



New UN websites & publications

UN in General

General Assembly – Round-up Release 2023

English: <https://press.un.org/en/2024/ga12579.doc.htm>

French: <https://press.un.org/fr/2024/ag12579.doc.htm>

The Meetings Coverage Section of the Department of Global Communications has published its 2023 work summary of the main part of the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly and its six Main Committees. Organized around themes, these summaries offer an overview of the issues discussed during the main part of the 2023 session of the General Assembly. It includes the general debate, held from 19 to 26 September 2023, with the participation of 136 Heads of State and Government. Aimed at delegations and the media, these summaries feature highlights of the debates, texts adopted, and emerging issues addressed by Member States.

Highlights of Security Council Practice 2023

<https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/highlights-2023>

The 2023 edition of the Highlights of Security Council Practice, published annually since 2011 by the Security Council Affairs Division, offers readers an insider's perspective into the UN Security Council's activity over the past year. In 2023, the Council maintained a similar level of activity compared to 2022 and returned to the practice of field visits. The Security Council held 290 formal meetings, adopted 50 resolutions, issued 6 presidential statements, and considered 47 agenda items. There was a record number of participants in Council meetings, invited in accordance with rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure. On the other hand, the Council experienced an increase in the number of failed resolutions due to a veto cast by a permanent member or due to an insufficient number of votes. They were unable to adopt 10 draft resolutions, compared to 7 in 2022. It also failed to agree to adopt four sets of amendments. Most of these draft resolutions and amendments are related to the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. Concerning its subsidiary bodies, in 2023, the Council terminated the mandates of one peacekeeping operation (MINUSMA) and one special political mission (UNITAMS). The Council also put an end to the Mali sanctions regime as well as to the mandate of the Committee and the Panel of Experts.



Economic Growth and Sustainable Development

AA-HA! 2.0 - Web Version of the Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents (WHO)

<https://www.who.int/initiatives/global-accelerated-action-for-the-health-of-adolescent/aa-ha!-guidance-2d-edition>

WHO has developed this version - to enhance the accessibility of the AA-HA! content on a wide range of devices and operating systems, including computers, smartphones, and tablets, - to enhance users' experience and engagement with the content by embedding seamless navigation across chapters and including hyperlinks to related external content and multimedia, - to ensure that users always have access to the latest WHO estimates on mortality and morbidity in adolescents that are presented in Chapter 2 of the guidance, and that new relevant resources are linked to the web AA-HA!2.0 in real time. However, this is an abbreviated version of the AA-HA!2.0 guidance. To have a full understanding of AA-HA! recommendations, please read the full document.

Dissecting the Decline in Average Hours Worked in Europe (IMF)

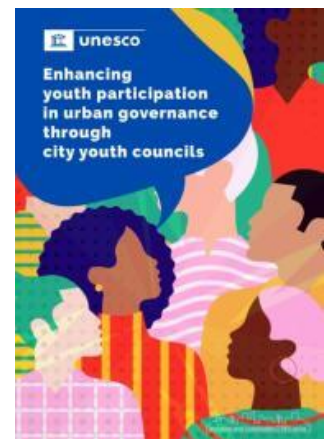
<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WP/Issues/2024/01/10/Dissecting-the-Divide-in-Average-Hours-Worked-in-Europe-542417>

Three years after the COVID-19 crisis, employment and total hours worked in Europe fully recovered, but average hours per worker did not. We analyze the decline in average hours worked across European countries and find that (i) it is not cyclical but predominantly structural, extending a long-term trend that predates COVID-19, (ii) it mainly reflects reduced hours within worker groups, not a compositional shift towards lower-hours jobs and workers, (iii) men—particularly those with young children—and youth drive this drop, (iv) declines in actual hours match declines in desired hours. Policy reforms could help involuntary parttimers and women with young children raise their actual hours towards desired levels, but the aggregate impact on average hours would be limited to 0.5 to 1.5 percent. Overall, there is scant evidence of slack at the intensive margin in European labor markets, and the trend fall in average hours worked seems unlikely to reverse.

Enhancing youth participation in urban governance through city youth councils (UNESCO)

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000388010>

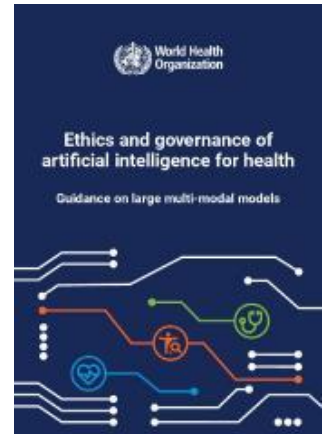
As a first-of-its-kind global compilation featuring the history, typologies, compositions, and functions of city youth councils, the report seeks to underline promising practices of city youth councils informed by evidence-based methodology to determine their impact and effectiveness in inclusive urban governance. It proposes ideas to foster collaboration, amplify youth voices, and present recommendations to develop partnerships with Member States, local governments, youth associations, civil society, and other stakeholders to create inclusive communities. City youth councils offer a formalized arrangement for continuous dialogue with policymakers. They have played a key role in fostering the next generation of leaders and encouraging youth to be contributors and agents to social change and dialogue. Based on a survey among members of the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities, UNESCO is publishing this report to ensure that the actions and solutions proposed by youth can be applied and scaled up worldwide. It encourages local governments to create spaces for youth to participate actively and genuinely in decision-making processes.



Ethics and governance of artificial intelligence for health: Guidance on large multi-modal models (WHO)

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240084759>

The World Health Organization (WHO) has released new guidance on the ethics and governance of large multi-modal models (LMMs) – a type of fast growing generative artificial intelligence (AI) technology with applications across health care. The guidance outlines over 40 recommendations for consideration by governments, technology companies, and health care providers to ensure the appropriate use of LMMs to promote and protect the health of populations. LMMs can accept one or more type of data inputs, such as text, videos, and images, and generate diverse outputs not limited to the type of data inputted. LMMs are unique in their mimicry of human communication and ability to carry out tasks they were not explicitly programmed to perform. LMMs have been adopted faster than any consumer application in history, with several platforms – such as ChatGPT, Bard and Bert – entering the public consciousness in 2023.



Expected socioeconomic impacts of the Gaza war on neighbouring countries in the Arab region (ESCWA / UNDP)

<https://www.unescwa.org/publications/expected-socioeconomic-impacts-gaza-crisis-neighbouring-countries-arab-region>

This policy brief examines the likely effects of the Gaza war on the countries neighbouring the occupied Palestinian territory, focusing primarily on Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon. These countries were selected due to their proximity and exposure, in addition to the availability of data about them. The brief demonstrates how the impact of the war may add to pre-existing vulnerabilities in these countries, which have yet to fully recover from recent shocks. Furthermore, the brief highlights the interconnectedness of economies across the region and stresses the need for proactive policy responses regarding the Gaza war. It attempts to estimate the economic cost on the Middle East, including in the occupied Palestinian territory, based on the current regional low-intensity war scenario. The brief also estimates the potential impact on human development in the selected countries and proposes immediate and short-term response measures to mitigate the economic impact.

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FAO launches new portal for statistics on Food and Diet

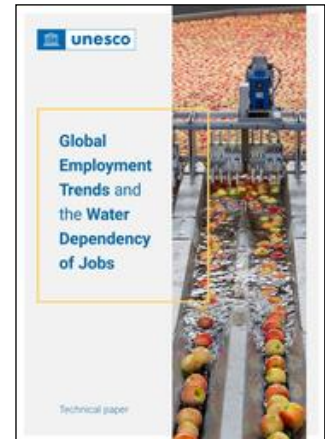
<https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/SUA>

To help close data gaps and contribute to better guidance for nutrition-sensitive agrifood systems policies, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has created a [new domain](#) in the [FAOSTAT](#) portal. The [domain](#) presents harmonized food and nutrient statistics from different types and sources of dietary data. It reports statistics on the availability, apparent consumption, and dietary intake of foods, energy and 17 main nutrients thus capturing different dimensions across the food supply chain, from supply through to individual-level consumption. Statistics are available from 2010 for 186 countries in the section on food and nutrient availability, as they are based on the long-standing work done by FAO on food balance sheets - supply utilization accounts. Apparent food and nutrient intake is derived from data collected in household consumption and expenditure surveys that, so far, are available only in some of the countries. Information on food and nutrient intake is also presented coming from nationally representative individual intake surveys.

Global Employment Trends and the Water Dependency of Jobs (UNESCO)

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000388410>

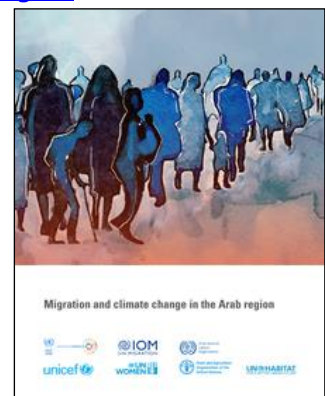
This newly released technical paper from UNESCO's World Water Assessment Programme reveals how water scarcity poses comparatively much greater risks to employment in low-income countries, where 80% of jobs are water dependent (compared to only 50% in hi-income countries). This disparity is crucial in the context of climate change, which affects water availability, posing a threat to employment in low and lower-middle income countries where agriculture is the mainstay of employment. As countries develop economically, shifting from agrarian to industrial and service sectors, the water dependency of jobs decreases, reducing the vulnerability of the workforce to water-related risks. The paper underscores the urgency of addressing water scarcity and adapting to climate change in order to safeguard employment in the most vulnerable economies. These and other relevant challenges will be highlighted in the forthcoming "United Nations World Water Development Report: Water for Prosperity and Peace".



Migration and climate change in the Arab region (ESCWA)

<https://www.unescwa.org/publications/migration-climate-change-arab-region>

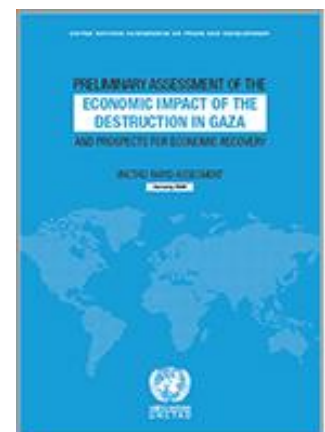
Climate change has devastating impacts on people, their communities, and their jobs and livelihoods. Recognizing and addressing the disproportionate effect of climate-induced migration and displacement on women and children, as well as the various implications of climate change for food production in the Arab region is of utmost importance. Significant challenges have emerged, particularly in relation to urbanization, owing to the rise in rural-to-urban migration in the region. Migration and labour mobility can be a climate resilience and adaptation strategy for origin and host communities, but they need to be managed effectively. As such, evidence-based policymaking is critical. The present paper offers a series of recommendations for building a robust and holistic approach to managing the migration-climate change nexus.



Preliminary Assessment of the Economic Impact of the Destruction in Gaza and Prospects for Economic Recovery: UNCTAD Rapid Assessment, January 2024

<https://unctad.org/publication/preliminary-assessment-economic-impact-destruction-gaza-and-prospects-economic-recovery>

UNCTAD released on 31 January 2024 a report on the social and economic deterioration in Gaza since the beginning of the military operation after 7 October 2023. The report quantifies GDP loss, recovery timelines and the enduring effects on poverty and household expenditure, painting a daunting picture of the development challenges ahead. Utilizing innovative satellite imagery and official data, UNCTAD estimates that Gaza's economy had already contracted by 4.5% in the first three quarters of 2023. However, the military operation greatly accelerated this decline, resulting in a 24% contraction of GDP and a 26.1% drop in GDP per capita for the entire year. If the current military operation were to end immediately with reconstruction starting right away and the 2007-2022 growth trends were to persist with an average growth rate of 0.4%, it would take Gaza until 2092 just to restore the GDP levels of 2022, with GDP per capita and socioeconomic



conditions continuously declining. However, even with the most optimistic scenario that GDP could grow at 10% annually, it would still take Gaza's GDP per capita until 2035 to return to its pre-blockade level of 2006. The recovery of Gaza's economy from the current military operation will demand a financial commitment several times more than the \$3.9 billion that resulted from the 2014 military operation in Gaza and will require a concerted international effort to restore pre-conflict socioeconomic conditions.

Preventing and addressing violence and harassment in the world of work through occupational safety and health measures (ILO)

https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_908897/lang--en/index.htm

Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) measures are key to building an inclusive, integrated and gender-responsive approach to preventing and eliminating violence and harassment in the world of work, a new International Labour Organization (ILO) report finds. According to the report more than one-in-five people in employment have experienced violence and harassment. This issue can affect all types of workplaces and can also occur during commutes, work-related trips, events, digital communications, social activities and in home-based offices.

The report emphasizes that OSH frameworks tackle root causes of violence and harassment by addressing underlying risks such as inadequate work organization, factors related to specific tasks (e.g. working alone or constantly interacting with third parties), and working conditions that produce high stress levels that in turn lead to violence and harassment. Occupational safety and health frameworks that are based on workplace cooperation and social dialogue, mobilize both employers and workers to create working environments free from violence and harassment, the analysis says.



Prospects for Children in 2024: Cooperation in a Fragmented World - A Global Outlook (UNICEF)

<https://www.unicef.org/globalinsight/reports/prospects-children-2024-global-outlook>

Globally in 2024, children are likely to see increased exposure to violence and war, and economic hardship, says the UN children's agency (UNICEF), in a flagship study released on 15 January 2024. At the beginning of each year, UNICEF looks ahead to the risks that children are likely to face, and suggests ways to reduce the potential harm. The latest report paints a picture of a short-term future characterized by continued conflict and economic uncertainty. Here is a breakdown of the main trends to look out for.

Realizing Decent Work in the Platform Economy (ILO)

https://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/113/reports/reports-to-the-conference/WCMS_909906/lang--en/index.htm

This new Law and Practice report, published by the International Labour Organization (ILO), marks a crucial milestone in the process that can lead to a new international labour standard on decent work in the platform economy. It will be discussed at the 2025 and 2026 International Labour Conferences. The report provides up-to-date information on the way countries are handling the opportunities and challenges created by the growth of this form of work, by presenting a description of existing regulations and practices from around the world. The report also includes a questionnaire via which Governments are requested to provide their views on the form, scope, and content of any future labour standards.

User empowerment through Media and Information Literacy to the evolution of generative Artificial Intelligence (UNESCO)

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000388547>

As the digital landscape is increasingly shaped by the widespread use of various GAI tools, this analysis aims to explore both the opportunities and risks associated with this innovative technology. The policy brief aims at examining and analyzing Media and Information responses to GAI development. Specific areas of examination include disinformation, hate speech, privacy and data rights infringement, source reliability and opportunities for lifelong learning. The policy brief complements UNESCO's [Guidelines for the Governance of Digital Platforms: safeguarding freedom of expression and access to information through a multistakeholder approach](#). Launched in 2023, the guidelines highlight MIL as a key element of the digital platform governance system.



World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2024 (ILO)

https://www.ilo.org/global/research/global-reports/weso/WCMS_908142/lang--en/index.htm

Labour markets have shown surprising resilience despite deteriorating economic conditions, but recovery from the pandemic remains uneven as new vulnerabilities and multiple crises are eroding prospects for greater social justice, according to a new International Labour Organization (ILO) report. The report finds that both the unemployment rate and the jobs gap rate – which is the number of persons without employment who are interested in finding a job – have fallen below pre-pandemic levels. The 2023 global unemployment rate stood at 5.1 per cent, a modest improvement from 2022 when it stood at 5.3 per cent. The global jobs gap and labour market participation rates also improved in 2023.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)



Examining the threat of cyber-attack on health care during the COVID-19 pandemic

<https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/375831/WER9904-25-37.pdf>

Understanding disinformation in the context of public health emergencies: the case of COVID-19

<https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/375832/WER9904-38-48.pdf>

While digital tools have brought new opportunities to enhance health and well-being, they have also created new health security risks, such as cyber-attacks on health care and disinformation. To provide a clearer understanding of these risks and to reduce their likelihood and severity, WHO produced two reports, in collaboration with INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the UN Office of Counter-terrorism, the UN International Computing Centre (UNICC), the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, and the CyberPeace

Institute. Published on 26 January 2024, the two reports identify ways to strengthen health security through operational solutions.

The first report, "Examining the threat of cyber-attack on health care during the COVID-19 pandemic", highlights the far-reaching real-life impacts of cyber-attacks on health care. During the COVID-19 pandemic, health information technology (IT) infrastructure was increasingly targeted by cyber-attacks, at times hindering hospitals from delivering timely care when it was needed most. To restore IT systems and retrieve stolen data, health care facilities paid substantial ransoms. These attacks prompted law enforcement agencies to issue warnings about the threat of cyber-attacks to the health sector.

The second report, "Understanding disinformation in the context of public health emergencies: the case of COVID-19", reflects on different approaches to counter disinformation. Disinformation, unlike misinformation, is created with malicious intent to sow discord, disharmony, and mistrust in targets such as government agencies, scientific experts, public health agencies, private sector, and law enforcement. In other words, disinformation is a weaponization of information.

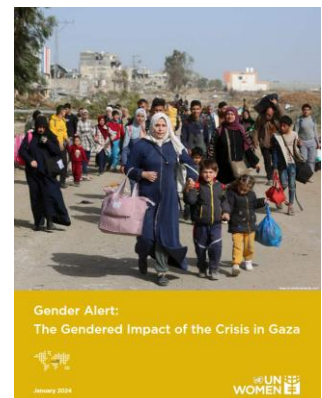
International Peace and Security

Gender Alert: The Gendered Impact of the Crisis in Gaza (UN Women)

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2024/01/gender-alert-the-gendered-impact-of-the-crisis-in-gaza>

Women and children account for roughly 70 per cent of people killed in the war in Gaza, with two mothers killed every hour since hostilities erupted more than 100 days ago, according to a UN Women report published on 19 January 2024. The report examines the gendered impact of the conflict, which has left more than 23,000 Palestinians dead, according to Gazan health authorities, about 16,000 of whom are women or children.

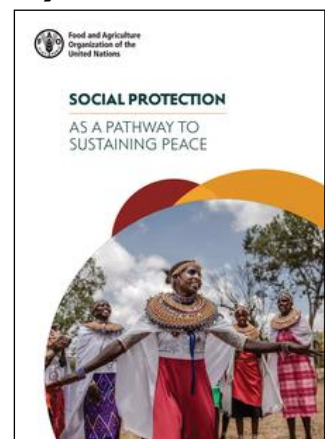
see also: Facts and figures: Women and girls during the war in Gaza (19 January 2024): <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/feature-story/2023/10/facts-and-figures-women-and-girls-during-the-war-in-gaza>



Social protection as a pathway to sustaining peace (FAO)

<https://doi.org/10.4060/cc9175en>

Global crises are becoming the new normal. From climate change to the contemporary food price crisis, vulnerable populations – and especially rural people – are facing increasingly difficult odds of flourishing. Such challenges are even more pronounced where there is conflict, whose multidimensional nature demands to direct more attention to its drivers and impacts. Over the past decades, social protection has contributed to development outcomes, such as those related to poverty reduction, food and nutrition security, and gender equality. Besides, social protection systems have proven to be effective also in addressing covariate shocks, as exemplified by the responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. There has instead been limited operational research regarding social protection's contributions to peace. In order to start addressing this gap, this paper discusses how social protection can sustain peace efforts by understanding peace not as an outcome but, rather, as an ongoing process. The paper argues that the contributions that social protection can make to peace can be divided between two overlapping scenarios: "working in conflict" and



“working on conflict”. While the former refers to efforts aimed at offsetting the impacts of conflict, the latter relates to interventions that intend to deliberately address its underlying drivers. The working paper also recognizes that social protection interventions in a conflict-affected context can potentially be harmful and fuel social tensions in the absence of adequate consideration of local power dynamics. It therefore calls for social protection strategies and programmes to be conflict-sensitive – beyond the “do no harm” – to make explicit contributions to peace.

Strengthening the Participation and Representation of Iraqi Women in Political and Electoral Processes

<https://iraq.un.org/en/259090-strengthening-participation-and-representation-iraqi-women-political-and-electoral-processes>

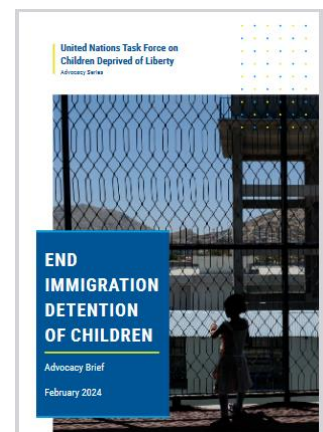
Key findings and recommendations from governorate-level consultations including local authorities, civil society organizations, former parliamentarians and Governorate Council members, youth, and women, conducted by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and the National Directorate for Iraqi Women, General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, Government of Iraq.

Human Rights

Advocacy Brief: End Immigration Detention of Children

<https://www.unicef.org/documents/advocacy-brief-end-immigration-detention-children>

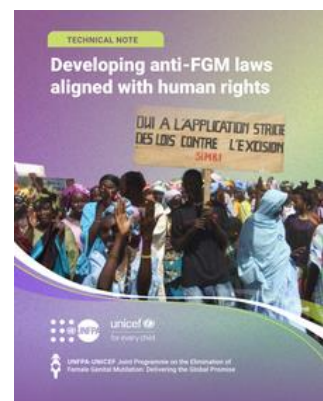
This advocacy brief was developed by the United Nations Task Force on Children Deprived of Liberty, of which UNICEF is a member, and provides an overview of promising practices and lessons learned to end child immigration detention and sets out a range of policy actions needed to scale up efforts to end this form of violence.



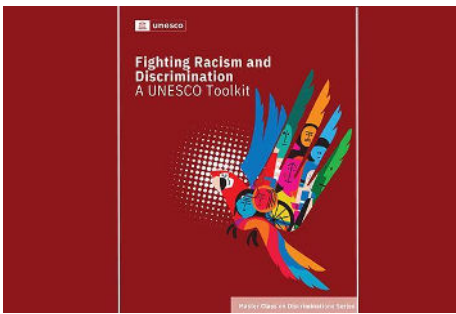
Developing anti-FGM laws aligned with human rights (UNFPA / UNICEF)

<https://www.unfpa.org/publications/technical-note-developing-anti-fgm-laws-aligned-human-rights>

This technical note supports policymakers, parliamentarians, and civil society actors in developing and/or amending laws to stop female genital mutilation (FGM). Little research or guidance exists on what makes a “good” anti-FGM law – in other words, the elements it should contain, particularly from a human rights perspective. This note offers guidance on good practices. It describes how to ground an anti-FGM law in standards defined by human rights conventions and mechanisms as well as political declarations made by States. The note could serve as a reference for countries developing new legislation criminalizing FGM or with plans to revise existing legislation. It does not discuss the enforcement of legislation, although it emphasizes that sufficient finance is critical to translate laws into practice and uphold human rights.



Fighting against Racism and Discrimination: A UNESCO Toolkit



<https://doi.org/10.54678/RYIW3623>

The new toolkit empowers individuals and institutions to dismantle structures of racism, combat systemic discrimination, and work towards a more equitable and inclusive society. It underscores the need for comprehensive disaggregated data that reveals the true extent of racial inequalities and enables the development of informed policies based on evidence at the local, national and regional levels. It is a practical guide targeting policymakers, activists and organizations committed to anti-racism and

anti-discrimination agenda. Drawing from global case examples and the latest research, it provides a step-by-step approach to developing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating such policies.

Fisheries and the right to food in the context of climate change: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Michael Fakhri (A/HRC/55/49, 9 January 2024)

English, French & Spanish: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/55/49>

“Summary: In the present report, submitted to the Human Rights Council pursuant to Council resolution 43/11, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Michael Fakhri, provides a framework for the advancement of the rights of small-scale fishers, fish workers and Indigenous Peoples and a guide for States to ensure that the world’s aquatic ecosystems are biodiverse and safe and that States fulfil human rights obligations despite climate change challenges.”

ILO Factsheet on Forced Labour

https://www.ilo.org/brussels/publications/WCMS_908616/lang--en/index.htm

This note provides an overview of the ILO’s work to eradicate forced labour around the world. It highlights challenges at stake, key policy responses needed, as well as the ILO’s tools and ongoing initiatives in this area. The ILO’s work and expertise can significantly contribute to achieving the priorities set within the Neighbourhood, Development, and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)-Global Europe, particularly the priority areas 1.6 (people) and 3.1 (prosperity), which focus on promoting decent job creation based on the ILO’s fundamental labour standards.

Pathways to Better Protection: Taking stock of the situation of children in alternative care in Europe and Central Asia (UNICEF)

<https://www.unicef.org/eca/reports/pathways-better-protection>

Nearly half a million children – or 456,000 – across Europe and Central Asia live in residential care facilities, including large-scale institutions, according to a new report published on 18 January 2024 by UNICEF. The report notes that the rate of children living in residential care facilities across Europe and Central Asia is double the global average, with 232 per 100,000 children living in residential care facilities compared to 105 per 100,000 globally. Western Europe has the highest rate of children in residential care facilities at 294 per 100,000 children – nearly triple the global average. While facilities in Western Europe tend to be small and integrated into communities, there remains an overreliance on residential care instead of family-based care. The higher rate is partly due to an increase in unaccompanied and separated children and young people seeking asylum in Europe in recent years.



Situation of Afghan women – Summary report of country-wide women’s consultations (December 2023)

<https://unama.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/af-c509-q4-consultation-report-291123.pdf>



Background:

“We hope that our message will resonate with the world, and that we will not be left alone to fight for our rights.”

This brief presents the perspectives of women across Afghanistan on their current situation and priorities. It reflects the latest in a series of quarterly consultations with Afghan women documenting their experiences and policy recommendation since the Taliban takeover in August 2021. The de facto authorities (DFA) have enacted nearly 70 decrees and directives restricting women’s basic rights and fundamental freedoms, in effect, wholly excluding them from

shaping their own futures and that of their country. Consultations with Afghan women help to understand their experiences, hopes and fears, and are aimed at amplifying their voices in national and international fora.

UN Women, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) conducted in-person and online consultations and telesurveys reaching 462 women across 33 of 34 provinces. Women reflected on the preceding three months (August to October 2023), detailing their experiences, priorities and recommendations for the United Nations, UN Member States and other international actors to improve women’s rights in Afghanistan. This process consulted women heads of households; women who are internally displaced and from host communities; rural, peri-urban and urban women; employed and unemployed women; and women differing by age, marital status, ethnicity and educational background.

Humanitarian Affairs

Guidance Note: INFFs for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

https://inff.org/assets/DESA_deep_dives/inff-and-drr.pdf

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) published on 29 January 2024 the “Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs) for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)” Guidance Note. This technical guidance aims to address two of the biggest challenges countries face in protecting their development gains from disasters: how to fund risk reduction efforts and how to risk-inform investment decisions? Addressing these challenges is of relevance to all countries, but especially those that are most vulnerable to disasters, including Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States. The Guidance Note provides countries with a roadmap to fortify their resilience against disasters while ensuring sustainable development.

Libya: Storm and Flooding 2023 - Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment

<http://tinyurl.com/3wkbt3>

The Libya Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) is an assessment report jointly developed by the World Bank (WB), the United Nations (UN), and the European Union (EU), in cooperation with other development partners, in the aftermath of the devastating storm and floods that affected eastern Libya between September 10 to 11, 2023. This report is an endeavor to stand by the Libyan people in this grave hour of need, and to support the efficient, sustainable, and resilient recovery of the disaster-affected region. The report constitutes an independent, impartial, and systematic assessment of the impacts of the disaster and the associated disaster recovery needs in the short to medium term.



Managing false information in health emergencies: an operational toolkit (WHO)

<https://www.who.int/europe/publications/i/item/WHO-EURO-2024-8271-48043-71198>

The proposed toolkit provides procedures for the detection and handling of false information, following a five-step process involving signal detection, verification, risk assessment, response design and outreach. A valuable resource for authorities and other stakeholders, this toolkit helps facilitate active infodemic management, promoting accurate information dissemination and informed public health decisions.

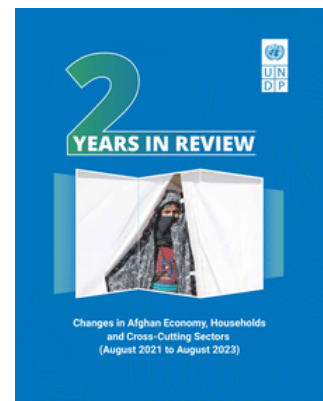
The toolkit outlines 5 key steps, offering a structured approach to managing false information in complex and intense situations such as emergencies. The first step is signal detection, which involves understanding the health narratives, questions, concerns, and information gaps of the audiences at risk. This can be done through online and offline methods, such as social media monitoring, focus groups and community engagement. The second step is signal verification, which requires fact-checking the information, analysing the source's credibility, and comparing the information with other sources for accuracy and consistency. The third step is risk assessment, which evaluates the potential harm of the false information based on factors such as source credibility, spread, and public health impact. The fourth step is response design, which develops a communication plan to counter the false information and address the risks. The final step is outreach, which delivers the key messages to the targeted audiences, persuading them to adopt the desired health behaviours.



Two Years in Review: Changes in Afghan Economy, Households and Cross Cutting Sectors (UNDP)

<https://www.undp.org/afghanistan/publications/two-years-review>

The report provides an assessment of the socioeconomic changes and developments in the country since August 2021. Analyzing data collected by recent household surveys and other sources, the report shows that households, women and girls continue to bear the brunt of the humanitarian crisis and economic decline that followed the events of August 2021. The report shows that the Afghan economy is struggling to recover after a 27 percent contraction since 2020. The report also introduces the Subsistence Insecurity Index (SII), which measures different dimensions of deprivation experienced by the people in Afghanistan. It unveils that 69% of Afghans are subsistence insecure – meaning they do not have adequate resources for basic subsistence living. The report aims to inform policy discussions and influence strategic decisions that can enable Afghanistan to recover from decades of social and economic shocks and progress towards becoming an increasingly stable, prosperous, and resilient country.



Drug Control, Crime Prevention and Counter-terrorism

Links Between Smuggling of Migrants and Other Forms of Organized Crime Along the Central and Western Mediterranean Routes (UNODC)

<http://tinyurl.com/5xtntx5d>

This UNODC report reveals that there is no single group dominating the migrant smuggling market on the two routes. Instead, a variety of actors with different levels of organization and coordination are active in the region. While some parts of the smuggling routes involve only individuals and small, loosely connected groups with little sophistication, others are under the control of powerful organized criminal networks with a high degree of hierarchy and professionalism, operating across several countries. The report stresses that migrant smuggling along these routes is linked to systemic corruption. Smugglers pay bribes on behalf of people on the move to state and non-state actors to facilitate the journey. This often involves illegal border crossings or forging fake passports and visas. Smuggling is often intertwined with drug trafficking, particularly of the synthetic opioid tramadol. Criminals are turning to this illicit business following a boom in demand across the Sahel, using the transport routes for migration. Recently, smuggling has emerged as a significant source of income for armed groups operating in the Sahel region. Their activities range from extorting passage fees from migrants to kidnapping and holding them in captivity for ransom.

