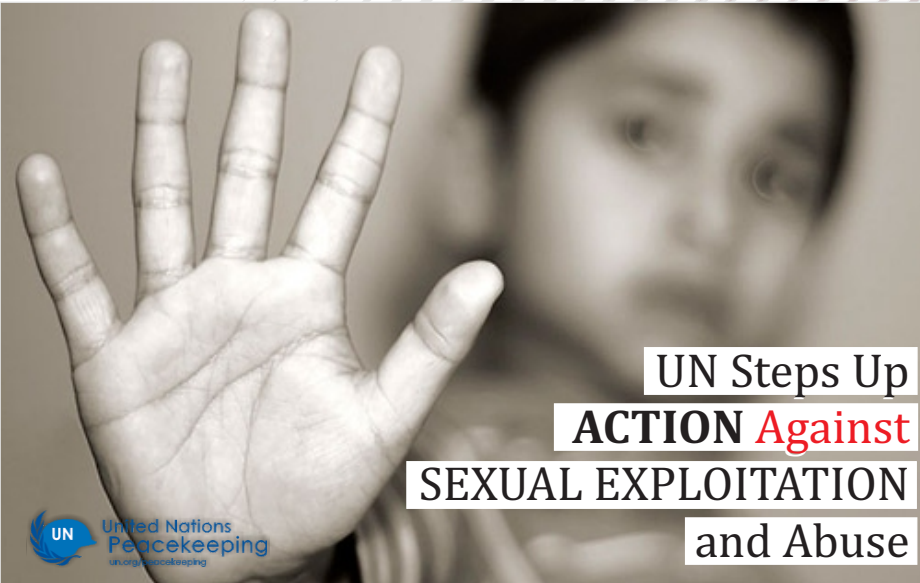




PEACE & PROGRESS

UNU Graduate Student Journal

Transforming our world **NEWSLETTER**



By Nsioh Macnight

Throughout the past 12 years, there have been nearly 2000 allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation by UN peacekeepers and other personnel around the world, with more than 300 of these allegations involving children. Despite the widespread accusations, only a fraction of the alleged perpetrators is serving jail time for their crimes. The crisis is big and there is an ever-increasing need for the UN to clamp down on these practices, especially since they are tarnishing the organization's image by preying on the populations that the UN is promised to protect. Although allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse have dropped from 69 in 2015 to 48 in 2016, there were allegations in 10 out of the 16 current peacekeeping missions worldwide. There is reason to believe that there is a gradual shift in how the UN handles sexual abuse and exploitation

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“Essentially, the resolution stipulates that an entire unit can be sent home to be replaced by a different unit if there is **“credible evidence”** that the unit is engaging in **“widespread and systematic”** abuse.

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The Food Security Challenge and Global Food Prices: Highlights from the Global Report on Food Crisis, 2017

By Jheel Bastia



To analyze the impact of several factors on food prices, the 'Global Report on Food Crisis 2017' was released in March this year, a joint effort by the European Union, World Food Programme (WFP) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in association with other stakeholders. The report addresses and presents a global picture of the extent and severity of food insecurity worldwide. The key objective of the report is to establish a consultative and consensus-based

process to compile food insecurity analysis throughout the world into a global public product to inform annual planning and resource allocation decisions. The report covers extensively the countries that primarily experienced major food shortage in the year 2016; and that are likely to face major food crunch in the year 2017 as projected, and certain other countries which have discrepancies in the population data in the past. The highlights of the report include 'food crisis' originating via inter-nation conflicts, natural disasters and last but not the least food prices. [Read more](#)

“

The report mentions that Mali, Senegal, Mauritania, and Liberia will move into a Phase 4 emergency, while Sri Lanka could have major drought issues.

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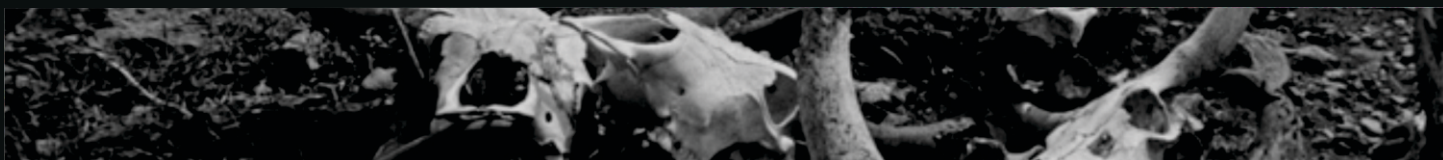
FAMINE in South Sudan, and EMERGENCIES in Yemen, Somalia, and Nigeria

By Joseph Cook



Famine has adversely affected millions around the world for past many decades. In recent months, a global awareness of the current famine in South Sudan, and impending famines in Yemen, Somalia, and Nigeria has been observed. As per the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 20 million people are in urgent need of food assistance, 1.4 million children are acutely malnourished, more than 20 million people lack access to clean water and sanitation, and 21 million people lack sufficient health care facilities. This requires \$4.4 billion of funding to meet immediate needs, of which \$1.1 billion has been received.

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Public Engagement for the Global Goals with a Special Focus on Sustainable Oceans: Highlights from Johan Rockstrom Keynote speech

By Tamara Luisce

On April 19, 2017, the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS), Global Environment Outreach Centre (GEOC) and the Embassy of Sweden held an International Symposium titled Public Engagement for the Global Goals with a Special Focus on Sustainable Oceans with HRH Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden (Sustainable Development Goals Advocate) as special guest of honour. The keynote speaker for this event was Dr. Johan Rockstrom, Director of Stockholm Resilience Centre. The audience in this event, hosted at the UNU headquarters in Tokyo, were researchers from different universities and research institutes, public servants, students, NGO representatives and even Princess Takamado of Japan. [Read More](#)

Prioritizing Urban Sustainability Over Urban Opportunity

By Mebeelo Kafungwa

It is increasingly challenging to address the diversity of issues of urbanization, such as inclusive economic opportunity, technological innovations, sustainability while still offering a livelihood for the world population. It has enlightened both the global and local communities on the long-term consequences that our current way of designing cities has on the environment. Some current environmental and inequality related impacts include water scarcity, air pollution, traffic congestion, cyclones, hurricanes, floods, rampant increase of urban slums, power outages, and disease outbreaks. City innovation has provided great improvements over time. Unfortunately, diverse, and complex problems persist, which prompted stakeholders to respond by adopting a standalone SDG goal aiming to overcome urban sustainability challenges by the year 2030. [Read more](#)

RE-THINKING index-based Disaster Risk Assessments

By Mia Wannowitz,
UNU-EHS Master's Graduate

Over the course of the past two decades, indices for informing Disaster Risk Management (DRM) have become an increasingly popular tool for assessing vulnerability to disaster risk. Particularly, the development of global scale indices with nation-state resolution experienced a major boost and has facilitated the identification of risk hot spots and country comparisons. Despite their popularity, their actual utility for decision-makers in the field of DRM remains contested, as they provide relatively little information for national DRM.

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