Central Concept: the royal prerogative is a body of customary authority, privilege, and immunity recognized in common law as belonging to the sovereign, and which have become widely vested in the government. It is the means by which some of the executive powers of government, possessed by and vested in the government. It is the means by which some of the executive powers of government, possessed by and vested in a monarch with regard to the process of governance of the state, are carried out. **Divine right of kings** is a political and religious doctrine of political legitimacy of monarchy in post-Reformation Western Christianity culmination in the Age of Absolutism.

It is also known as the divine-right theory of kingship.

Neither side stood by their commitments, and the charter was annulled by Pope Innocent III, leading to the First Baron's War. At the end of the 16th century, there was an upsurge of interest in Magna Carda. It influenced the early American colonists in the **Thirteen Colonies** and the formation of the **United States Constitution,** which became the supreme law of the land in the new republic of the United States.

Perspectives on Global Health and Global Governance

Global health appears to be undergoing a gradual shift in focus away from diseases towards systems. This is partly a response to the difficulties that disease-specific global health initiatives have experienced in meeting individual program targets and internationally agreed benchmark, in spite of significant increases in development assistance over the past decade. It is also a response to the fiscal constraints caused by the global financial crisis, which has created an environment in which governments and development partners are not only striving to secure resources for development but are also focusing attention on improving returns on spending by strengthening poorly functioning public systems. As a result, there has been increased attention on health systems by major global health initiatives, the governments of the Group of Eight (G8) high-income countries, private foundations, new international partnerships and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The diversity in design of health systems around the world, complicated by the interconnectedness of health systems with the country's body politics, must be considered in any effort to strengthen health systems. Reform of mixed health systems (public-private funding) needs to include measures both within and outside the health-care system. The first priority is to address broader constraints of the political and economic systems that are manifest in inequalities of power, money and resources, one of the strongest determinants of health status achievement. Debt limitations, fiscal responsibility and measures to broaden the tax base are necessary to create the needed fiscal space in the developing countries for the health sector; macroeconomic reform is critical for economic growth that benefits the poor and for bridging broader social inequalities.

Reform of public service and financial management to promote transparency in governance can deeply impact performance of a health system. It is presently not within the remit of most of the global health initiatives neither to invest in prepayment mechanisms, and build capacity of health systems in pre-service education nor to lend impetus to broad-based health systems reform, which appears to be needed in most countries to bridge some of the critical gaps. Expanding the mandate of these initiatives, possibly through a new health systems financing platform, could permit them to engage in countries with a broader set of issues to boost public financing, maximize the work of a broad range of providers, consolidate health information systems at large, work towards building a sustainable workforce and lobby for workforce retention regulation.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Public Services

AI adoption is steadily gaining momentum in North Africa, particularly in healthcare and agriculture. For example, Morocco has introduced AI-powered tools for agricultural monitoring to optimize resource use and predict crop yields with greater accuracy. Similarly, Tunisia is exploring AI in urban planning using data-driven models to improve traffic management and enhance public transport systems.
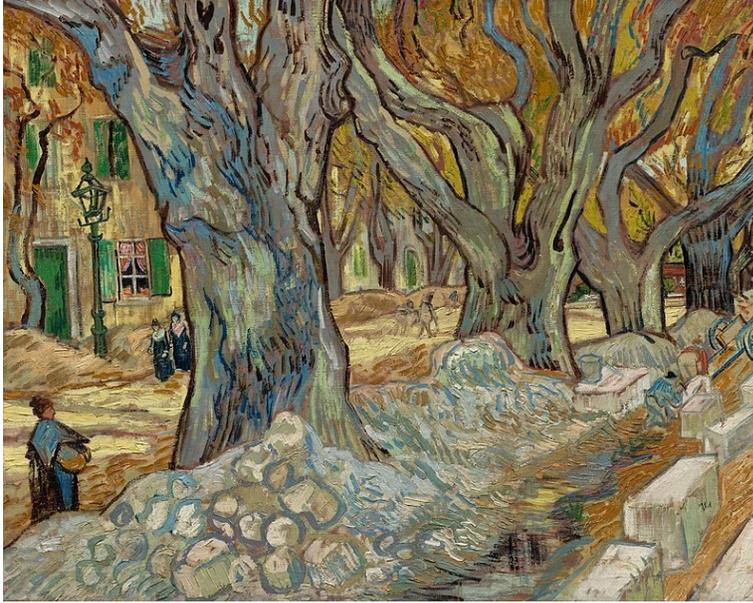
Women in Technology

Efforts to empower women in technology are gaining traction, though challenges remain, Initiatives like SheTech Tunisia and Egypt's TechWomen Network are equipping women with the skills needed to lead in tech industry. By offering mentorship. Training, and networking, these initiatives are empowering a new generation of female tech leaders who are actively shaping the region's digital landscape.

Art & Science
Art that touches our soul

The Large Plane Trees by **Vincent van Gogh**

The Large Plane Trees, also known as ***Road Menders at Saint-Rémy***, is an oil-on-canvas painting by Vincent van Gogh. Painted in 1889 in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, France, the painting depicts roadworks underneath the autumn trees with yellow leaves.

Van Gogh also painted a second version of the scene, titled *The Road Menders,* which is part of the Phillips Collection in Washington D.C.

Analysis of painting has shown that *The Large Plane Trees* was created first, with *The Road Menders* being a copy with virtually identical outlines.

Van Gogh depicted road work in Saint-Rémy. In 2013, the two paintings were displayed together as part of the Van Gough Repetitions exhibition at the Phillips Collection before *The Large Plane Trees* was moved to Cleveland, Ohio.

Dimensions: 73.4 cm X 91.8 cm (28.9 in X 36.1 in)

Location: The painting now is in the Clevland Museum of Art in the U.S. state of Ohio.

****

Monthly newsletter of WHEC designed to keep you informed on
The latest UN and NGO activity

http://www.WomensHealthSection.com