Dear Colleagues,

It is World Humanitarian Day tomorrow Saturday, August 19th. This week there were several events from the Sierra Leone mudslide disaster to the growing crisis in Yemen and its devastating effects to has had on the population to the rescue of migrants in Spain some of whom were fleeing to Yemen for refuge. There were also messages raising queries on different humanitarian situations across the globe and the way forward. We have shared some of them here.

In the same light, our featured article this week, by Clara Affun-Adegbulu a Masters Student who is also a current intern at the IHP unit, is on lessons learned at the recently held WHO Europe Summer School on Refugee and Migrant Health in Sicily, Italy.

Enjoy your reading.

The editorial team

Featured Article

What I learned at the WHO Europe Summer School on Refugee and Migrant Health

About this time a month ago, I walked into the arrival lounge of Catania International Airport, looking bleary-eyed for the shuttle driver who was supposed to pick me up. I was grateful to see the placard that had the words ‘WHO Summer School’ inscribed on it, because I was suddenly overcome with fatigue and felt lightheaded.

The flight seemed to have lasted for eternity, and I slept fitfully throughout the journey - the consequence of my bad decision to spend the previous night sleepless at a concert. For nothing in the world would I miss a Nigerian artist playing in Brussels. However, how could I as a budding global health and development researcher miss the chance to attend such an important event? I decided to do both, and while I regret attending the concert where I hadn’t - by the time I left at 4am to catch my
flight - seen the recalcitrant headlining act, I am pleased to say that the Summer School which ran from the July 10 – 14, 2017, exceeded my expectations.

The Summer School which took place in Syracuse, Italy was entitled ‘Managing the public health aspects of migration’ and had been billed as a forum intended to promote dialogue between policymakers, researchers and practitioners. It was supposed to be “a space for bridging research, policy and practice; sharing practical, real-world knowledge and experience; and fostering debate and critical thinking,” with the aim of providing “the necessary guidance, training and support tools to enable public health workers, service providers and planners to understand and implement appropriate migrant-sensitive interventions, while enabling the sharing of knowledge and skills among participating countries.”

I applied for a place on the course because as a migrant myself, a nurse and a student of public health, I am acutely aware of health inequalities particularly concerning people on the move. I am passionate about improving health outcomes and access to healthcare for such vulnerable people, and I felt that the Summer School would equip me with the knowledge and skills needed to make me a better advocate and practitioner. It turned out I was right, but not for the reasons I expected.

The course content itself was very interesting, and I gained some practical skills from the workshop ‘Planning in advance to manage large influxes of refugees and migrants,’ where we were given a scenario and told to make a contingency plan to deal with it. I also enjoyed the plenary session on the epidemiology of refugee and migrant health, particularly the lecture on communicable diseases given by Professor Ibrahim Abubakar, the director of University College London’s Institute for Global Health. He told us with some irony, that in these days of cheap flights and mass tourism, pandemics are more likely to be started by infected non-migrant travellers jet-setting around the world, than by refugees who use longer more treacherous routes.

Other highlights include the lecture on culture and co-production in migrant health programmes by Roberta Blivins, Professor of History at the University of Warwick. She reminded us of the role of cultural awareness in health provision for migrants and the importance of incorporating migrants into the ‘public’ of public health.

The panel discussion on managing the public health aspects of refugees and migrants was also very interesting. Representatives from the ministries of health in Turkey, Greece and Serbia were invited to talk about their country’s experience, including their challenges, successes and findings. Although the discussion was indeed sobering, it was also encouraging to hear for instance that the Ministry of Health in Turkey, financed by the World Health Organization, now had an accreditation process for integrating Syrian medical professionals into the local health system.

Apart from the networking opportunities the summer school provided me with, the best part of the entire five days for me was the time spent discussing, debating and exchanging ideas with other young researchers. It was interesting to hear about the work other people were doing, and inspiring to see my passion reflected in them, as we shared stories and experiences.
At the end of the programme, we decided to keep the network going and have formalised it with a Facebook group The Migration and Health Network which is open to anyone interested in the health and healthcare of migrants.

Outside of ‘classes,’ I enjoyed the sunshine, the delicious Italian food and time with new friends, although I sometimes felt uncomfortable about some of the ‘lavish’ treatment we received.

In all, the summer school was a good first attempt, and I applaud the organisers for the initiative. I hope however that they will take all the feedback we provided into account when organising the next edition.

Professor Abubakar’s presentation can be found at here.

**Highlights of the week**

**World Humanitarian Day**

**UN- WHD: Secretary-General's Message**


“Every year on World Humanitarian Day, we shine a spotlight on the millions of civilians around the world whose lives have been caught up in conflict. On this day, we also take a moment to honour the brave health and aid workers who are targeted or obstructed as they set out to help people in need, and pay tribute to the government employees, and representatives of international organizations and agencies who risk their daily lives to provide humanitarian aid.”

**UN- 2017 WHD campaign: #NotATarget**


“Around the world, conflict is exacting a massive toll on people’s lives. Trapped in wars that are not of their making, millions of civilians are forced to hide or run for their lives. Children are taken out of school, families are displaced from their homes, and communities are torn apart, while the world is not doing enough to stop their suffering. At the same time, health and aid workers – who risk their lives to care for people affected by violence – are increasingly being targeted. For WHD 2017, humanitarian partners are coming together to reaffirm that civilians caught in conflict are #NotATarget. Through a global online campaign featuring an innovative partnership with Facebook Live, together with events held around the world, we will raise our voices to advocate for those most vulnerable in war zones, and demand that world leaders do everything their power to protect civilians in conflict.”
“As World Humanitarian Day 2017 approaches, it appears the demands for humanitarian assistance are greater now than in living memory. We are working in a particularly unstable world characterised by an escalation of conflict-related crises and mounting numbers and flows of displaced people, asylum seekers and refugees. And the challenge of meeting the needs of these people is heightened due to alarming decline in respect and adherence to international humanitarian law,” says John Mitchell.

“World Humanitarian Day 2017 will bring the world together to reaffirm that civilians trapped in conflict are #NotATarget. The United Nations and partners will call on people across the globe to stand together and sign a petition at www.worldhumanitarianday.org demanding that global leaders do everything in their power to protect civilians trapped in conflict.”

“The global debates currently surrounding humanitarian action and its future are being discussed widely in numerous fora and changes are already being felt in many parts of the world: from the localisation agenda to climate change; from counter-terrorism efforts to the growing perception that the world is increasingly more dangerous for aid workers. Humanitarian access is undoubtedly affected by all of these, offering aid workers new challenges to reach those most in need.”

“As conflicts rage across the globe selfless workers risk their lives on a daily basis to provide aid to the civilians left in their wake. The increasingly vital role that aid workers fill will be marked on August 19 with the celebration of World Humanitarian Day (WHD). And humanitarians around the globe don’t just answer the call for help when war breaks out – they also rush to the rescue when a natural disaster hits or to tackle effects of poverty in the world’s most deprived locations.”
Symposium in Uganda on health financing for UHC

The weeklong ‘Symposium on health financing for universal health coverage in low and middle income countries’ rounds off today. You can read it here.

WHO - Cholera count reaches 500 000 in Yemen


“The total number of suspected cholera cases in Yemen this year hit the half a million mark on Sunday, and nearly 2000 people have died since the outbreak began to spread rapidly at the end of April. “The overall caseload nationwide has declined since early July, particularly in the worst affected areas. But suspected cases of the deadly waterborne disease continue to rage across the country, infecting an estimated 5000 people per day.”

Global health security

Joint external evaluation process: bringing multiple sectors together for global health security


“The JEE tool and process have achieved broad international support. As a result, the JEE country evaluation process is catalysing dialogue between sectors and helping shift the paradigm from an approach primarily oriented towards human health to a more holistic and integrated, multisectoral, One Health or Whole-of-government approach.6 Plans alone without implementation serve little purpose and developing National Action Plans is crucial. Planning is everything and an essential element is to involve all relevant stakeholders in the planning process, identify their roles and responsibilities, and ensure a truly collaborative approach with joint prioritisation for national funding.”
The CBO report predicted that premiums for benchmark plans sold on the Affordable Care Act exchanges will rise about 20 percent next year and about 25 percent by 2020. The cost to consumers, however, would stay the same or even decline. That’s because under the Affordable Care Act, people with lower incomes who buy insurance on the exchanges get a tax credit, so their costs remain stable as a share of their income. When premiums rise, those government subsidies rise as well.”

“The Trump administration is poised to issue a rule unwinding an Obama-era requirement that employee health benefits include contraception, which will spark a fresh round of litigation over an issue that has been before courts for six years. Federal health officials are expected to finalize a regulation that would allow employers with religious or moral objections to birth control to omit coverage for contraception from...”

“It’s widely anticipated that insurers would jack up premiums or exit the Obamacare markets altogether if the subsidies, worth about $7 billion this year, are eliminated. Insurance premiums for the most popular Obamacare plans would likely rise by 20 percent next year if the payments are stopped, according to a Tuesday CBO analysis.”

“Women, in particular, have a lot at stake in the fight over the future of health care. Not only do many depend on insurance coverage for maternity care and contraception, they are struck more
often by such diseases as autoimmune conditions, osteoporosis, breast cancer and depression. They are more likely to be poor and depend on Medicaid — and to live longer and depend on Medicare. And it commonly falls to them to plan health care and coverage for the whole family.”

Global Humanitarian crisis

BBC- Migrant crisis: Spain rescues 600 people in busiest day
http://bbc.in/2i8IWL

“The increase in crossings means Spain could overtake Greece this year in the number of migrants arriving by sea, the UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) said earlier this month... Some migrants are using social media to contact the Spanish authorities and inform them of their location once they are in territorial waters, the BBC’s Gavin Lee in the Spanish city of Tarifa says.”

UN - UN rights experts warn new EU policy on boat rescues will cause more people to drown

“The European Union’s new policy on Mediterranean Sea rescues threatens life and breaches international standards, two United Nations independent human experts today cautioned. The EU’s proposed new action plan, including a code of conduct for organizations operating rescue boats, threatens life and breaches international standards by condemning people to face further human rights violations in Libya,” said the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, Felipe González Morales, and the Special Rapporteur on torture, Nils Melzer.”

Aljazeera – Sierra Leone: Floods kill more than 300, fears rise for 600 missing

“Three days of torrential rain triggered mudslides on Monday in the Regent area of the Sierra Leonean capital, Freetown. It also caused massive flooding elsewhere in the city, one of the world’s wettest urban areas in the world. The exact death toll was unclear. Rescue workers recovered almost 400 bodies, Reuters reported, citing Freetown’s chief coroner.”

Read also Relief Web - DEC statement on Sierra Leone emergency
http://reliefweb.int/report/sierra-leone/dec-statement-sierra-leone-emergency
“A national emergency was declared in Sierra Leone after heavy flooding caused devastating mud slides on the edge of the city’s capital Freetown on Monday morning [14 August]. Hundreds are feared dead, thousands are still missing and many more have been left homeless and in urgent need of food, shelter and protection.”

OCHA - Statement by the Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen Mr. Jamie McGoldrick, on Shrinking Humanitarian Space in Yemen

https://tinyurl.com/ya8z22hm

Yemen’s Humanitarian Disaster Accelerates Amid International Indifference

http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Yemens-humanitarian-disaster-accelerates-amid-international-indifference-502541

Relief Web - UNICEF responds to Sierra Leone mudslide as more than 100 children reported dead


“...at least 109 children, according to government sources. The death-toll is expected to rise, with over 600 people, including many children, still unaccounted for. The scale of the damage is unprecedented,” said UNICEF Representative Hamid El-Bashir Ibrahim. “Children have been left homeless, vulnerable and terrified. We must do all we can to protect them from disease and exploitation.”

Key reads of the week

Guardian - Sierra Leone: fears of second mudslide as week of national mourning begins

IISD - UNIDO Releases Vienna Energy Forum Report, Participates in Future Energy Forum


Nature - Human genome editing in heart disease


Pacific Standard - Why are the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals stalling?


CDG - Tobacco Companies Fail the Corporate Social Responsibility Test of a Free-Market Advocate

https://www.cgdev.org/blog/tobacco-companies-fail-corporate-social-responsibility-test-free-market-advocate

Lancet - Child and adolescent health: greater than the sum of its parts

http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642(17)30034-2/fulltext

Global health events

Upcoming WHO Global Conference on non communicable diseases (18–20 October 2017, Montevideo, Uruguay)


“Enhancing policy coherence between different spheres of policy making that have a bearing on attaining SDG target 3.4 on NCDs by 2030 Days 2017.”


http://hrhforum2017.ie/
“The Fourth Global Forum on Human Resources for Health provides a key opportunity for all stakeholders to discuss and debate innovative approaches towards advancing the implementation of the Global Strategy and the Commission’s recommendations, and show a collective commitment to developing and making available the workforce required to deliver the SDGs.”

Global governance of health

SDG implementation

IISD - UNECE Drafts Guidance for Classification of Resources to Boost SDG 12 Implementation

“Human production and consumption activities produce large amounts of residual materials that could provide additional energy or raw materials for other processes. Currently many of these materials are classified as waste, making it difficult to use them for other purposes.”

Planetary health

Eco-Business - Protein risk for millions from rising CO2 emissions – study

“Eighteen countries may lose more than 5 per cent of their dietary protein by 2050 as a result of crops losing their nutritional value.”

Lancet Editorial - A sixth mass extinction? Why planetary health matters
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(17)30083-9/fulltext
Sustainability Science - Inter-sectoral action to support healthy and environmentally sustainable food behaviours: a study of sectoral knowledge, governance and implementation

https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11625-017-0459-8

“There is increasing attention to the importance of healthy and environmentally sustainable food supply and demand but little empirical research exists on how this might be achieved. This study examines the potential for inter-sectoral policy and action to support consumer adoption of healthy and sustainable food behaviours, focusing on three key themes: (1) sectoral understandings of healthy and sustainable food behaviours; (2) modes of governance for inter-sectoral action on healthy and sustainable behaviours; and (3) barriers and enablers to inter-sectoral action.”

Tropical forests and child health

http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(17)30085-2/fulltext

“Agricultural expansion and wood extraction are among the leading causes of tropical deforestation, and some human populations clearly benefit from increased food, fuel, wood, and fibre production. But what is the cost? ... The effects of deforestation on climate, however, seem quite distant, reducing the urgency to take action. But what if forest destruction directly and immediately affected child health? What if setting aside forests in protected areas near human communities prevented childhood illnesses? Would that change local, regional, or large-scale forest-management policies for human wellbeing?”

Lancet - Rethinking food waste for a healthier planet

http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(17)30077-3/fulltext

“Aggregate global losses from overconsumption are at least as large as those from discarded waste at present. The annual social cost of greenhouse gas emissions associated with production of discarded and overconsumed food is around US$200 billion, assuming a high cost of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e) emissions of $80 per tonne applied to 20% of the 11 gigatonnes of CO2e per year total agricultural and land use emissions.”
Infectious diseases & NTDs

The September edition of the [AIDS Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(17)30419-X/fulltext) is out and focuses on a variety of HIV related issues in adults and children.

Here are some quick links:


“Place of residence has been associated with HIV transmission risks. Social capital, defined as features of social organization that improve efficiency of society by facilitating coordinated actions, often varies by neighborhood, and hypothesized to have protective effects on HIV care continuum outcomes. We examined whether the association between social capital and 2 HIV care continuum outcomes clustered geographically and whether sociocontextual mechanisms predict differences across clusters.”

**Associations of Low Vitamin D and Elevated Parathyroid Hormone Concentrations With Bone Mineral Density in Perinatally HIV-Infected Children**

“Perinatally HIV-infected (PHIV) children have, on average, lower bone mineral density (BMD) than perinatally HIV-exposed uninfected (PHEU) and healthy children. Low 25-hydroxy vitamin D [25(OH)D] and elevated parathyroid hormone (PTH) concentrations may lead to suboptimal bone accrual.”

**Brief Report: Selection of HIV-1 Variants With Higher Transmission Potential by 1% Tenofovir Gel Microbicide**

“Women in the CAPRISA 004 trial assigned to use 1% tenofovir (TFV) microbicide gel, who became HIV-1 infected, had higher viral load set-point and slower antibody avidity maturation compared with placebo participants. We investigated whether TFV gel was selected for viruses with altered genetic characteristics.

**Brief Report: Pediatric Cancer Burden and Treatment Resources Within the Pediatric IeDEA Consortium**

“IeDEA regional investigators developed a cross-sectional clinical site survey which included questions on the numbers and types of pediatric cancers observed, modalities used to treat identified cancers, and treatment options available at individual sites in the Asia-Pacific, Latin America, Central Africa, East Africa, West Africa, and Southern Africa regions.”

Lancet - Global yellow fever vaccination coverage from 1970 to 2016: an adjusted retrospective analysis

“For this adjusted retrospective analysis, data was compiled from a range of sources (eg, WHO reports and health-service-provider registries) reporting on yellow fever vaccination activities between May 1, 1939, and Oct 29, 2016. To account for uncertainty in how vaccine campaigns were targeted, we calculated three population coverage values to encompass alternative scenarios. We combined these data with demographic information and tracked vaccination coverage through time to estimate the proportion of the population who had ever received a yellow fever vaccine for each second level administrative division across countries at risk of yellow fever virus transmission from 1970 to 2016.”

Devex - What lessons does polio eradication offer for global health?


“There are things we’ve learned in the polio eradication program — both do’s and don’ts — that we don’t want to go away,” said Jay Wenger, who heads the foundation’s polio efforts within the Global Development Program. This is in part “a reflection of smallpox, because people didn’t make a conscious effort to codify what we learned. You can find lessons on smallpox, but you have to go read somebody’s book.”

BMJ - Zika pandemic online trends, incidence and health risk communication: a time trend study

http://gh.bmj.com/content/2/3/e000296

“Using Google Trends, the 1 May 2015 to 30 May 2016 online trends of Zika and associated search terms were studied globally and in the five countries with the highest numbers of suspected cases. Correlations were then examined between online trends and Zika incidence in these countries. All Zika-related press releases issued by WHO/Pan America Health Organization (PAHO) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) during the study period were assessed for transparency, uncertainty and audience segmentation.”

AMR

Rapid phenotypic stress-based microfluidic antibiotic susceptibility testing of Gram-negative clinical isolates

https://www.nature.com/subjects/antimicrobial-resistance
“Bacteremia is a life-threatening condition for which antibiotics must be prescribed within hours of clinical diagnosis. Since the current gold standard for bacteremia diagnosis is based on conventional methods developed in the mid-1800s—growth on agar or in broth—identification and susceptibility profiling for both Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacterial species requires at least 48–72 h. Recent advancements in accelerated phenotypic antibiotic susceptibility testing have centered on the microscopic growth analysis of small bacterial populations.”

NCDs

Lancet - Global burden of COPD and Asthma

http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanres/article/PIIS2213-2600(17)30293-X/fulltext

“The chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma are common diseases with a heterogeneous distribution worldwide. Here, we present methods and disease and risk estimates for COPD and asthma from the Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors (GBD) 2015 study. The GBD study provides annual updates on estimates of deaths, prevalence, and disability-adjusted life years (DALYs), a summary measure of fatal and non-fatal disease outcomes, for over 300 diseases and injuries, for 188 countries from 1990 to the most recent year.”

KHN - Obesity And Depression Are Entwined, Yet Scientists Don't Know Why


“The relationship between obesity and depression is what researchers call “bidirectional.” Being obese or overweight ups the odds of depression, and vice versa.”

Lancet Global Health series - Suicide prevention: keeping the momentum

http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(17)30308-X/fulltext

“Every year on Sept 10, World Suicide Prevention Day is an opportunity to raise awareness and increase literacy on a highly complex and wide-reaching global health problem. WHO estimates that around 800 000 people die by suicide every year, but this number is likely to be just the tip of the iceberg: for reasons that include the stigma shrouding suicide in many cultures, the lack of adequate vital registration systems, or even the arduous administrative steps that go with the registration of a self-inflicted death, many suicides remain undetected or are routinely misclassified. Regardless of the limitations in the available data, suicides are without doubt among the top 20 causes of death.”
Gender-based violence (GBV) represents a major cause of psychological morbidity worldwide, and particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Although there are effective treatments for common mental disorders associated with GBV, they typically require lengthy treatment programs that may limit scaling up in LMICs. The aim of this study was to test the effectiveness of a new 5-session behavioural treatment called Problem Management Plus (PM+) that lay community workers can be taught to deliver.

Business Mirror - UNICEF, WHO urge PHL to support child- and maternal-health programs

“The agency representatives echoed the message from the recently released “The Global Breastfeeding Scorecard”, which evaluated 194 nations in collaboration with the Global Breastfeeding Collective, and found merely 40 percent of children younger than six months globally are breast-fed exclusively, and only 23 countries have achieved exclusive breast-feeding rates above 60 percent. The scorecard was released at the start of World Breastfeeding Week alongside a new analysis demonstrating that an annual investment of only $4.70 per newborn is required to increase the global rate of exclusive breast-feeding among children under 6 months to 50 percent by 2025.”
Medical Express - Refugee and migrant women require additional sexual and reproductive health support


“Professor Jane Ussher from the Translational Health Research Institute (THRI) at Western Sydney University was the lead researcher on the 'Sexual and Reproductive Health of Migrant and Refugee Women' study. Over a two-year period from 2014 to 2016, 169 migrant and refugee women in Australia and Canada participated in interviews and focus groups, discussing a wide range of issues about their bodies and relationships.”

NPR - Many Nurses Lack Knowledge Of Health Risks To Mothers After Childbirth


“In recent months, mothers who nearly died in the hours and days after giving birth have repeatedly told ProPublica and NPR that their doctors and nurses were often slow to recognize the warning signs that their bodies weren't healing properly. A study published Tuesday in MCN: The American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing substantiates some of those concerns. Researchers surveyed 372 postpartum nurses nationwide and found that many of them were ill-informed about the dangers mothers face after giving birth.”

BMC - Understanding processes of risk and protection that shape the sexual and reproductive health of young women affected by conflict: the price of protection

https://conflictandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13031-017-0117-x

“It is assumed that knowing what puts young women at risk of poor sexual health outcomes and, in turn, what protects them against these outcomes, will enable greater targeted protection as well as help in designing more effective programmes. Accordingly, efforts have been directed towards mapping risk and protective factors onto general ecological frameworks, but these currently do not take into account the context of modern armed conflict. A literature overview approach was used to identify SRH related risk and protective factors specifically for young women affected by modern armed conflict.”
Devex – USAID chief walks a tricky line on climate change


“In a back and forth “roundtable interview” with reporters on Wednesday, newly-installed U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Mark Green walked a fine line in response to questions about how his agency will tackle climate change during the Trump administration.

Green avoided committing USAID to proactively addressing climate change as a barrier to development, but instead offered that the organization will look at issues such as global warming through a “development lens.

NPR - Why U.S.-Trained Surgeons Often Aren't Ready For Humanitarian Work Abroad


“Many young American surgeons have a strong desire to do humanitarian work overseas. But their good intentions usually don’t match up with the skills, such as performing cesarean section deliveries and fixing broken bones, that they’ll need in poor countries. And that means U.S. general surgeons, eager to do charitable work around the globe, may miss out on chances to help some of the world’s neediest patients.”

World Bank group - Status of Water Sector Regulation in the Middle East and North Africa

https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/27465/116883-WP-P145807-PUBLIC.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

“As the World Bank and partners aim to support governments in the Middle East and North Africa address the challenges that confront the water and sanitation sector, the development of an effective regulatory framework is seen as increasingly salient. In order to have impact in this space, some basic information is needed. The objective of this study is to collect information through a regulatory lens and present it to serve as part of the foundation for sector reviews and operations. It is not the objective of this study to analyze or critique the performance of water and sanitation services or the effectiveness of regulation in each country or to make recommendations. Thus the approach is positive rather than normative. The report is part of a wider World Bank initiative to provide government officials and other stakeholders including civil society, service providers,
potential financiers, and development practitioners with the resources to better understand current conditions and consider approaches to policies, institutions and regulation that can best incentivize the delivery of sustainable services.”

IISD - World Bank Finances Water Supply Infrastructure as Countries Plan for Water Scarcity


“World Bank has granted financing for water infrastructure in urban growth centers in Zimbabwe and Bangladesh and for integrated water resource management (IWRM) in Lao People’s Democratic Republic (PDR). World Bank research projects water scarcity in areas that were formerly water-abundant, including Central Africa and East Asia, while water-scarce areas will experience more severe shortages. In the arid Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and partners are supporting Algeria, Libya and Tunisia to jointly manage scarce groundwater resources.”